



Englewood Chamber Mission Statement:

“Dedicated to Leading Economic Growth with a Balanced Voice between Local Businesses, Residents and Tourism that Creates Opportunities for our Community.”

Board Meeting ... Wednesday ... May 14, 2025

Minutes

Attending: Jessica Souza, Erin Halstead, Kris Hartley, Peter Jennings, Joe Cataldo, Julie Beatty, Shane Whitmore, Janae Boyer, Francine Finucan, Chris Porter, Lori Wellbaum, and Chris Anders via PHONE.

Staff: Doug Izzo - Executive Director

Absent: Kathleen Callahan

1. **Call To Order:** 8:01 am
2. **Approval of the April minutes: Motion:** Halstead, 2nd Boyer
3. **President’s Report:** Not much new to report. Souza was questioned about her monthly video. She said she is recording the “President’s Video” today. Normally embedded in the Two Minute Tuesday emails prior to BOD meetings; this will be a monthly broadcast.
4. **Committee Reports:**

Leadership: Jennings reported we had another successful Leadership class semester. They challenged themselves with the task of creating more awareness about our local non-profits. Their Class fundraiser “Pouring It Forward” on Saturday, May 3rd was deemed a success by the class and by participants as well. Finucan shed some of her experience from a vendor’s perspective. She thought more marketing and communication could be better. And as usual there was one or two business

owners that had issues with “placement” of tents, and the lack of clean-up afterwards.

5. **Junior Leadership:** Whitmore didn’t have an update but reiterated that Junior LE is progressing. We have 10 solid applicants, and 15 sponsors so far. There are 10 spots still open. Application shut off is Friday May 23rd.
6. **Ambassador Program:** On April 21st & 23rd we visited several Milestone Members. Kim Parks has been posting these visits one at a time on a weekly basis both on our digital sign, newspaper, and social media. The next FAM DAY is Friday June 13th. Members really enjoy talking about their businesses, and we enjoy learning more about them as well.
7. **Government/Advocacy:** Izzo reported that FDOT will be having a meeting at the Chamber, May 22nd at 1pm, to discuss traffic safety issues, median project (From North Englewood to Placida Rd.) and the intersection of S. McCall (RT 776) and Beach Rd.
Several members have contacted the Chamber about the beach parking lot. The Chamber chooses not to be an advocate either way regarding the speed and efficiency of the clean-up.
8. **Fundraising/Events:** Our Annual Golf Par-Tee Tournament will be held at the Long Marsh Course in Rotonda West on the last Saturday in July (7/26/25). Souza mentioned there are still sponsorships available. The major sponsor is Elite Hurricane Home Protection; the shirt sleeve sponsorships have been spoken for. Anders offered to “sponsor” a 19th Hole. The End Zone to put up a tent and provide food and beverages. Souza requested that board members provide an auction item for the silent auction at the tournament.
9. **Leads Group:** Cataldo reported the group has produced 61 One-on-One meetings, 35 referrals to date. The dollar amount of closed business has reached \$24,000. The group lost a few members but has quickly recruited replacements. They meet on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month.
10. **Financial Updates.** Cataldo updated the Board on our balance sheet. YTD income is up quite a bit, but Doug chimed in to say May is normally a higher expense month; RE taxes; Chamber Guide, to name a few. Halstead asked if the “WRITE OFF ACCOUNTS” was a new thing? Were we not reporting these on an accrual basis.? It was determined that we do in fact account on an accrual basis, and not a cash basis.
11. **Executive Director’s Report, Doug Izzo:**
 - a. **Facebook Post:** Izzo reminded everyone to share Chamber posts on Facebook.

- b. **Member Dashboard:** April saw an unusual 27 members drop off and 17 new members join; Total membership to date is 825. We are still up 5% year over year per Souza.
 - c. **New Member Cards:** Signed by BOD attendees
 - d. **Upcoming Events:** Golf Par-Tee July 26th at Long Marsh in Rotonda
12. **Old Business:** Painting Quotes. This was tabled at the last meeting to see if more areas need attention. Beatty made a motion to approve the quote from HITT Painting Services for the \$5,700. 2nd by Hartley
13. **New Business:** Employee Manual. The Governance Committee (Wellbaum, Hartley, Jennings, & Anders) convened to review the DRAFT outline of a new employee manual. Many of the Chamber's policies and guidelines have gone by the wayside from years prior under the previous Executive Director. Certain policies and guidelines need to be in writing to protect not only the Chamber's reputation, but to also protect its employees. Jennings passed out the draft to board members to read, review, and critique by June's meeting. We will continue to tweak this document until we feel it represents our culture as a Chamber and be fair to current and future employees.
14. **Open Discussion:** The premise was discussed to grant a \$1,000 scholarship to Addison Morey for her role in Junior Leadership, as a returning sophomore. This is not the norm. There was positivity amongst the group, although NO formal motion was made. This was tabled until the next meeting. There was also discussion for the Chamber to donate funds to the yearly fireworks display put on by the Sunrise Rotary. Wellbaum felt it might be an issue depending on where those funds originate. Ie: Community Fund. This discussion was also tabled until June's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 am. Motion to Adjourn: Porter. 2nd Whitmore