



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 ... October 8, 2025

Minutes

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

Kathleen Callahan & Francine Finucan attended via Zoom.

Staff: Doug Izzo - Executive Director

Absent: Lori Wellbaum

1. **Call To Order:** 8:01 am
2. **Approval of September minutes: Motion:** Whitmore, 2nd Anders. Motion Carried.
3. **President’s Report:** Souza reported that other than the concerns stemming from an incident on September 16th involving a Chamber member and the Executive Director, there were no other items for discussion: See new business.

4. **Committee Reports:**

Leadership: Jennings reported the class had a great first day, and that next up was Non-Profit Day, November 5th.

Junior Leadership: Jennings reported that JLE had a great orientation as well as “meet the parents” evening along with the Chamber mentors. Their Government & Justice Day is Monday Oct 13th. Izzo, Jennings, and Erin Morey will be chaperoning their day.

Ambassador Program: FAM Day on September 12th was a success. The gang visited members in the East Englewood/Gulf Cove area as well as some in Placida. Ambassadors will meet this Friday, 10/10 at 10:00 am, to discuss the forward agenda. Board members, as well as Ambassadors, now receive emails for ribbon cuttings, etc. Thanks Doug. The next FAM DAY is Friday November 7th.

Government/Advocacy: Izzo. Nothing to report.

Fundraising/Events: Let's Eat Englewood was again a great success. Lock N' Key/Faro, Sandbar Tiki/Varner, and Waverly/Jennings lead the People's Choice Awards respectively. Manasota Mystique was also successful but brought in less money than previous years. This was attributed to the cost vs ticket price at Cool Today Park, as well as a downturn in Live & silent auction revenue. Net proceeds from the event are estimated at \$16,000

Leads Group: Cataldo updated the Board that the Power Partners Group has generated 57 referrals, resulting in 23 closed sales with a value of \$758,000. Great progress for a program still in its infancy. They meet on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month.

Financial Updates. Cataldo gave his financial report. YTD net income is pretty much in line with 2024. P&L down \$26,000, but he added that we may see an increase in net income as we move further into season, Leadership events, etc.

Executive Director's Report, Doug Izzo:

- a. **Facebook Post:** Izzo reminded everyone to share Chamber posts on Facebook.
- b. **Member Dashboard:** September saw a more normal month of new members and drops; 14 added, and 7 dropped. Total active members 852. (is that a new record?)
- c. **New Member Cards:** Signed by BOD attendees
- d. **Upcoming Events:** Fun After 5 at The Market on Dearborn, and Hesse Team.

Old Business: Cataldo asked how often the bathrooms are cleaned.? Izzo responded every two weeks. Still an ongoing issue with the men's room urinal which says it's "out of order" which it's not.

New Business: The nominating committee will meet after today's meeting to discuss the president-elect, presidential appointees, and fill board vacancies.

MOTION:

To pause the membership of Manasota Key Realty for 30 days from today.
Whitmore. 2nd Hartley. Motioned carried.

MOTION:

To approve letters of support: One for Water Management Certification Program via Charlotte County Schools to be established at Lemon Bay High School. The second letter, also supporting Charlotte County Schools to fund a Welding Training Center at the new Southwest Florida Advanced Manufacturing Training Center by Anders. Hartley 2nd. Motion carried.

MOTION: Motion to suspend membership of Farlow's on the Water and Chophouse 285 for 90 days, pending hearing at the 11/12/2025 Board of Directors meeting.
by Whitmore, 2nd by Jennings. Motion carried.

MOTION: To Adjourn by Whitmore, 2nd Hartley. Meeting adjourned at 9:59 am