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ORIGINAL

1 CENTRAL FLORIDA TOURISM OVERSIGHT DISTRICT
2 BOARD OF SUPERVISIORS MEETING
3 _____/

4 DATE: MAY 24, 2023

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- 1 PRESENT:
- 2
- 3 AARON COLBURN
- 4 JOHN SHIREY, RCFD PRESIDENT
- 5 DEBBIE MCDONALD
- 6 BRIDGET ZIEGLER
- 7 MARTIN GARCIA, CHAIR
- 8 BRIAN AUNGST, JUNIOR
- 9 RON PERI
- 10 MICHAEL SASSO, VICE CHAIR
- 11 DANIEL LANGLEY, ESQUIRE
- 12 GLENTON GILZEAN, JUNIOR, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
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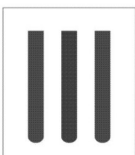
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1 MR. GARCIA: So let's call the meeting to
2 order. Welcome to everybody. Good morning. Thank
3 you for being here. Thank you for your interest in
4 the work of this board and the district, and it's a
5 little cozier, smaller room, and I kind of like
6 that. So I get a little closer to you-all, and
7 that's wonderful. So let's start with the opening
8 invocation.

9 MR. GILZEAN: Mr. Chairman, good morning. And
10 I would like to bring up Bishop Kevin Cobaris. He
11 is a distinguished minister of faith in local, and
12 I'm really excited that he's going to come up and
13 give us our invocation. Bishop?

14 MR. COBARIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank
15 you, Mr. Gilzean. Will you bow your heads as I
16 pray. Dear wise and loving Father, first, let me say
17 thank you on behalf of all who are gathered here
18 today. Thank you for your many and abundant
19 blessings. Thank you for life itself, for the
20 measure of health we need to fulfill our callings
21 for sustenance and for friendship. Thank you for the
22 ability to be involved in useful work and for the
23 honor of bearing appropriate responsibilities.
24 Thanks as well for the freedom to embrace You or the
25 freedom to reject You. Thank you for loving us even



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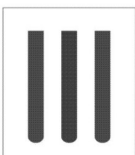
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1 so from your boundless and gracious nature. In the
2 Scriptures, You have said that citizens ought to
3 obey the governing authorities since you have
4 established those very authorities to promote peace
5 and order and justice. Therefore, I pray for the
6 Central Florida Tourism Oversight District, the
7 officials, and in particular for this assembled
8 board of supervisors, I'm asking that You would
9 graciously grant them wisdom to govern amid the
10 conflicting interests and issues of our times. A
11 sense of welfare and true needs of the district, a
12 keen and thirst for justice and righteousness,
13 confidence in what is good and fitting, and the
14 ability to work together in harmony even when
15 there's honest disagreement, and for personal peace
16 in their lives and joy in their tasks. I pray for
17 the agenda set before them today. Please give an
18 assurance of what would please You and what would
19 benefit those who live and work in and around the
20 Central Florida Tourism District. It is in Your
21 most blessed name I pray. Amen.

22 ALL: Amen.

23 MR. GARCIA: Bishop, thank you very much for
24 the blessings and those beautiful and eloquent
25 words. Thank you. And now let's honor this great



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1 country with the pledge of allegiance. Please
2 stand.

3 ALL: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the
4 United States of America and to the Republic for
5 which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible,
6 with liberty and justice for all.

7 MR. GARCIA: Okay. Let's have a brief safety
8 instruction for our new room.

9 MR. COLBURN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of
10 the board, Mr. Gilzean, and to all of our guests and
11 visitors, we'd like to start the meeting the way we
12 do every board meeting and every meeting in the
13 district, and share some important safety
14 information with you. Our build -- this room is a
15 little bit different if you've never been in this
16 building before. There are two exits that you can
17 use in the event of an evacuation, the front door
18 and where you entered from here on my right hand
19 side. On the left hand side, also, there is an exit
20 that will lead you to a door that exits from the
21 rear of the building. So please be aware that those
22 two exits are available for you if needed. Along the
23 way you may encounter a fire extinguisher or a fire
24 alarm pull station. If the need calls for it and
25 you're comfortable doing so, please use those. We



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1 do have a first aid kit and an AED at the security
2 desk if those become necessary as well. Thank you
3 very much and enjoy the meeting.

4 MR. GARCIA: Thank you. And now public
5 comments, and looks like we have two, and one's
6 going to defer their time. Number one, please come
7 up. And I believe, are you deferring to the next
8 speaker?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: Yes, Mr. Chair. I
10 defer my time to President John Shirey.

11 MR. GARCIA: Okay. Thank you. John, your turn.

12 MR. SHIREY: Good morning, everyone. My name
13 is John Shirey. I'm here representing the Reedy
14 Creek Professional Firefighters. I wanted to
15 apologize for some of you guys that have probably
16 heard some of the things I'm going to say, but if
17 you'll bear with me, there is a point to repeating
18 some of these things. So I wanted to give a quick
19 update on the issues surrounding our long expired
20 contract with the district and kind of keep
21 everybody up to date on where we are in the process.
22 As you've probably seen in the media, it's been
23 reported all over the place, my membership took this
24 tentative agreement to a vote last week, and
25 overwhelmingly approved of the agreement. You know,



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1 I kind of wanted to just talk about the significance
2 of that, and to do so we kind of have to go through
3 the history. And so towards the end of 2018, our
4 previous contract with the district was getting
5 ready to expire. So we began the process of
6 negotiating, much like what we've done with our
7 newer board here. And after four long years of
8 negotiating in good faith, in December of 2022, we
9 had kind of hit a wall, and we had declared impasse,
10 and we were preparing to go before a special
11 magistrate to try to have an impartial hearing on
12 the issues that are out -- that were still
13 outstanding. I think it's important to note that as
14 of December of 2022, we did not have one single
15 article out of our contract that was tentatively
16 agreed upon, and that's after four years. And so
17 why is that important? In -- or I'm sorry, in
18 February of 2023, Governor DeSantis, alongside the
19 state legislature, created the Central Florida
20 Tourism Oversight District and appointed this new
21 board of supervisors. The governor has undoubtedly
22 already proven himself to be an amazing leader, but
23 he also has this uncanny ability to identify and
24 surround himself with other strong leaders. And I
25 think that that was put on full display by the



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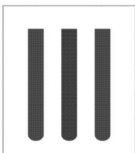
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1 choices that are here before you as board members.
2 Each of them are highly regarded as experts in their
3 prospective [sic] fields. So one of the things is
4 that almost overnight, a change occurred that we
5 have never in the history of the Reedy Creek
6 Professional Firefighters experienced, and that was
7 transparency, open dialogue, you know, the ability
8 to actually sit down and have our issues heard and
9 actually listened to. And not every single issue
10 that we brought forward were we given, you know,
11 they didn't give us our way on every single thing,
12 but there was a lot of things where if we had an
13 issue, they came up with a very agreeable compromise
14 that both sides could live with. So first and
15 foremost, you know, I want to applaud you guys for
16 that. You guys' hand on approach to running this
17 district, not just dealing with the firefighters,
18 but the district as a whole as well as the very
19 clear direction and communication that you've given
20 to the administration, it's just been truly
21 something we've never seen before. And then, you
22 know, I think you've been able to build bridges that
23 were once burned, you know, and long -- a long
24 history of those burned bridges. And in a short
25 span of time, you guys have been able to start



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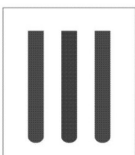
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1 repairing those things. And I think that can only
2 do well for the district as a whole. The media, when
3 you guys were appointed, highly critical of you
4 guys. I mean, in truth, you know, I don't think you
5 guys are any strangers to that, but what I've seen
6 in this short time is that narrative is starting to
7 change. I'm seeing a lot of very, very positive
8 media coverage. And I think that is solely due to
9 the hard work that you guys have put in, your
10 dedication to transparency, and just doing the right
11 thing. I think this board has also showcased their
12 ability to surround themselves with strong
13 leadership. With the hiring of district -- excuse
14 me, Administrator Glen Gilzean. Although his tenure
15 with the district to date has been short, in that
16 time I have personally witnessed the morale within
17 the district's workforce dramatically improve.
18 Glen, your open door policy and your outside of the
19 box approach to solving problems while maintaining a
20 people first approach has been a breath of fresh
21 air. I look forward to the many great things to
22 come in the coming years from you as well as from
23 this board. And the last thing I wanted to say was
24 just a quick thank you to my members that took the
25 time to vote and have their voices heard. We've



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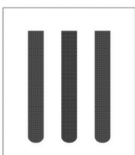
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1 been working under this expired contract for four-
2 and-a-half years. These men and women have provided
3 world-class service throughout that entire time, and
4 previously, of course as well. Day and night, if
5 something goes wrong within the boundaries of the
6 district, they're there to answer that call, they
7 jump into action, repeatedly put the good of others
8 ahead of themselves. They've worked through the
9 years of a declared pandemic, threats of layoffs,
10 dealing with equipment and personnel shortages.
11 These men and women never stop showing up. So they
12 have come out, they've supported you guys. We are
13 eternally grateful for the governor, the state
14 legislature for coming and making these changes,
15 putting you guys into place to make these positive
16 changes. So I just wanted to personally tell you,
17 thank you very much. We look forward to the years
18 to come, and that's it. Thank you.

19 MR. GARCIA: Well, thank you for your comments
20 and thank you for your service to the district. And
21 next, number two, Ms. McDonald?

22 MS. MCDONALD: Good morning. Lovely to see
23 you-all again. I wanted to thank you again for
24 allowing public comments for the public to express
25 their questions and concerns. I also wanted to



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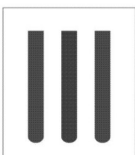
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1 thank the pastor, if he's still in here, I guess for
2 the invocation. I think opening with prayer is a
3 lovely way to start a meeting, it reminds us all to
4 really look at what we are trying to accomplish, to
5 look at the wisdom, to set the tone for working
6 together. We are all new to this. It's all changed
7 for you, for all of us, for everyone in the
8 surrounding communities and counties, it's all new
9 to us. And I speak for myself and for some members
10 of my community to say that we of course want to
11 extend the olive branch to work together. I know
12 we're just citizens and representatives and really
13 nobody, but we do love our community. We love our
14 area. And this is again, an atmosphere of
15 uncertainty. I just ask that you consider and
16 continue to encompass your surrounding areas. I
17 know the first meeting you spoke to, that you would
18 reach out to the other areas. I haven't felt that
19 outreach yet. I may have missed it, but as far as
20 our county goes, I know most of the county leaders
21 and I don't know that anyone's been contacted, but I
22 hope that that will ensue, and that you-all will
23 embrace that. I think we consider a lot of us that
24 are in the Central Florida area kind of ambassadors
25 of good service, of reaching out, of tourism. I



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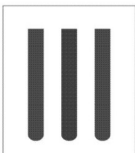
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1 don't think there's a day that it goes by that
2 someone doesn't stop and say, "Which way is this?
3 Which way is that? How do you get to Universal?
4 How do you get to Disney?" I mean, we're all
5 familiar with that. But that is also an area we
6 chose to surround ourself with, is to be welcoming.
7 And my concern, I guess, addressed today is I feel
8 -- and again, I speak for myself, that we don't feel
9 a lot of the welcoming. There's again a lot of the
10 uncertainty, what's going to happen? As you know,
11 Governor Ron DeSantis is announcing his bid for
12 presidency today with a motto, "I never back down."
13 That to me does not say compromise, it doesn't say
14 reaching across the aisle. It's a concern. I'm not
15 sure that that's where the Americans want to be
16 right now. Most of my friends are in the middle. I
17 think when you come across with something, you know,
18 I never back down, you come across saying, well,
19 "I'm right, this is the way it's going to be." And
20 I had hoped that there would be more of a meet in
21 the middle attitude. Anyway, I just want to say, I
22 hope you consider to look at your surrounding
23 communities and what this is really doing to a lot
24 of the residents in the area. There's a lot of fear.
25 I'll just say it, there's a lot of fear. There's



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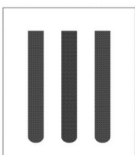
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1 people that are considering moving their homes. Well
2 established people. These are not just, "I rent, and
3 I don't know where I'm going to go next month."
4 These are well- established community members. So I
5 thank you for keeping that open.

6 MR. GARCIA: Well, thank you for your comments.
7 And you said you are just a citizen, and you're not
8 just as a citizen, you're our citizen, and we are
9 here to serve you, and we will serve you. And in
10 terms of being responsive to our citizens, one of
11 the criteria that this board took into serious
12 consideration in naming our new leader is somebody
13 from your area. Our new leader is -- lived here for
14 seven years. He was president of the Urban League.
15 And he does know all of the elected officials, is
16 well connected with them. And I'm just going to let
17 him tell you a little bit of what he has already
18 done in reaching out to the two counties and to
19 other constituents here in the district. Glen, tell
20 her a little bit about what you've already done on
21 that score.

22 MR. GILZEAN: There we go. Mr. Chairman, thank
23 you. And you're correct. We have met with local
24 elected officials, both in Orange and Osceola
25 County. We have spent a considerable amount of time



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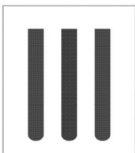
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1 not only with our neighbors, but also with the
2 staff. And you're actually stealing my talking
3 points from my managerial minute, so when I get to
4 my part, I'm just going to say, "I said it already."
5 But no, but to your point, we heard you loud and
6 clear, you're a constituent, we want to make sure
7 that we're good neighbors as I mentioned in my
8 opening remarks a couple weeks ago. And yes, I'm
9 looking forward to not only sharing that with you,
10 but also with the community at large. But we have
11 scheduled some time with the hotel association, Jay
12 Leonard (phonetic), who's in the back, we've had a
13 great time to sit down with him to hear from the
14 actual constituents here and the needs are, and then
15 be able to put together a roadmap going forward.

16 MR. GARCIA: And what I'll tell you, when we
17 met with the manager of Osceola County, the first
18 thing that Glen said in the meeting was, "We're your
19 neighbors, and how can we be a better neighbor?"
20 And so that is a big goal of this board and of the
21 district. And I think you will see that. And we
22 have an open door policy, too. And so if you've got
23 ideas, we want to hear from you. Good. Well, thank
24 you for your comments again. Next is the consent
25 agenda, and we've got two sets of minutes. And what



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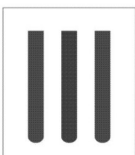
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1 I'd like to do is I'd like to pull those from the
2 consent agenda. And because of the meetings that
3 those two minutes cover, I -- I'd like to get a
4 verbatim. And so what I've asked is Glen to provide
5 a verbatim. Those will be part of our next meeting,
6 and they'll be on the -- on the consent agenda for
7 then. Next on informational items, they speak for
8 themselves, I don't think there's any presentation
9 with respect to them. So we'll move on to reports,
10 Management Report first.

11 MR. GILZEAN: First off, thank you. This is my
12 first meeting, members of the board. Thank you for
13 the opportunity to serve. I also wanted to say
14 thank you to the bishop. One of the things I
15 mentioned is that I want to be a better neighbor,
16 inclusive, and I felt it was important to find a
17 distinguished faith leader from the region. And
18 actually he's a nationally known faith leader, but
19 we're blessed that he's here in our region. I'm
20 honored that you were here to actually provide the
21 invocation to my first meeting, so thank you so
22 much. Second thing I wanted to just quickly
23 highlight, I have -- it's been an amazing time with
24 the staff. We have some amazing individuals who are
25 professionals, who are dedicated to seeing this



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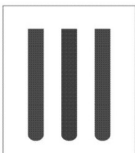
1 district operate and run efficiently and
2 effectively. And I'm just excited to call them my
3 colleagues and be able to work together. So that's
4 really good. I also spent some time with John
5 Shirey and his leadership and the things that he's
6 doing. So I want to give credit where credit is due
7 and looking forward to continuing that dialogue,
8 sir. Next thing I just want to quickly highlight in
9 our next board meeting, members of the board, I
10 would like to share a 30-60-90 day plan, strategic
11 plan that we will be going in, I'm going to take a
12 lot of feedback from the community, from our
13 constituents. One of the ideas that I heard was
14 developing more advisory boards. So I'm looking
15 forward to coming to the board with descriptions of
16 how those advisory boards will work. And ex -- and
17 other great ideas, so that way this -- we are a good
18 neighbor. And with that said, that concludes my
19 Managerial Report.

20 MR. GARCIA: Thank you. Mr. Langley, do you
21 have --

22 MR. GILZEAN: Oh, I'm sorry.

23 MR. GARCIA: Yes.

24 MR. GILZEAN: There was two other -- apologize,
25 Mr. Chairman.



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1 MR. GARCIA: Sure.

2 MR. GILZEAN: There are two agenda items that
3 we need to do as one. We need to move the June
4 meeting up. I think it's scheduled for June the
5 28th, and we would like board action to move that to
6 June the 21st.

7 MR. GARCIA: Is there a motion?

8 MR. AUNGST: Mr. Chair, I've just -- I will be
9 out of town on June 21st, out of the state.

10 MR. GARCIA: Okay.

11 MR. AUNGST: I could probably attend via Zoom.

12 MR. GARCIA: Okay.

13 MR. AUNGST: But I will be out of state, so I
14 may or may not be available for that date.

15 MR. GARCIA: So any of my other board members
16 have a comment on that date?

17 MS. ZIEGLER: No, I move to approve a board
18 meeting for June 21, 2023, at 9:30.

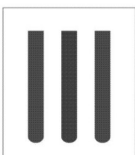
19 MR. PERI: I will second that.

20 MR. GARCIA: Okay. And Brian, you think you
21 can make it?

22 MR. AUNGST: I will do whatever I can to be
23 here, at least virtually. I will --

24 MR. GARCIA: Okay.

25 MR. AUNGST: -- not be in the state of Florida



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1 on that day, so.

2 MR. GARCIA: Okay. And can the rest of us?

3 MS. ZIEGLER: I'll be -- I'll be present --

4 MR. GARCIA: Okay. And that works for you?

5 MR. AUNGST: Yes, sir.

6 MR. GARCIA: Okay. So I've got a motion, a
7 second, any discussion?

8 MS. ZIEGLER: Just clarification from Counsel,
9 do we need to pull, are we -- are we -- are we
10 removing another -- are we adding or are we
11 removing?

12 MR. LANGLEY: We're substituting. We're
13 removing the June 28th meeting and doing the -- do
14 it on June 21st instead.

15 MS. ZIEGLER: So just for clarification for the
16 record, so I -- the motion to add that we're doing
17 -- we're moving to add the June 21st meeting for
18 9:30, and removing the June 28th meeting?

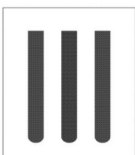
19 MR. LANGLEY: Correct.

20 MR. GARCIA: Does that -- does your second
21 include that, Ron?

22 MR. PERI: Yes.

23 MR. GARCIA: Okay. Any discussion? All in favor
24 say aye.

25 MS. ZIEGLER: Aye.



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1 MR. LANGLEY: Aye.

2 MR. GARCIA: Any opposed? Passes unanimously.

3 Anything else, Glen?

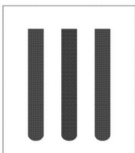
4 MR. GILZEAN: No.

5 MR. GARCIA: Okay. Mr. Langley, do you have a
6 report?

7 MR. LANGLEY: No report today.

8 MR. GARCIA: Thank you. And then the Pollution
9 Control Board, we have a report? Yes, sir. Thank
10 you.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Good morning. I've
12 been asked to give you guys a brief overview of the
13 Pollution Control Board, and let you know kind of
14 who they are and what they do. The board was first
15 created in 1970, which I will note predates the
16 Clean Water Act. So we were ahead of the game on
17 that. The board is a five member board, created in
18 our agreement with the state of Florida to run a
19 local pollution control program, and they act as an
20 advisory board. So we meet with the board, try to
21 meet twice a year. We provide information to the
22 board on our environmental activities on any issues
23 that we might have and our successes. We also
24 provide information on the operation of the water
25 and wastewater treatment facilities, and that board



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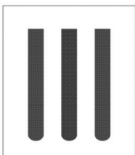
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1 gives us feedback on anything that they see they
2 might want to advise us to do differently or to look
3 at or think -- other areas to explore. So pretty
4 much that sums it up. I know it's a very short
5 presentation, but that's it. We meet with the
6 board, they give us advice on our environmental
7 program. It runs very well. And the board has been
8 in existence since 1970. And you have a member
9 coming up to reappoint, and that will be at your
10 next meeting. That's Kermit Prime (phonetic). He is
11 our longest serving board member. He's been on the
12 board since I believe sometime in the late 70s.
13 However, I want to point out that his long-term
14 exposure to our operations within the district give
15 him a unique historical perspective that he does
16 bring to the meetings, and we consider him very
17 important. He's a water -- wastewater engineer, and
18 he brings a lot of knowledge to our group on
19 different ways we work within the water and
20 wastewater community and how it affects the
21 environment. Do we have any questions?

22 MR. GARCIA: Any questions from our fellow
23 board members? So one I have -- oh, yes.

24 MR. LANGLEY: I just wanted a clarification. So
25 as I understand, the -- this board only appoints one



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1 member to --

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: That is correct. Of --
3 the way the original agreement was set up with the
4 state, it's between the two cities and the district
5 and the state. Each city appoints two of the
6 members, and this board appoints one, which is
7 Kermit Prime.

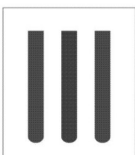
8 MR. LANGLEY: Okay. Thank you.

9 MR. GARCIA: Okay. Any other comments or
10 questions?

11 MR. LANGLEY: Thank you.

12 MR. GARCIA: Thank you for your report. There's
13 no new business items or unfinished business items,
14 and so at this time, we will go into a shade
15 meeting, and that's an attorney-client communication
16 meeting that the board will have with their lawyers.
17 And after that's concluded, we'll return here and
18 adjourn. So let's recess at this time.

19 (MEETING CONCLUDED)
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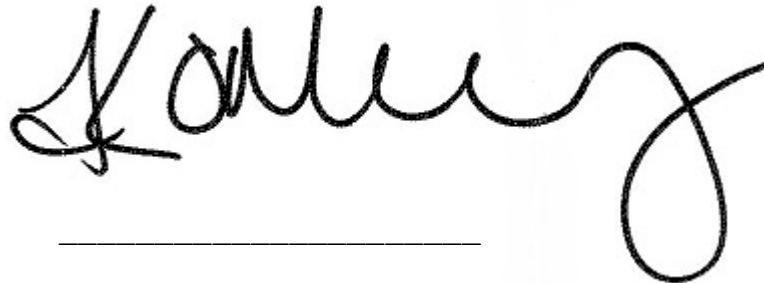
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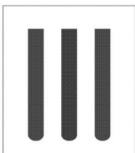
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Submitted on: July 07, 2023.



KATIE O'MALLEY



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