



MEMORANDUM

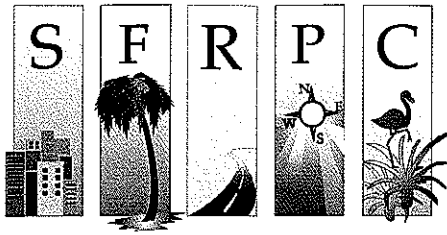
AGENDA ITEM #11

DATE: APRIL 7, 2008
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Attached are brief descriptions of activities in which the Council has been involved since March 3, 2008 Council meeting.

Recommendation

Information only.



Highlights of Council Activities

April 2008

Eastward Ho! Brownfields Partnership

Staff is planning a one-day workshop on brownfields redevelopment with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) on April 23, 2008. The workshop is targeting small local governments and non-profit agencies. The workshop will be held at the Seminole Inn, located in Indiantown, Florida. Federal and State agencies will discuss resources available and brownfields developers will provide information on lessons learned. A preliminary agenda for the workshop and registration information is available on the Brownfields Section of the Council's website, at <http://www.sfrpc.com/brwnflds.htm>.

Staff gave a presentation at the "Building Strong Neighborhoods Workshop" on March 19, 2008 in Tampa, Florida at the request of the Brownfields Redevelopment In Undercapitalized Communities Network. The presentation focused on public and private resources available for brownfields cleanup and redevelopment activities. For additional information on brownfields, please see the Council's website or contact Terry Manning (terryman@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

A New DRI Project in Fort Lauderdale

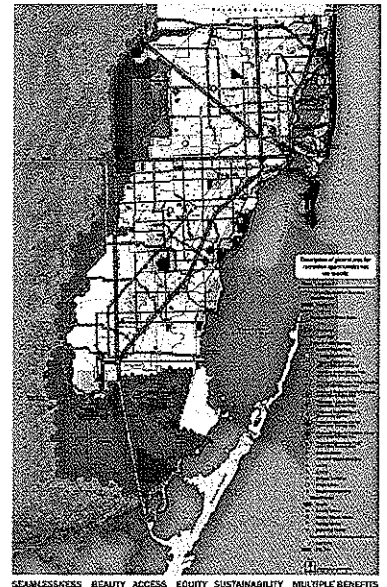
On February 29, 2008 Council staff held a pre-application conference for Riverbend Development of Regional Impact (DRI). The project site is located west of I-95 along both sides of Broward Boulevard, in the City of Fort Lauderdale just west of the downtown area. Staffs from local and state review agencies were able to see the site firsthand, as the meeting was held in an office facility on site. The developer, Broward Barron, Inc., plans to build a mixed use project, incorporating a multi-modal transportation facility that will link Tri-Rail, express buses, City shuttles and the future East-West Connector rail line. The project is expected to create more than three million square feet of Class A office space, a million square feet of retail uses, a new hotel and 1,250 residential units.

For further information about Riverbend DRI, or other DRI projects in the region, please contact Jo Sesodia, AICP at jsesodia@sfrpc.com and visit our web site at www.sfrpc.com/dri.htm

Miami-Dade Great Park Summit

Council staff attended the 2008 Miami-Dade Great Parks Summit on March 14th, marking the completion of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan for the county. The plan was presented as a policy framework for the next 50 years with the goal of creating an integrated system of parks, public spaces, natural and cultural areas, streets, greenways, blueways and trails. By developing this long range plan, the Park and Recreation Department hopes to work toward the vision of a more livable, sustainable Miami-Dade County. Some aspects of the plan include providing access to neighborhood parks for every resident within a five minute walk and a greenway system that would connect Biscayne National Park to Everglades National Park, the first of its kind in the nation. Discussions throughout the day focused on the need to integrate all public spaces and move beyond vehicular performance-based design toward a more community based pedestrian environment. For more information about the summit and the master plan, visit <http://www.miamidade.gov/greatparksummit/> or contact Brian Traylor, of Council staff at btraylor@sfrpc.com

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN



Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC)

The Water Resources Advisory Commission is an advisory body to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board and to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. Made up of a broad range of business, agricultural, environmental, tribal, governmental and public interests, the Commission is a forum for improving public participation and decision-making on water resource issues in south and central Florida. Council staff has been appointed to serve on the WRAC.

The March 6, 2008 WRAC meeting was held in West Palm Beach at the SFWMD headquarters. The WRAC session began with an update on legislative and funding issues that affect the District. District staff updated the WRAC on continued developments of the Comprehensive Water Conservation Program and Statewide Stormwater Rule. Staff summarized discussions that took place at various WRAC issues workshops, including the Recreation Issues and Chandler Slough, and Lake Okeechobee Service Area Water Availability Rule Development. Action was taken by the WRAC to recommend that the SFWMD Governing Board authorize the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) to add the 3,700 acre Chandler Slough to the Kissimmee Public Use Area.

The next WRAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 2008 at the Town of Jupiter's Community Center Auditorium at 210 Military Trail, Jupiter, Florida. For additional information, please visit www.sfwmd.gov or contact Rachel Kalin, rkalin@sfrpc.com, of Council staff.

South Florida Regional Planning Council Revolving Loan Fund Marketing Update

The South Florida Regional Planning Council Revolving Loan Programs (SFRPC-RLF, SFRPC-RLF II and RESCUE-RLF) are designed to meet the needs of businesses in our region that are not entirely served by conventional lenders. Funds are available to all small and medium size businesses within Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties as well as designated communities within Miami-Dade County. The Revolving Loan Program also provides technical assistance to new and existing borrowers that will assist them with the growth of their business.

South Florida Regional Planning Council RLF staff has been named Minority Small Business Champion of the year South Florida Region by the U.S. Small Business Administration as part of the National Small Business Week. The Champion Awards recognizes both individuals and organizations for their achievements on behalf of small business.

The next Loan Administration Board meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2008.

For more information regarding the RLF visit our website at www.sfrpc.com/rlf.htm or, please contact Cheryl Cook or Joyce Hall at (954) 985-4416 or email at rlf@sfrpc.com.

Miami-Dade Watershed Plan Recommendations are Being Implemented

Council staff recently attended a meeting of the Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordinating Team at which a presentation was made by Charles LaPradd, Miami-Dade County Agricultural Manager. The presentation explained the status of implementation of the County's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program. This \$30 million program is being implemented for the purpose of protecting agricultural lands outside of the County's Urban Development Boundary by an outright purchase of their development rights. Owners of property in southern Miami-Dade County that is primarily designated as Agriculture in the Comprehensive Development Master Plan can currently develop to a residential density of one unit per five acres. The PDR program allows for these owners to negotiate a sale of the rights for development to the County and continue to own and utilize the property for agriculture or other eligible open space uses. The PDR program does not recognize rock mining as an eligible open space use.

This program is consistent with a number of Implementing Strategies of the *South Miami-Dade Watershed Plan* (www.southmiamidawatershed.com). It is a "willing seller/participant" program that ensures the protection of private property rights while providing protections for open space and natural communities and the important agricultural economy of the County. The PDR program is a commendable approach to good planning in the Watershed. For more information contact Robert Daniels (bobd@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative Gains New Members

The Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – District 6, have joined the State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative. They now join the Cities of Miami Gardens and North Miami in the regional effort to expand the revitalization effort for the State Road 7 corridor into Miami-Dade County. The March 13, 2008 meeting of the Steering Committee was held at the newly opened Central Broward Regional Park in Lauderhill. At the meeting, members received an overview of the park's facilities and how the park is being incorporated into surrounding redevelopment efforts, a critical link in the State Road 7 Master Plan for the Lauderhill segment. The Steering Committee also approved a workplan for year 2008/2009 which includes efforts to support the development of a Master Plan for the Miami-Dade County segments.

For more information about the State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative please contact David Dahlstrom of Council staff at davidd@sfrpc.com or visit www.sfrpc.com/sr7.htm.

Regional Domestic Security Task Force Activities

The Southeast Regional Domestic Security Task Force (SERDSTF) is one of Florida's seven Regions funded by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to help prevent or respond to terrorism events in the State. The SERDSTF, which is Region 7, includes Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties.

As part of the Council's Regional Domestic Security Program, staff is coordinating two training courses on the **Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)**. The HSEEP program incorporates planning, guidance and best practices for DHS-funded training exercises. The courses were developed by DHS using input from federal partners, subject matter experts and state/local representatives. Individuals involved in exercise programs and/or exercise design, development, conduct, control, evaluation and improvement planning are encouraged to attend.

The first class will be held on March 26-27, 2008 at the Council offices. The second class will take place on June 26-27, 2008 at the FDLE offices in Miami. The participants represent a cross-section of disciplines in the Region, including domestic security, law enforcement, fire rescue, emergency management, health, education, utilities and the private sector.

For additional information, contact Manny Cela (celam@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.

Local Emergency Planning Committee Activities

The State of Florida is divided into 11 Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Districts whose broad duties include preparing regional hazardous materials emergency plans, performing outreach functions to increase awareness and understanding of hazardous substances and providing low-cost training to public sector hazardous material response employees. Since 1988, the Council has served as staff to the District XI LEPC, which encompasses Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties. For more information on the LEPC and its activities in the Region, please visit its website at www.sfrpc.com/lepc.htm.

As part of the Council's Emergency Management Hazardous Materials Program, the LEPC will present two training events this year designed to exercise the LEPC's Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan. The Exercise Subcommittee is designing the exercises and working out the necessary details and logistics. Plans call for a Table Top Exercise (TTX), in which participants will execute a virtual scenario on paper, to be followed by a hands-on Field Drill.

For additional information, contact the LEPC Coordinator Manny Cela (celam@sfrpc.com).

North University Drive Mobility Study

Staff participated in the University Drive Connection meeting. As part of that meeting, the preliminary findings of the transportation networks needs assessment were presented by and discussed by the technical working group. The core working group analyzed 17 alternatives for regional mobility in the West Broward/ South Palm Beach County Area and will present their finding to the Southeast Florida Transportation Council (SEFTC) in April, 2008. Contact Larry Allen, lallen@sfrpc.com, of Council staff for additional information.

Energy Independence Days

Staff attended an Energy Awareness outreach effort hosted by the National Clean Cities Coalition in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the outreach effort was to inform the Legislators of the need for infrastructure to support alternative fuels and funding of alternative education in Southeast Florida. Staff met with a total of 9 staff members from United States Representatives Offices. As a result, two of the U.S. Representatives signed onto a letter to increase the funding levels that support the Clean Cities Programs. http://www1.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/toolbox/annual_reporting.html Contact Larry Allen, lallen@sfrpc.com, of Council staff for additional information.

Transit Summit

Staff participated in the Transit Summit which was held at the Broward County Commission Chambers. As part of the meeting, alternatives for stop-gap funding measures for the continuance of Tri-Rail services were discussed. Contact Larry Allen, lallen@sfrpc.com, of Council staff for additional information.
