

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

December 7, 2009

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met this date at the Council Offices, 3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140, Hollywood, Florida. The Chair, Councilmember Walters, called the meeting to order at 10:46 a.m.

Chair Walters welcomed new Council member, City of Opa-Locka Mayor, Joseph Kelley.

AGENDA ITEM ONE: Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA ITEM TWO: Roll Call

Councilmember Patricia B. Asseff
Councilmember M. Margaret Bates
Councilmember Michael Blynn
Councilmember Scott J. Brook (via phone)
Councilmember Heather Carruthers (via phone)
Councilmember Suzanne Gunzburger
Councilmember Joseph Kelley
Councilmember Ilene Lieberman (via phone)
Councilmember George Neugent
Councilmember Marta Perez
Councilmember Joseph Scutto
Councilmember Katy Sorenson
Councilmember Paul Wallace
Chair Sandra Walters

The following Ex-Officio members were present:

- Mr. Gary L. Donn, representing the Florida Department of Transportation
- Ms. Joan Goodrich, representing the Broward Alliance
- Mr. Elbert Waters, representing the South Florida Water Management District

The following Council member arrived after roll call:

- Councilmember Ilene Lieberman

Chair Walters led the Council members in singing *Happy Birthday* to Ms. Carolyn A. Dekle, Executive Director.

AGENDA ITEM THREE: Minutes of previous Meetings

Councilmember Neugent moved to approve the Minutes from the previous meeting. Councilmember Gunzburger seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM FOUR: Project Reviews

a) Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Report

Councilmember Gunzburger moved to approve the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Report. Councilmember Scuotto seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM FIVE: Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Program

a) DRI Assessment Reports

None

b) Development Orders (DO)

1. Lauderhill City Center - City of Lauderhill

Ms. Mary Jean Matthews, Council staff, gave a brief summary of the staff report.

Councilmember Asseff stated that she thought this was a great DRI and she is very anxious to see what takes place. The project is going to make such a big difference along State Road 7.

Councilmember Bates stated that the City of Lauderhill City Commission, of which she is a member, unanimously passed the ordinance for this project.

c) DRI Status Report

Information only

AGENDA ITEM SIX: Proposed Local Government Comprehensive Plan/Amendment Reviews

a) Proposed Public Education Facilities Element (PEFE)/Capital Improvements Element (CIE) Updates Amendments-None

b) City of Hialeah Gardens

Councilmember Blynn moved to approve the staff recommendation on agenda item 6b. Councilmember Asseff seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

c) City of Miami

Councilmember Neugent moved to approve the staff recommendation on agenda item 6c. Councilmember Asseff seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM SEVEN: Adopted Local Government Comprehensive Plan/Amendment Reviews

a) Adopted Public Education Facilities Element (PEFE)/Capital Improvements Element (CIE) Updates Amendments - None

- b) Monroe County
- c) City of Miami
- d) City of Hallandale Beach
- e) City of Miami Gardens
- f) Islamorada, Village of Islands
- g) City of Coral Gables
- h) City of North Lauderdale
- i) City of Oakland Park

Councilmember Blynn moved to approve the staff recommendation on agenda items 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e, 7f, 7g, 7h, and 7i. Councilmember Neugent seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM EIGHT: Reports

- a) Executive Committee Report

Chair Walters informed the Council that she would like to open the floor for discussion of the creation of a Board Committee that would serve as a supportive role through the Regional Planning Council for climate change efforts throughout South Florida. During earlier discussions, it was suggested that she speak with Broward County Commissioner Kristen Jacobs, and unfortunately she was unable to reach her this month. She stated that her intention with this Committee was in no way to be competitive with any existing, ongoing efforts. The idea would be that this Committee would be supportive of ongoing efforts. Chair Walters referenced the opening of the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen that was broadcast on National Public Radio, and she stated that it was fascinating to hear that the perception of the general public was that the science has really come forward to demonstrate that this is a phenomenon that is really happening. The awareness and acceptance by the general public in the U.S. has actually waned substantially. This Committee is an opportunity for people who are active politically and in the communities to provide additional outreach in a supportive role in helping to maintain community support of these efforts. Chair Walters stated that she would open the floor for discussion and volunteers. She added that the Committee would not be chosen until later in the month after she had a chance to discuss the idea with Commissioner Jacobs. Once the Committee is chosen, the meetings could coincide with the regular monthly Council meetings.

Councilmember Asseff stated that she would like to wait and see what the outcome is from the conference in Copenhagen. The Council will have a better idea of the role that it needs to play.

Chair Walters stated that part of the beginning meetings of the Committee would be to have Commissioner Jacobs and Clerk Ruvlin present to participate and begin the discussion.

Councilmember Asseff stated that she would also like to see the Clean Cities Coalition incorporated in the process as well. It would be a good idea to connect with groups that are already in existence, rather than starting from scratch. The Clean Cities Coalition receives Federal assistance and State dollars, and it could just be made into a larger entity. To me, Councilmember Asseff stated, that would be the right way to go with this.

Councilmember Scuotto stated that he agreed and added that it would be nice to hear from Commissioner Jacobs on the idea. Maybe she has something in mind that the Committee could work on. Then let's see what comes out of the conference in Copenhagen. He stated that it would not be beneficial to create a repetitive Committee that doesn't go anywhere.

Councilmember Sorenson stated that four counties have now passed the Climate Change Compact. Already in place, she stated, are the Clean Cities Coalition, which Councilmember Asseff chairs, and the Mayor's Sustainability Taskforce, which she chairs in Miami-Dade, so all of these efforts are happening. The role of the Council, she suggested, should be to make sure everybody knows what everybody else is doing. So whether or not that would require a Board-level Committee or just staff's presence to ensure this, somehow we need to have that communication mechanism in place. She suggested talking to Commissioner Jacobs to see what she thinks.

Chair Walters stated that what she is hearing is that more time needs to be spent to define what the Committee should be, and what is needed.

Councilmember Gunzburger stated that she wanted to make sure that the Committee did not duplicate any ongoing efforts.

Chair Walters stated that the Council would proceed in that manner on the Climate Change Committee idea. She then thanked everyone who provided items for the pot-luck holiday lunch that will be immediately following the Council meeting.

Mr. Goren asked to check and see which Council members were still on the phone. Councilmember Lieberman and Councilmember Carruthers were still connected. Mr. Goren stated that there was a physical quorum present.

b) Financial Report

Councilmember Sorenson moved to approve the Financial Report. Councilmember Bates seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

c) Executive Director's Report

Ms. Dekle informed the Council members that the Council has been asked to host the National Football League (NFL) Super Bowl Business Leadership Forum. The Forum will be held on February 4, 2009, at the Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship, and will include a panel that will be discussing business issues and business ownership. Additionally, this will be a networking event that will promote the exchange of ideas between independent business owners and the South Florida lead corporate procurement personnel. Ms. Dekle stated that this is something that the NFL does to provide a connection into the small business community. The Council got picked because of the work done by Ms. Cheryl Cook on the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program. As the NFL went around talking to people in the region they all kept pointing to the RLF. She stated, that this is going to be a highend promotion of the Council. There will be signage all throughout the event that will give the Council presence, and there will also be seats available for Council members and others that are interested in being a part of this event. She suggested that if the Council members knew of anyone that would be interested in participating, they should contact Ms. Cook. The real agenda is to give people that are trying to start a business or get further along in a business, a strategy of stories. We are very pleased and proud to be a part of this.

Ms. Isabel Cosio Carballo, Council staff, gave a brief legislative update.

Councilmember Asseff asked if there had been any discussion on the Hometown Democracy.

Chair Walters stated that they were going to wait until the next big election.

Councilmember Neugent stated that was the position that the Florida Association of Counties took.

d) Legal Counsel Report

Councilmember Neugent stated that the Nominating Committee met this morning and was recommending Councilmember Carruthers for the position of Secretary.

Mr. Goren stated with that recommendation, the current Executive Committee members would move up and the positions would be as follows:

Imm. Past Chair:	Councilmember Walters
Chair:	Councilmember Scuotto
Vice Chair:	Councilmember Gunzburger
Treasurer:	Councilmember Sorenson
Secretary:	Councilmember Carruthers

Councilmember Neugent moved to approve the appointment of members to the Executive Committee. Councilmember Blynn seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Goren stated that the Council members had been provided a copy of a letter from Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Secretary Thomas Pelham addressed to Senator Michael Bennet regarding Senate Bill 360 (SB 360). He stated that it is interesting that the position against SB 360 is the same position taken by the Council. There seems to be a difference of opinion about what the Bill says, how it will be applied and what the consequences will be. He stated that the reason that he shared this letter with the Council was because the Senate was in session, and there is a shell bill or a bookmark to potentially change the action of SB 360. Also pending, is a lawsuit in Leon County; a motion to dismiss was filed, but was denied by the Judge.

Councilmember Asseff asked if that meant that the state would have to go with transportation concurrency at this point.

Mr. Goren stated that the Secretary suggests that home rule is not supposed to be compromised by the Bill. It allows local governments to make decisions about concurrency; the complication however, is the mobility issue.

Councilmember Asseff asked with the litigation that is going on now with the sand re-nourishment program, is there anything that we should look at, because it would affect a lot of properties here in South Florida.

Mr. Goren referenced another case that was argued this past week in Washington, adding that he has a copy of the transcript and he will review for a recommendation.

e) Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) Status Report

Information only

AGENDA ITEM NINE: Revolving Loan Funds

a) SFRPC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report

Information only

b) Hurricane Wilma Bridge Loan Status Report

Information only

c) Eastward Ho! Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Status Report

Councilmember Asseff asked how much money was left in the program.

Ms. Cook stated that there was a very minimum amount remaining. It is a loan program, not a grant program. Some of the loans on the books have not begun to make principle payments, but will begin to do so in the new year.

Councilmember Asseff stated that the reason that she asked was because mitigation on most of the brownfields is about \$500,000, just to get the consulting done. A lot of the cities can't afford that.

Councilmember Scuotto pointed out that there are a lot of cities that have vacant parcels that are just sitting empty because people don't want to purchase the property. The land may be cheap to purchase, but the cost of cleanup is outrageous. This is something that the Council can look into. Maybe there are Federal dollars that could possibly create a new program for this purpose.

Councilmember Asseff stated that cleanup of these properties goes along the lines of addressing climate change as well as being green. There are a lot of harmful gases that rise out of these contaminated properties right into the air. This is something that should be incorporated into the climate change program.

Ms. Dekle stated that the Council could look into how it might bring together different communities and their individual projects and then apply for Federal dollars in order to be able to administer those. It is very difficult for each individual community to do the application and all of the leg work. The Council could put together a large package and administer it for the local governments. Council staff will look into this and report back to the Council.

Councilmember Asseff invited all the members of the Council to attend a Clean Cities Coalition meeting. There are very knowledgeable people on the Coalition. She stated that the next meeting will be December 18, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the Council offices.

d) Broward County Cultural Division Artist Micro-Credit Revolving Loan Fund Status Report

Information only

AGENDA ITEM TEN: Contracts

None

AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN: Highlights of Council Activities

Information only

AGENDA ITEM TWELVE: Special Projects

a) **Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program - Update**

Information only

AGENDA ITEM THIRTEEN: Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP)

None

AGENDA ITEM FOURTEEN: Regional Initiatives with Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

None

AGENDA ITEM FIFTEEN: Other Matters for Consideration

a) The South Florida Outlook

Ms. Dekle stated that staff wanted to bring forward what they heard from the Council during the discussion at last month's meeting, and is trying to get a gage on if they are heading in the right direction. Ms. Jeanne Tan and Mr. Richard Ogburn, Council staff, do all of the heavy lifting on the demographic work. Staff chose to call this the "South Florida Outlook", looking forward at critical issues that southeast Florida will be confronting and issues that the Region will be dealing with. Staff knows that you, as policy makers and decision makers, need to have information that is contemporary and useful in a consumable format. The information will be built along a series of points of interest. Staff would like to know if the Council is not seeing something there that it feels should be included or something that should not be included. She stated that she did not include what Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) has proposed in terms of a complimentary set of information that will go up through St. Lucie County so that you can then have sort of an understanding of issues that run through a seven-county area. That is where we get to 2060, which you have heard us talk about many times before. There is a livable community's initiative coming out of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that is looking for multi-county articulation of policy for the future. They are willing to fund it at a level that we have not been able to achieve up to this point in time. This will be a baseline of information that will be useful to each of you, in your ongoing work. Ms. Dekle stated that the quarterly is the optimum standpoint, and that is even a little aggressive. This will be information that is consumable and can be left on someone's table for clients. The Broward Alliance, Beacon Council and others in the economic development community should be able to have this information, as well, to compliment what they are already doing and the Council will work with them on this. Four times per year is really the maximum that would be realistic.

Councilmember Gunzburger stated that is highly aggressive. To gather all of these different benchmarks, which keep changing and are very fluid, will be very difficult. She suggested that an annual update would be more realistic and more doable. Something that is very important as we talk about social equity and cultural and social infrastructure is people and wellness. That is missing from the list. We need to talk about what is being done in terms of wellness and re-educating people to eat healthy, watch their weight, and exercise. In order to take personal responsibility, they have to first have the education.

Chair Walters stated that hurricane evacuation should also be included, possibly under land use and housing.

Councilmember Wallace stated that this was a nice list of areas for examination. There were two things that this Council talked about: one was a convening of government and business leaders for the purpose of discussion of the information that the Council staff develops. The regionalization concept is not included and should be. The other thing that should be included is to look at what needs to be done to advance the communities and what can be done on a regional basis to improve southeast Florida. Second to that is the issue of education, because it affects everything. We need to examine if we are educating our populous in the right way to make us competitive in an information age. For instance, does our population have access to higher education that is required? Once we get the information we schedule this convening of government and private sector leaders for the purpose of discussion. Those are the things, he said, that are important and should be included.

Councilmember Lieberman stated that she agreed with Councilmember Wallace on education. To me, she stated, education is grooming the workforce for the targeted industries that we need to attract to the area. It is not necessarily about four-year schools, it may be about two-year degrees, trade schools, or

post graduate degrees. The first key to this is the targeted industries, what is the workforce that they need and how are we growing that workforce. Secondly, she stated, I don't know how we are going to build a model for the economy without the Regional Business Alliance and the three Economic Development Organizations (EDO), the Beacon Council, Broward Alliance and Palm Beach Economic Development Board. A couple of years ago, companies would be paid incentives to move from Miami-Dade to Broward, but we put a stop to that. Now the three EDOs do joint marketing. Councilmember Lieberman stated that she firmly believes that sometime in her lifetime the airports and the seaports from all three counties will be under one authority. She stated that she does not see how there can be a South Florida model without including Palm Beach County. I understand, she stated, that it is not part of the SFRPC's region because someone drew a line there, but in reality when you look at South Florida, Palm Beach County down to Monroe County is South Florida. Therefore, Palm Beach County needs to be part of the discussions and take part in the decision-making. Under railway it needs to say freight and passenger.

Ms. Dekle listed the points raised by the Council members to ensure that she got them all recorded correctly. She stated that she heard that the real umbrella dialog is about regionalism as a concept and where we should go from here. All of this information provides us a basis for that dialog, but that is really an over-arching thing. The tool, perhaps, for doing that is a convening of government and business leaders who are the people that make things happen going forward. Action items, she stated, making sure that access to higher education, but also looking at targeted industries and grooming our workforce.

Councilmember Lieberman stated that she would not characterize it as access to higher education. There are some targeted industries that require skilled trades, acquired at a trade school as opposed to four years of high school. There are some people who will need an Associates degree, some will need a four-year degree and some that will need a post-graduate degree. The key is to first look at what the necessary workforce is for the targeted industries that we want to attract to the area.

Councilmember Asseff stated that the provosts at Broward Community College, Florida Atlantic University and various universities are all working on this already. She suggested that the Council include them in the process to save time and avoid duplicating efforts.

Councilmember Sorenson stated that she wanted to go back to Councilmember Gunzburger's suggestion on public health and wellness. Public health is the over-arching thing and it is related to land use, how we plan our communities, whether we walk or not and local food and agriculture. In Miami-Dade, agriculture is the third largest industry and it is still very important. Education is important and the comments raised were great, but, she stated, I would like to also include birth to age five as being very important. Based on recent research in brain development, we know that it is so important to get kids early education and stimulation so that their brains are ready to learn when they go to kindergarten. Another important item to address is leadership development, specifically relating to elected officials. We need knowledgeable and skilled elected officials, and we need to make sure that people are in training to be elected officials and that they are getting as much information, knowledge and skills as possible.

Ms. Dekle stated that the Council could host a seminar for that purpose.

Councilmember Perez stated that there is a lot being done in terms of education. The school system is not looking into what kinds of jobs are necessary, but there are all kinds of theories about whether to make students go into trades or give them the four-year degrees, and all of that works into this. One of the problems that we have is the population of students. One of the worst things that can happen to a student is mobility, and the vast majority of students in Miami-Dade County that go to public schools are poor students. The mobility, parent involvement, and a lot of social issues come to bare, not to mention

teacher quality. She stated that she agreed with the point made by Councilmember Asseff. Councilmember Perez stated that she also agreed with the point raised by Councilmember Sorenson about public officials. The problem, however, is that the individuals that show up for the seminars are not the ones who need the training.

Councilmember Scuotto stated that he wanted to touch on the point raised by Councilmember Lieberman about education; there is a gap. The only alternative for some kids, who don't want to go to college, is to go to a trade school. Let's single out what we are going to create over the next 20-30 years, what jobs are going to be the ones, and try to get those programs into those vocational schools. Some of the kids don't want office jobs; they like to work with their hands. The other thing that is important is transportation. It is an important factor to consider when discussing bringing businesses to south Florida. What is the transportation component going to be 20 years from now, he asked. Transportation and education are very important factors for this discussion.

Chair Walters stated that southwest Florida's initiative to cross-train construction workers in installation of solar panels is one of its major clean energy initiatives. It ties back to the point raised by Councilmember Asseff regarding inclusion of the Clean Cities Coalition and other independent initiatives to find out where the overlaps are occurring, and to connect them with education.

Councilmember Asseff stated that one thing she learned from the Regional Planning Council is that if you work regionally with other adjacent cities and be good neighbors, you can get a lot accomplished.

AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN: Correspondence and Attendance Form

Information only

AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN: Councilmember Comments/Public Comments

Mr. Waters extended an invitation to Council members and staff to attend the Broward Community Symphonic Band holiday concert being held at Bailey Hall on Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN: Upcoming Meetings

- a) January 4th, 10:30 a.m. (Council Offices, Hollywood)
- b) February 1st, 10:30 a.m. (Council Offices, Hollywood)
- c) March 1st, 10:30 a.m. (Council Offices, Hollywood)
- d) April 5th, 10:30 a.m. (Council Offices, Hollywood)

AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, and that the information provided herein is the true and correct minutes for the November 2, 2009 meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted the 7th day of December 2009.

Katy Sorenson, Secretary

Date