

EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 18, 2011

CHAIR COMMISSIONER CHERYL L. GRIEB PRESIDING

In Attendance:

County Representatives:

Commissioner Chuck Nelson, Brevard County
Commissioner Welton Cadwell, Lake County
Commissioner Sean Parks, Lake County
Ms. Diana Dethlefs for Commissioner Scott Boyd, Orange County
Commissioner Fred Brummer, Orange County
Commissioner John Horan, Seminole County
Councilman Andy Kelly, Volusia County

Municipal Representatives:

Commissioner Patty Sheehan, City of Orlando
Mayor John Land, Apopka, Tri-County Leagues of Cities (Orange)
Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, Kissimmee, Tri-County League of Cities (Osceola)
Mayor David Mealor, Tri-County League of Cities (Seminole)

Gubernatorial Appointees:

Mayor Melissa DeMarco, Lake County
Ms. Christina Dixon, Orange County
Ms. Melanie Chase, Seminole County
Mr. John Lesman, Seminole County
Mr. William McDermott, Seminole County Economic Development

Ex-Officio Members:

Ms. Nancy Christman, St. Johns River Water Management District
Ms. Vivian Garfein, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Ms. Cecelia Weaver, South Florida Water Management District
Ms. Susan Sadighi, Florida Department of Transportation
Ms. Mary Moskowitz for Mr. Russell Gibson, City of Sanford

Other Attendees:

Mr. Chris Testerman, Orange County Administration
Mr. David Bottomley, MetroPlan BPAC Chair
Ms. Courtney Miller, reThink
Mr. Ben Shepherd, FFWCC
Mr. Chris Desilets, FEI

Members not in Attendance:

Commissioner Andy Anderson, Brevard County
Commissioner Brandon Arrington, Osceola County
Commissioner Frank Attkisson, Osceola County

Commissioner Brenda Carey, Seminole County
Commissioner Patricia Northey, Volusia County
Mayor Rocky Randels, Space Coast League of Cities
Commissioner Leigh Matusick, Volusia County League of Cities
Mr. Al Glover, Brevard County
Mr. Lonnie Groot, Volusia County

ECFRPC Staff in attendance:

Executive Director Philip Laurien
Attorney Jerry Livingston
Mr. George Kinney
Ms. Lelia Hars
Mr. Andrew Landis
Ms. Claudia Paskauskas
Mr. Chris Chagdes
Ms. Gina Marchica
Ms. April Raulerson
Ms. Kate Hillman
Mr. Tim Kitchen
Ms. Tara McCue
Ms. Elizabeth Rothbeind
Mr. Josh Hoffman
Ms. Tuesdai Bowden
Ms. Carole Clark

I. Call to Order and General Business

Commissioner Cheryl Grieb called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Carole Clark called the roll and announced a quorum was present.

II. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Grieb asked for a motion to approve the March 2011 Meeting Minutes, the March and April 2011 Financial Reports and an FDOT Resolution. The motion to approve was made by Commissioner Welton Cadwell and seconded by Commissioner Patty Sheehan. All were in favor and the motion passed.

III. Chair's Announcements

Commissioner Grieb informed the Council of Mr. Dan O'Keefe's appointment by the Governor to the South Florida Water Management District. Subsequently, Mr. O'Keefe tendered his resignation to the Council leaving an opening on the Executive Committee.

Commissioner Grieb asked for nominations to fill the open position, and Commissioner Sean Parks of Lake County was nominated. Commissioner Cadwell made a motion that was seconded by Mayor Melissa Demarco for Commissioner Parks to be added to the Executive Committee. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The next topic of discussion was the Council's representation on the FRCA Policy Board. The next meeting will be Friday, June 24, 2011 and Chair Grieb asked for volunteers to represent the Council. Commissioner Sean Parks and Councilman Andy Kelly showed interest in representing the Council at FRCA meetings so a motion was made by Commissioner Cadwell and seconded by Mayor DeMarco to add both to the FRCA Policy Board. All were in favor and the motion carried.

IV. CEDS Update

Ms. Elizabeth Rothbeind provided the Council with an update including an overview of the topics discussed during the last meeting and a summary of the next steps for the Strategy Committee.

Ms. Rothbeind reported that the Strategy Committee had identified regional results from the SWOT survey they had taken previously. She indicated that Committee goals included improving the global connectivity of the region's transportation systems; decreasing the impact of the loss of shuttle employees; continuing to capitalize on the tourism industry; and diversifying economically by concentrating on attracting, retaining, and growing economic clusters.

Ms. Rothbeind also described next steps for the Committee. These include approving the mission statement and goals of the Committee, brainstorming projects for the region that fit within the mission statement and goals, and creating four or five vital projects to concentrate on within the region.

The next meeting of the CEDS Committee will be Monday, June 6, 2011.

V. 2011 Census

Ms. Gina Marchica informed the Council that census information is being released. The most recent release included population, race, and housing vacancy information. Ms. Marchica presented a Power Point presentation which included a breakdown of this information for counties within our region.

Council members expressed interest in being able to access this information and were informed that the maps may be accessed through the CFGIS website. The RPC GIS department also agreed to forward information to the Council as it becomes available.

VI. "rethink Your Commute Challenge"

Ms. Courtney Miller of "rethink Your Commute to Work" gave a brief presentation issuing a challenge to Council members to carpool as often as possible during the month of June. She asked that every time you carpool, let them know so they can track the results.

Commissioner Grieb took a moment to go over a handout concerning air quality in Florida. Most of the counties in our region scored C or below. Chair Grieb encouraged Council members to consider ways to improve air quality when planning for future growth.

VII. Planning Manager Update

Mr. George Kinney presented the March and April Planning Manager's Reports and gave a brief overview of the information they contain.

Mr. Kinney informed the Council that the East Central Florida 2060 Plan was transmitted to the Governor's office on April 6, 2011. After the March Council meeting, RPC staff made the changes requested by the Council and submitted the Plan. Mr. Kinney went on to state that the comments being

submitted to the Governor's office have been mostly positive and that three letters of support had been submitted.

The Governor's office has 60 days in which to respond. A Findings and Recommendations Report is expected by mid-June.

Mr. Kinney introduced two articles to the Council concerning the housing market in Florida.

VIII. Director's Report

Mr. Andrew Landis presented a summary of Growth Management and Government Reorganization legislation. Some of the key points are as follows:

HB 7207 reforms growth Management regulation by implementing the "Community Planning Act." Important changes include a streamlined comprehensive plan review process, reduced state oversight of local planning decisions, decreased DRI thresholds, additional DRI exemptions and extensions, and new large scale planning opportunities including sector plans and Rural Lands Stewardship Areas (RLSAs).

SB 2156 eliminates DCA and moves the Division of Community Planning to the newly created Department of Economic Opportunity.

Director Laurien commented that the result of the legislative session left Regional Planning Councils intact for at least another year. He mentioned the staff white paper that was submitted to the legislature earlier in the year had significant influence over legislation that was created during this session.

Director Laurien summarized that the role of the Planning Council would essentially remain the same. The RPC will continue to assist local jurisdictions in moving toward sustainability over the next 50 years.

Next, Director Laurien presented a copy of the FY2011 draft budget and talked about different aspects of the work program for next year. He discussed obligations, contractual agreements and special projects. He noted that any special projects that are taken on must fit into the five areas of responsibility outlined in the regional policy plan.

On the subject of county dues, Mr. Laurien commented that he would like to keep the total of dues paid the same but adjust it by county depending on population increase or decrease. He mentioned that the dues have been decreased over the last four years, and the total of those decreases correlates with the amount of reserves that have been needed to balance the budget.

Director Laurien presented an article to the Council that talked about an agreement between the United States and Germany "to promote more sustainable and livable communities in both nations." He mentioned that he had met with a member of the German Parliament who was visiting US cities to gain insight on planning for sustainable growth. She commented that Germany's laws are less restrictive when it comes to planning for the future. Director Laurien

commented that the East Central Florida 2060 Plan could be used to get Central Florida back on track toward a sustainable future.

Director Laurien then asked Ms. Rothbeind to give the Council an update on the SunRail use survey that had been forwarded to the Council. The survey is a two question assessment of interest in ridership. The survey results of those council members who had taken the survey showed that 75% would be interested in riding the transit system to work and 80% would be interested in riding it to a social event

Ms. Rothbeind agreed to send another copy of the survey to all council members via e-mail so those who had not had a chance to participate might do so. She also encouraged council members to create a survey in which their staff and other individuals could participate.

Commissioner Grieb segued into a report of the trip she and Director Laurien took to Salt Lake City to experience the commuter rail system. She and Director Laurien both commented on the economic development that was occurring at each of the stops. There was no trace of a down-turned economy as new construction was occurring along the rail lines.

The mayor of Salt Lake City who campaigned for the commuter rail said one of the obstacles that had to be overcome was the perception that only "poor" people would ride the train. With Internet access available in the cars, business men and women are finding their commutes to be productive.

Both Chair Grieb and Director Laurien were encouraged and excited about what SunRail could bring to the Orlando/Central Florida area. They encourage council members to talk with legislators and business contacts about the value of commuter transit and to make a strong push to influence the Governor in these last few weeks before he makes his decision on the future of SunRail.

IX. Announcements/Comments

There were no other comments from Council members or members of the public.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. with the next being scheduled for Wednesday, July 20, 2011.