



## **TDC MEETING MINUTES**

February 12, 2015

Commissioner Brian Hamman called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members in attendance: Jeff Webb, René Affourtit, Colleen DePasquale, Tony Lapi, Councilman Forrest Banks, Mayor Kevin Ruane, Rob Wells, Pamela Cronin, Fran Myers, and Bill Waichulis.

Commissioner Brian Hamman welcomed Bill Waichulis. The Lee County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) named Bill Waichulis of Boykin Management Company as an ex-officio member of the Lee County Tourist Development Council (TDC) on February 3, 2015. Waichulis will serve as an ex-officio TDC member represents the Visit Florida Board of Directors.

Commissioner Brian Hamman presented Commissioner Larry Kiker with a plaque thanking him on behalf of the TDC and VCB staff for his leadership serving as TDC chair for the past two years. Commissioner Larry Kiker thanked the TDC and the VCB staff for their dedication and encouraged them to continue their incredible work which benefits local small businesses and the community.

Mayor Kevin Ruane made a motion, seconded by René Affourtit to approve the TDC Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2015. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Public to be Heard**

- None to be heard.

### **Municipalities to be Heard**

- None to be heard.

### **Report of the Sports Development Executive Director, Jeff Mielke**

- Jeff Mielke, Lee County Sports Development, reported their achievement of 159,530 total room nights for calendar year 2014, a 12 percent increase over the previous year, and stated it was their best year ever. They held a record 113 sporting events in 2014. Jeff thanked Lee County Parks & Recreation team members for their hard work, contributing to the overall success.

### **VCB Executive Director's Report**

- Tamara Pigott reported that the preliminary bed tax collections for the month of December 2014 were \$2,883,737, a 19.4% increase over the preliminary collections in December 2013.
- STR Report – Occupancy for December was up 12%, ADR increased by 4.6% and RevPAR was up 17.1%. Lee County experienced a 17.8 % increase in Room Revenue while Available Rooms increased by 0.6% and Rooms Sold were up by 12.7%.
- RSW Report – Total Passenger count of 765,288 for December 2014, an increase of 4.0 % over December 2013.
- Marcia Wood, DPA reported the 4th Quarter Research Report for the fall season and presented key 2014 calendar year increases. Those increases included a record-breaking 3 million in paid accommodations, five million total visitors to Lee County. Hoteliers also reported optimistically about the first quarter of 2015.

### **Special Presentations**

- Pamela Johnson, VCB, provided a status update on the key efforts in the 2013-2016 strategic plan. Excellent progress has been made thus far and the VCB remains committed to the imperatives identified in the plan.

### **Old Business**

- None to be heard.

### **New Business**

- Rob Wells made a motion, seconded by Mayor Kevin Ruane to approve the \$1.4 million supplement to the VCB operating budget for additional advertising and media buys. The motion passed unanimously.
- René Affourtit made a motion, seconded by Fran Myers to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2014-15 budget report. The motion passed unanimously.

### **For Council Information**

- Tamara Pigott announced two new staff members to the VCB - Liz Linares, customer service coordinator, will assist with the Guests First customer service training program; and Charniece Jarman, communications coordinator, will assist the marketing and communications (MarCom) staff in promoting the area as a visitor destination through various media outlets, both domestically and internationally.

### **TDC Member Items**

- Councilman Forrest Banks thanked the county for getting the Harborside project up and running and he also reported that the Amtel Hotel building has been purchased and renovations will begin this summer.
- Jeff Webb reminded everyone that the LCHA monthly meeting will be held on February 26<sup>th</sup> at noon at Embassy Suites in Estero. United Way will be the sponsor and Christine Davlin will be the speaker.
- Tony Lapi said that the United Way campaign is set to close at the end of February. ‘Tween Waters Inn Island Resort will be hosting a “United Way night” at the Old Captiva House restaurant on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and will donate 25% of their proceeds to the United Way.
- Rob Wells wished continued success to all of the local businesses and tourism partners.
- Fran Myers reported good news at the airport with new flights (see addendum attached) and mentioned that the tower is being redesigned. A copy of the airport update was given to all TDC members.
- René Affourtit thanked the Minnesota Twins staff for the tour of their renovated facility.
- Bill Waiuchulis thanked everyone for their warm welcome.
- Colleen DePasquale announced that the nominations are closing for the Chrysalis Awards, and mentioned that the Chrysalis Committee still needs 2 judges, one for Business Development and one for Cultural Arts & Achievement. They will be meeting to judge on February 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>. She also stated that there are still tradeshow booths available for the event on April 16 at Harborside. The Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon is Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at the CenturyLink Sports Complex. The speakers will be Mark Weber, Dave St. Peter, and Terry Ryan with the Twins; and Sam Kennedy with the Red Sox.
- Mayor Kevin Ruane gave an update of the erosion issues on Blind Pass. Rob Wells inquired and Tamara Pigott confirmed that the TDC emergency reserve funds would be available to assist in a serious situation such as this.
- Pamela Cronin wished everyone a Happy Valentine’s Day.

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m. The next regular meeting of the TDC is scheduled for **THURSDAY, March 12, 2015 at 9 a.m. at** Lee County Admin East, Conference Room #118, 2201 Second Street, Fort Myers, 33901. *All reports are included with Minutes on file at the VCB and available at [www.leevcb.com](http://www.leevcb.com).*

# AIR SERVICE UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2015



**RSW PROVIDES NONSTOP SERVICE TO 46 DESTINATIONS.**  
**THIS SERVICE IS PROVIDED BY 15 DIFFERENT AIR CARRIERS @ RSW.**



## AIR SERVICE NEWS

### Frontier Airlines

- **NEW!** Frontier will inaugurate weekly nonstop service to Chicago-O'Hare (ORD) on Feb. 12. Flights will operate on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.
- **NEW!** Frontier recently inaugurated weekly nonstop service to Cleveland (CLE), Milwaukee (MKE), St. Louis (STL) and Washington, D.C.-Dulles (IAD), this will complement their existing service to Denver (DEN) and Trenton (TTN). All Frontier flights can be booked at [www.flyfrontier.com](http://www.flyfrontier.com).

### JetBlue Airways

- **NEW!** JetBlue recently inaugurated daily year-round nonstop service to Washington, D.C.-Reagan National (DCA). Flights can be booked at [www.jetblue.com](http://www.jetblue.com).

### Silver Airways

- **NEW!** Silver recently added an additional flight to both Orlando (MCO) and Key West (EYW), for a total of two daily flights to each destination. Flights can be booked at [www.silverairways.com](http://www.silverairways.com).

### Southwest Airlines

- **NEW!** Seasonal daily nonstop service to Nashville (BNA) and Grand Rapids (GRR) resumed in January, along with seasonal Saturday-only nonstop service to Buffalo (BUF), Flint (FNT) and Providence (PVD).
- **NEW!** On March 7, Southwest will resume seasonal daily nonstop service to Kansas City (MCI); Saturday-only service to Albany (ALB), Boston (BOS), Cleveland (CLE), Denver (DEN), Islip (ISP) and Minneapolis (MSP); and service to BUF, FNT and PVD will increase to daily.
- **NEW!** Southwest will inaugurate weekly nonstop service to Houston-Hobby (HOU) on April 11, 2015. Flights can be booked at [www.southwest.com](http://www.southwest.com).

### Spirit Airlines

- **NEW!** Spirit recently inaugurated weekly nonstop service to Cleveland (CLE) and Latrobe/Pittsburgh's Arnold Palmer Regional Airport (LBE). Flights can be booked at [www.spirit.com](http://www.spirit.com).

### Sun Country

- **NEW!** Sun Country will inaugurate weekly nonstop service to San Juan, Puerto Rico (SJU) on May 3. The flights will operate on Thursdays and Sundays through Aug. 23, 2015. This will complement Sun Country's daily nonstop service to Minneapolis-Saint Paul (MSP). Flights can be booked at [www.suncountry.com](http://www.suncountry.com).

### United Airlines

- **NEW!** United resumed seasonal daily nonstop service to Denver (DEN). Flights can be booked at [www.united.com](http://www.united.com).

## NONSTOP DESTINATIONS BY AIRLINE

### Domestic Airlines

#### American Airlines (AA)

- Chicago-O'Hare (ORD)
- Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW)

#### Delta Air Lines/Delta Connection (DL)

- Atlanta (ATL)
- Cincinnati (CVG)
- Columbus (CMH) - seasonal
- Detroit-Metro (DTW)
- Indianapolis (IND) – seasonal
- Minneapolis-Saint Paul (MSP)
- New York-LaGuardia (LGA)

- New York-Kennedy (JFK) - seasonal

#### Frontier Airlines (F9)

- Chicago-O'Hare (ORD), *starts February 12*
- Cleveland (CLE)
- Denver (DEN)
- Milwaukee (MKE),
- St. Louis (STL)
- Trenton, NJ (TTN)
- Washington D.C.-Dulles (IAD)

### JetBlue Airways (B6)

- Boston (BOS)
- Hartford (BDL) - seasonal
- New York-Kennedy (JFK)
- New York-LaGuardia (LGA)
- Newark-Liberty (EWR)
- Washington, D.C., Reagan National (DCA)
- White Plains (HPN)

### Silver Airways (3M)

- Key West (EYW)
- Orlando (MCO)

### Southwest (WN)

- Akron-Canton (CAK) - seasonal
- Albany (ALB)- seasonal, **starts March 7**
- Atlanta (ATL)
- Baltimore-Washington (BWI)
- Boston (BOS) – seasonal, **starts March 7**
- Buffalo (BUF) –seasonal
- Chicago-Midway (MDW)
- Cleveland (CLE) –seasonal, **starts March 7**
- Columbus (CMH)
- Denver (DEN)- seasonal, **starts March 7**
- Flint (FNT) – seasonal
- Grand Rapids (GRR) – seasonal
- Hartford (BDL) – seasonal
- Houston-Hobby (HOU) – **starts April 11**
- Indianapolis (IND)
- Kansas City (MCI)- **starts March 7**
- Long Island-Islip (ISP) – seasonal, **starts March 7**
- Milwaukee (MKE)
- Minneapolis - Saint Paul (MSP) – seasonal, **starts March 7**
- Nashville (BNA) - seasonal
- Philadelphia (PHL) -seasonal
- Pittsburgh (PIT)
- Providence (PVD) – seasonal

- Washington, D.C., Reagan National (DCA)
- Saint Louis (STL)

### Spirit Airlines (NK)

- Atlantic City (ACY)
- Boston (BOS) - seasonal
- Cleveland (CLE)-seasonal
- Chicago-O’Hare (ORD)
- Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) - seasonal
- Detroit-Metro (DTW)
- Latrobe/Pittsburgh (LBE) – seasonal
- Minneapolis-Saint Paul (MSP) - seasonal

### Sun Country Airlines (SY)

- Minneapolis-Saint Paul (MSP)

- San Juan, PR (SJU) – **starts May 3**

### United Airlines/United Express (UA)

- Chicago-O’Hare (ORD)
- Cleveland (CLE)
- Denver (DEN)-seasonal
- Houston-Intercontinental (IAH)
- Newark (EWR)

### US Airways (US)

- Charlotte (CLT)
- Philadelphia (PHL)
- Washington, D.C., Reagan National (DCA)-seasonal

### International Airlines

#### Air Berlin (AB)

- Düsseldorf, Germany (DUS)

#### Air Canada (AC)

- Montreal, Canada (YUL) - seasonal
- Toronto, Canada (YYZ)

#### WestJet (WS)

- Ottawa, Canada (YOW) - seasonal
- Toronto, Canada (YYZ)

## NONSTOP DESTINATIONS BY AIRPORT

### Domestic Nonstop Destinations

1. Akron-Canton (CAK)-Southwest
2. Albany (ALB)-Southwest
3. Atlanta (ATL)-Delta, Southwest
4. Atlantic City (ACY)-Spirit
5. Baltimore (BWI)- Southwest
6. Boston (BOS)-JetBlue, Southwest, Spirit
7. Buffalo (BUF)-Southwest
8. Charlotte (CLT)-US Airways
9. Chicago (MDW)- Southwest
10. Chicago (ORD)- American, Frontier, Spirit, United
11. Cincinnati (CVG)-Delta
12. Cleveland (CLE)-United, Southwest, Frontier, Spirit
13. Columbus (CMH)-Southwest, Delta
14. Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW)-American, Spirit
15. Denver (DEN)-Frontier, Southwest, United
16. Detroit (DTW)- Delta, Spirit
17. Flint (FNT)-Southwest
18. Grand Rapids (GRR)-Southwest
19. Hartford (BDL)-JetBlue, Southwest
20. Houston-Hobby (HOU) - Southwest
21. Houston-Intercontinental (IAH)-United
22. Indianapolis (IND)-Southwest, Delta
23. Kansas City (MCI)-Southwest
24. Key West (EYW)-Silver
25. Latrobe/Pittsburgh (LBE)-Spirit
26. Long Island-Islip (ISP)-Southwest
27. Milwaukee (MKE)-Southwest, Frontier
28. Minneapolis-Saint Paul (MSP)-Delta, Southwest, Spirit, Sun Country
29. Nashville (BNA)-Southwest
30. Newark (EWR)-JetBlue, United
31. New York (JFK)- JetBlue
32. New York (LGA)-Delta, JetBlue
33. Orlando (MCO)-Silver
34. Philadelphia (PHL)-Southwest, US Airways
35. Pittsburgh (PIT)-Southwest
36. Providence (PVD)-Southwest
37. Saint Louis (STL)-Southwest, Frontier
38. Trenton, NJ (TTN)-Frontier
39. Washington, D.C., Reagan National (DCA)-Southwest, JetBlue, US Airways
40. Washington, D.C., Dulles (IAD)-Frontier
41. White Plains (HPN)-JetBlue

### Caribbean Nonstop Destinations

1. San Juan, Puerto Rico (SJU)-Sun Country

### International Nonstop Destinations

1. Düsseldorf, Germany (DUS)-Air Berlin
2. Montreal, Canada (YUL)-Air Canada
3. Ottawa, Canada (YOW)-WestJet
4. Toronto, Canada (YYZ)-Air Canada, WestJet

Please note: Cities mentioned are served nonstop in/out of RSW. Other destinations may be available through connecting cities. Airline schedule information is provided by the respective airlines and is subject to change without notice. For more information about airline schedules, please contact the airline directly or your travel agent. Get up-to-date flight arrival and departure information on our website at [www.flylcpa.com](http://www.flylcpa.com).

If you need further information, please contact:

**Brian M. Solis**

Manager, Aviation Market Development - Lee County Port Authority, Southwest Florida International Airport

Phone: 239-590-4509, [bmsolis@flylcpa.com](mailto:bmsolis@flylcpa.com)