

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

February 7, 2011

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met this date at the Council Offices, 3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140, Hollywood, Florida. Chair Gunzburger called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. Vice-Chair Carruthers lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM ONE: Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA ITEM TWO: Roll Call

Councilmember Patricia Asseff
Councilmember Michael Blynn
Councilmember Heather Carruthers
Chair Suzanne Gunzburger
Councilmember Stacy Ritter
Councilmember Joseph Scuotto (via phone)
Councilmember Rebeca Sosa
Councilmember Paul Wallace
Councilmember Sandra Walters
Councilmember Jimmy Weekley

The following Ex-Officio members were present:

Mr. Kevin Claridge, representing the Department of Environmental Protection
Mr. Norman Taylor, representing the Broward County Office of Economic Development
Ms. Carol Morris, on behalf of Elbert Waters, representing the South Florida Water Management District

The following Council Members and Ex-Officio Members arrived after roll call:

Councilmember Scott Brook
Ex-Officio Member Gary L. Donn

Chair Gunzburger stated that the Council Meeting would be conducted as an expanded Executive Committee due to lack of a quorum. Once the quorum is established, we will then take the votes of the entire board.

AGENDA ITEM THREE: Minutes of previous Meetings (January)

Councilmember Blynn moved to approve the Minutes from the January meeting. Vice-Chair Carruthers seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Chair Gunzburger moved to **AGENDA ITEM EIGHT**, the Auditors Report, because they needed to leave early.

AGENDA ITEM EIGHT:

f) FY 2009-2010 Audit Report

Chair Gunzburger stated the Audit was very well done and she was pleased to see there were no statements at the end.

Councilmember Brook arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Goren stated that there was now a quorum present and the remainder of the meeting could be conducted as a full Council Meeting. He added that the motion made this morning would need to be ratified by the full Council.

Chair Gunzburger moved to ratify the motion made by the Executive Committee at the beginning of this meeting. Councilmember Blynn moved to approve the Minutes from the January meeting. Vice-Chair Carruthers seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Tanya Davis, C.P.A, Managing Partner of S. Davis & Associates, P.A., Certified Accountants, stated the South Florida Regional Planning Council Audit had a good year. There were no instances of non-compliance, no deficiencies in internal control, and no instances of fraud. She stated the Planning Council stands with total assets of \$10.4 million, and liabilities of \$141,000.00 due to the closeout of the RLF Fund and the Grant. Chair Gunzburger asked if Councilmembers had any questions and stated the Council had a write off for the year: \$576,811.00 in loans and \$489,102.00 in provisions to loan loses were recorded and was glad there were no messages stating the audit was unqualified.

Councilmember Brook asked about variances. Ms. Davis compared 2009 to 2010 total assets and liabilities.

Chair Gunzburger was pleased we met all the conditions and credited Vernon Paul and Cheryl Cook for the excellent report and staff for being organized.

Councilmember Weekley moved to approve the FY 2009-2010 Audit Report. Councilmember Asseff seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Davis stated Vernon Paul should be commended for his role in the Audit process.

AGENDA ITEM FOUR: Project Reviews

a) Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Report

Councilmember Walters moved to approve the Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Report. Vice-Chair Carruthers 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)

None

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) Miami Dade County

Councilmember Walters moved to approve the staff recommendation for Item 6b. Councilmember Blynn 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) Amendments

- Miami-Dade County
- Town of Pembroke Park
- City of Deerfield Beach
- Monroe County
- City of Coral Springs
- City of Key Colony Beach

Councilmember Sosa moved to approve the staff recommendation for item 7a. Councilmember Walters seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

AGENDA ITEM EIGHT: Reports

a) Executive Committee Report

Chair Gunzburger stated she would like a Joint Meeting with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, especially because of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Grant. Councilmembers Carruthers and Asseff were appointed to the Florida Regional Council Association (FRCA) Board. The third appointee will be named after Governor Scott makes his appointments.

b) Financial Report (December)

Councilmember Walters moved to approve the Financial Report for December 2010. Councilmember Asseff seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Councilmember Wallace stated he wanted to discuss the Governor's Appointments. General Counsel, Sam Goren stated it will be part of the Legal Counsel Report.

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c) Interim Executive Director's Report

Interim Executive Director, B. Jack Osterholt, stated he is going through the financial situation and stated in simple terms the current expenses. Occupancy cost for our lease is on board because we pay a month in advance. We are going through all the standard contracts. Ms. Noah and I contacted other cell phone carriers for a better deal. Any expenses we occur will be looked at very carefully and we are chasing some financial opportunities that will close that gap we spoke of last month. Staff is doing a very diligent job of creating new programs and contracts. We have been asked to be part of the National Association of Regional Council again and we should because they have pockets of money we can draw on from the Feds. The cost for the membership will pay for itself. Mr. Osterholt explained there are a lot of comments regarding the Regional Planning Council and how the Governor wants to do away with Regional Planning Councils; the Governor has nothing to do with the Regional Planning Council. The Regional Planning Council is here under a State law that allows this Council to exist because you exist; it's under the Intergovernmental Coordination Act. We are not a creature of the State and he cannot shut us down. The other rumor is that they are going to zero-base our budget; this is not unusual, it happens every year and every year we work hard and we are put back in the budget. Isabel Carballo and I, along with Mr. Book, our lobbyist, will be meeting with Members at the end of this week and we will make sure our State funding is the best we can get. We will watch carefully on the items, report back to you and keep you apprised.

Councilmember Asseff asked if all the cities are aware of all the services available to them through the SFRPC. She asked if something should be sent out from the Council. Interim Executive Director Osterholt stated we have a three or four page description of the Council's activities that is being updated. He and Isabel want the Members they meet to see the groups that have signed on. We have 60 or 70 groups, who because of the HUD Grant, want to be part of the Regional Planning Council's activities; some are Universities and governments. We work with the Regional Business Alliance, 45 members, they meet here, we do their agendas, and we organize their activities. Our customers are much different than just the cities and counties and their staff. We have a good assortment of people that depend on us for activities and we do provide services to many of them, through charge, to our members and local governments. We will be talking about whom our customers are and the services we provide, so Members in Tallahassee and everyone else knows what would happen if there wasn't a Regional Planning Council; there would be a big hole.

Councilmember Asseff asked to talk about Clean Cities also. Monroe County and several cities have not joined the Coalition. Mr. Osterholt stated that Christine Heshmati and he had talked and are in the process of upping our level of activity, and bringing more money into the Council. We are going to do what it takes to make this place significant.

1) Current Conditions Report - Detailed Analysis of Expenses

Information only

d) Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Goren stated that those Councilmembers who thought they were off the panel last week are not really off the panel at all. Councilmembers Brook, Asseff and Wallace are qualified until their successor is appointed. Some of the other appointees on the Governor's list do not need Senate approval, so the Governor has additional prerogative on them. For the record, let it reflect that clearly the Commissioners are here legally. Mr. Goren thanked those Councilmembers for making today's meeting a quorum.

Mr. Goren noted the Executive Committee authorized Direct Deposit of B. Jack Osterholt compensation. It does not require Board approval; it is an Executive Committee decision of an operational nature.

No litigations to report.

Councilmember Brook asked how often are we providing new loans.

Mr. Osterholt responded we could service more needy people that qualify, but for federal requirements and lack of flexibility by Economic Development Administration (EDA) in the way they do business. We loaned out all the money; got rid of all the bad debts that was inherited; none of those decisions were ones we made and now we are all back and straight and would like EDA to give us more money.

Mr. Goren commented, the problem with the loan funding was it was so successful in the repayment that we got less money for the objective and was paid less because of that fact.

Mr. Taylor responded that there were two issues talked about at the last Loan Administration Board Meeting:

1) One arm of the government (HUD) would allow local governments to set up similar kinds of loan programs and after a period of time you would have a requirement to report your activity but you would not be under the guidelines of the agency. It would give the SFRPC more flexibility than we have once loans have been paid off.

2) We'd like to have the ability for clients, who have preformed well on their loans, to be able to sell those loans off to banks. It would allow us to have more cash to loan. Both of these are legislative issues and something to look at in the future.

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

Information only

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

Information only

Chair Gunzburger asks Councilmember Walters to give a FRCA report.

Councilmember Walters informed the Board about her trip to Tallahassee. She attended the FRCA Policy Committee Meeting and visited Ron Book's office the prior day to see how she could be productive in Tallahassee for the SFRPC. She met with south Florida's Contingents and one Representative from southwest Florida. Councilmember Walters met with Representatives Frank Artiles, from Miami-Dade County; Trudi Williams, Chair of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; Jose Pepe Diaz, Land Use Attorney, on the Governmental Operations and Environment Committee, who will be watching our issues closely; Ron Saunders, Minority Leader; and Erik Fresen, a Land Use Consultant. Councilmember Walters has offered to go to Tallahassee again during Session. At the FRCA Policy Committee Meeting, Amy Baker, Executive Director of the Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research stated unemployment is still high but improving and overall the economy is slightly recovering. Kathleen Neill, FDOT, Director of Policy Planning, talked about the *2060 Florida Transportation Plan*. Ron Book stated that dedicated reform is in the top five items on the legislative list; public pension system reform; and reform of privatization businesses while growth management may not even be in the top ten. There will not be a significant focus to the Senate Bill 360 in the next few years. Governor Scott is negative on light speed rail, Tri-Rail, and SunRail. Fred Abousleman, Executive Director of the National Association of Regional Councils, talked about federal level of surface transportation being a priority and reauthorizing Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and their funding opportunities.

Chair Gunzburger thanked Councilmember Walters for representing the Board.

AGENDA ITEM TEN: Contracts

None

AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN: Highlights of Council Activities

Information only

AGENDA ITEM TWELVE: Special Projects

None

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

Councilmember Wallace requested a Council meeting to be held in Monroe County. Chair Gunzburger suggested the Upper Keys because it's drivable for everyone. The Governmental Center in Key Largo was suggested.

Mr. Osterholt stated that the SFRPC will put something together.

AGENDA ITEM SIXTEEN: Correspondence and Attendance Form

Information only

AGENDA ITEM SEVENTEEN: Councilmember Comments/Public Comments

None

AGENDA ITEM EIGHTEEN: Upcoming Meetings

- a) March 7th, 10:30 a.m. (Council Offices, Hollywood)
- b) April 4th, 10:30 a.m. (Council Offices, Hollywood)
- c) May 2nd, 10:30 a.m. (Council Offices, Hollywood)
- d) June 6th, 10:30 a.m. (Council Offices, Hollywood)

AGENDA ITEM NINETEEN: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.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 February 7, 2011 meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted the 7th day of March 2011.

Rebeca Sosa, Secretary

Date