

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING OF THE GASPARILLA ISLAND
BRIDGE AUTHORITY
February 4,2020

A Quarterly Board Meeting of the Gasparilla Island Board of Supervisors was called to order at 10:00 am on February 4, 2020. The meeting was held in the conference room at the Gasparilla Island Bridge Authority. Voting Board Members present were Gay Darsie, Jay Feinberg, Bill Klettke, Drew Tucker, and Ginger Watkins. Advisory Members present were Randy Hicks, Jean Hoysradt, and Peter Strong. Also present was Executive Director Kathy Banson-Verrico, GIBA attorney Rob Berntsson, and GIBA independent auditor Tom Cramer from *Suplee, Shea, Cramer and Rocklein*.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The first order of business was the election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman. GIBA Attorney Berntsson opened the floor for Chairman nominations. **Darsie nominated Watkins. There were no other nominations. Watkins was elected Chairman.** Berntsson opened the floor for Vice Chairman nominations. **Tucker nominated Darsie, Darsie declined. Darsie nominated Klettke. There were no other nominations. Klettke was elected Vice Chairman.**

Public Comments/Questions on Agenda Items: There were three community representatives from the Gulf Shores North Property Owners Association; Scott Cotherman, Tim Freeman, and Martin Lyons. The Board discussed the plans for the creation of a five-foot sidewalk from N Gulf Shores to connect with the GICIA bike path. Building of this path has been in the planning stages with GIBA for over two years including the confirmation of the legal description of right of way ownership with Charlotte County, the requiring of a transfer of additional footage by Charlotte County to GIBA in order to meet the bike path, and the placement of a crosswalk to facilitate safe passage from west to east. GIBA confirmed that the path would not be on the Association's property and the drainage would continue to be in the drainage easement on the west side of the sidewalk. Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners are set to vote on the transfer at their March meeting.

Minutes Approval:

The next order of business was the approval of the minutes from previous meetings. **On motion by Feinberg and seconded by Darsie the minutes from the Quarterly Board Meeting on November 19, 2019 were unanimously approved.**

Executive Director Report:

Traffic and Revenue

Traffic and revenue figures for cumulative fiscal year 2020 were reviewed. The traffic count of 355,347 is an increase of 6% compared to last year with a corresponding 4% increase in overall revenue.

Bridge Openings

Bridge openings are down 7% for the first 4 months of fiscal year 2020.

Toll Collection System

There are less than 25 accounts left to exchange. The account holders have been notified that their old passes will not be valid after January 31, 2020. Once they come in to exchange to the new pass their current account balance will be reactivated. The self- scan lane is averaging about 1,500 cars each weekday. The final database transfer and website activation is planned in the upcoming weeks.

Engineering Committee:

The Engineering Committee report included a discussion on the annual FDOT bridge inspections. The inspections were completed in October. The inspectors did not note any areas of significant concern. Most of the recommendations were to improve the current corrosion control plan. Staff has been working full

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING OF THE GASPARILLA ISLAND
BRIDGE AUTHORITY
February 4, 2020

time under the bridge addressing the items that can be accessed. Staff will continue to work with the Engineering Chairman to devise a long-term paint plan to address areas not accessible by GIBA staff.

A temporary jack pedestal is currently in production. Once the stand is complete it will be delivered onsite to ensure the proper fit. Once confirmed, three other stands will be manufactured, and the hydraulic pump and jacks will be purchased.

Governance Committee:

A Governance Committee is scheduled for April 8, 2020.

Finance/Audit Committee:

Tom Cramer presented the GIBA FY19 audit report. Cramer confirmed that GIBA is in strong financial position and was given a clean audit report. **On motion by Tucker and seconded by Feinberg the Board voted to approve the GIBA fiscal year 2019 audit report.**

Finance/Audit Chairman Tucker presented the FY20 first quarter financial statements. GIBA continues to build cash reserves to fund long term bridge and causeway capital projects and to prepay long term debt. Feinberg requested staff contact the State to inquire about possibility of renegotiating the current SIB loan.

Legal: None

Old Business:

Since the right of way transfer is on the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners agenda for March, the final design should be prepared. The final Giffels Webster design will include the addition of a five foot sidewalk from N Gulf Shores to the existing GICIA bike path, the addition of four foot shoulders on the newly acquired right of way, repaving the newly required right of way, crosswalk design for N Gulf Shores and the GICIA cart path, and drainage modifications. **On motion by Feinberg and seconded by Tucker the Board approved a not to exceed design cost of \$40,000.**


The Board continued the discussion regarding the possibility of placing a cell phone tower along the causeway. Attorney Berntsson discussed the specific zoning for the causeway. The area between the Swing and Center Bridge is zoned Parks and Recreation and the area between the Center and South Bridge is zoned Residential Multi-family Tourist. Communication towers under 50 feet are allowed as a right in Parks and Recreation, and such towers over 50 feet in height are permitted upon the approval of a Special Exception in Parks and Recreation zoning. After a lengthy discussion the Board decided a vote would be taken at the April 2020 meeting to determine if there is enough Board interest to consider pursuing the options.

New Business:

None

Public Comments/Questions on Non-Agenda Items: No Comments

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Ginger Watkins, GIBA Board Chairman