

## Approved January 16 2025

SWFLC November 21, 2024 DoubleTree Bell tower

In attendance:

SWFLC Voting Members
1. President Vice Mayor Joanne Ribble Estero
2. Vice President Mayor John Gunter Cape Coral
3. Treasurer Councilmember John King Fort Myers Beach
4. Past President Councilwoman Holly D. Smith Sanibel
5. Mayor Julie Wilkins LaBelle
6. Bonita Springs Laura Carr
7. Councilwoman Teresa Watkins Brown Fort Myers
8. Vice Mayor Terry Hutchison Naples
Marco Island Councilor-elect Bonita Shwan (non voting)
Marco Island Councilor-Elect Stephen Gray ( non-voting)
<u>SWFLC/FLC Staff</u>
Executive Director Rachel Keesling
FMIT Chaz Smith Risk & Safety Consultant
FMIT Jessica Burt
FMIT Lyndsey Johannesen
<u>Other elected officials</u>
Cape Coral City Council Bill Steinke
Sanibel Vice Mayor Mike Miller
Fort Myers Mayor Kevin Anderson
<u>Sponsors/Associate Members</u>
Premier Sponsor Comcast Presenter Justin Damiano
Signature Sponsor Waste Pro Ed Farmer
Associate Member KLCB Tisha Bayne
Cushman & Wakefield Gary Tasman
VP Sales HyperFiber Eric Claytor
CEO BigBrothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast Kamala Martinez
Boys & Girls Clubs of Charlotte County Maria Jenkins
F.I.S.H. OF SANCAP Executive Director Maria Espinoza
VP of Government Relations for Lee Health Michael Nacheff

Director of Government Relations for Lee Health Nick Grant
Ballard Partners Terry Miller
Senior Friendship Center Diana Harms
Boys & Girls Club of Collier President/CEO Megan McCarthy Beauvais
Boys & Girls Club of Collier Director of Development Carolyn Bongirno
Junior Achievement of SWFL President/CEO Angela Fisher
Boys & Girls Club of Lee County CEO Denise Gergley

11:30 a.m. President Ribble welcomed all. She thanked all the guests and members for attending. She also commented on the end of hurricane season and thanked all that helped in any capacity with the recent storms.

Past President Holly Smith gave the invocation and then led the Pledge.

President Ribble introduced the meeting program including the new logo, new website and sponsor presentation by Justin Damiano from Comcast.

She asked for all new members to stand and introduce themselves.

Executive Director called the roll and a quorum was established.

The Director presented the pages of the website and explained the address SouthwestFLC.com and how that created the new logo.

She highlighted the events calendar and explained it will be updated as the 2025 dates are determined by the executive committee.

President Ribble asked for all cities to send their group council photos to be included on the website.

The membership page of the website was reviewed and it was pointed out that terms are from January 1st, 2025 till December 31st, 2025.

"In the News" page is open to any city to submit content.

The Executive Director commented that the website will be a great communication tool going forward and thanked Joanne, Holly and paid provider Brandon 239 Lifestyle.

A short break was taken for members and guests to get lunch.

The voting member business session was called to order, and the minutes were reviewed by the secretary. The motion to approve was carried unanimously.

The Financial report was brought forth, reviewed by the treasurer, he moved to approve and the motion carried unanimously.

The executive director's report was quickly reviewed as submitted, noting the fast fly-in is going to be February 4th through 5th, 2025. Registration is handled through FLC.

President Ribble announced that SWFLC secretary was not reelected in the past election and an intent to run received one response was submitted from a Fort Myers Councilwoman, Theresa Watkins Brown. No other nominations were brought forward and Teresa Watkins Brown was approved as the Secretary unanimously by the voting members.

President Ribble reminded those in attendance don't forget dessert. She then introduced Justin Damiano of Comcast, she gave his extensive background, including military service, and thanked him for being a Premier Sponsor.

Justin Damiano began his presentation explaining all things Comcast, his PowerPoint included video and multiple slides displaying network expansion, construction and working with all community partners. Justin also detailed the disaster response that Comcast delivered after the hurricanes in Southwest Florida. He spoke on the assets of the company, including the destination resorts in Orlando. He was excited to bring his corporate team to Southwest Florida for their conference at the Sunseeker Resort in Charlotte Harbor. Justin detailed examples of rural infrastructure expansions, Arcadia was the most recent where a \$12 million dollar upgrade was undertaken.

Justin spoke on the funding that Comcast disperses in the local community through their grant funding. he introduced the partners in attendance and all were recognized by the membership. He concluded his presentation and held a brief question and answer session, he was to be available after the meeting concluded for one on ones.

The membership applauded and President Ribble thanked him for his commitment to SWFLC and Southwest Florida.

President Ribble passed the microphone for the each city to give their updates and the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.