

TEAM's Secret for Producing Results Journey to the Future a Prime Example

By Bill Welsch

Volunteers from TEAM Punta Gorda, in collaboration with the City of Punta Gorda, convened a remarkable event this week, *Journey to the Future, Let's Learn Together*.

Some 700 citizens attended a free conference on January 7, where they were treated to presentations from a stable of nationally-renowned speakers discussing innovative approaches to urban planning and community development. The purpose of the conference was to provide information to citizens that will enhance the ability to participate effectively in the City's current initiative to update the Citywide Master Plan.



By all measures, the event was a striking success with fast-paced and thought-provoking presentations accompanied by excellent audience participation.



John Redmond, Allegiant Air President

The success of "Journey" leads one to ask: How does TEAM do it? What's the formula? How does this group of volunteers keep hitting home runs?

The pattern with "Journey" is not dissimilar to the development of other TEAM projects: Someone throws out an idea, a committee of volunteers comes together, and things start to happen. This was the approach that led to other TEAM initiatives such as free loaner bicycles or the renovated homes we see in our city from the *Paint Your Heart Out* program or community gardens sprouting up all over town or bicycle artwork we see adorning our community or Habitat for Humanity homes erected by TEAM volunteers...and on and on.

But, enough with the fluff, enough with the Chamber of Commerce messaging.

That TEAM accomplishes all of this is well and good but what the average person *doesn't see* is the often tedious work behind-the-scenes that has things get done. The committee that pulled off *Journey to the Future* is a great example. A committee made up of capable community leaders, all with agendas, opinions and lots of stories to tell, lots of words to use up.

Committee meetings could sometimes be...challenging, as a myriad of details were discussed and discussed again until action was finally decided upon. If the favorite idea of a committee

member was turned down by the group, that initial spark of anger and frustration had to be tamped down and replaced with renewed enthusiasm for the project.

In the end, what has it all work, is that somehow – and this is the magic of TEAM – members of the committee manage to put personal angst aside and rally around a common purpose.

That's how things get done.

That's how TEAM produces results.

Bill Welsch Jan 8, 2019