

# East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

## Council Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2007

Chairman Jon Rawlson Presiding

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### IN ATTENDANCE:

#### **County Representatives**

Commissioner Mary Bolin, Brevard County  
Commissioner Chuck Nelson, Brevard County  
Commissioner Teresa Jacobs, Orange County  
Property Appraiser Atlee Mercer, Osceola County  
Commissioner Brenda Carey, Seminole County  
Councilwoman Joie Alexander, Volusia County  
Councilman Art Giles, Volusia County

#### **Municipal Representatives**

Mayor Rocky Randels, Space Coast League of Cities  
Mayor John Land, Tri-County League of Cities  
Commissioner Cheryl Grieb, City of Kissimmee  
Donald Gilmore attending for Mayor John Bush, Seminole County League of Cities  
Vice Mayor Mary Martin, Volusia County League of Cities

#### **Gubernatorial Appointees**

Mr. Malcolm McLouth, Brevard County  
Mr. Al Glover, Brevard County  
Mr. Jon Rawlson, Orange County  
Mr. Daniel O'Keefe, Orange County  
Ms. Aileen Cubillos, Seminole County  
Ms. Maryam Ghyabi, Volusia County

#### **Ex-Officio and Other Municipal Representatives**

Ms. Nancy Christman, SJRWMD  
Ms. Vivian Garfein, FDEP  
Ms. Susan Sadighi, FDOT  
Mr. Russell Gibson, City of Sanford

#### **Other Attendees**

Gerald Livingston, ECFRPC Counsel  
Ivette Sanibel, OUC  
David Dingley, Brevard County  
Liz Alward, Brevard County  
Chris Testerman, Orange County

#### **Members not in Attendance**

Commissioner Welton Cadwell, Lake County  
Commissioner Elaine Renick, Lake County  
Commissioner Fred Brummer, Orange County  
Commissioner Bill Lane, Osceola County  
Commissioner Robert Dallari, Seminole County  
Commissioner Patty Sheehan, City of Orlando  
Commissioner Evelyn Smith, Lake County  
Ms. Maria Grulich, Osceola County  
Mr. Thomas Genovese, SFWMD  
Mr. Frank Hickson, FDOT  
Ms. Lennon Moore, OOCEA

#### **ECFRPC Staff**

Mr. Phil Laurien  
Ms. Lelia Hars  
Mr. Fred Milch  
Ms. Laura Murray  
Ms. Ruth Little  
Ms. Kimberly Loewen  
Ms. Tara McCue  
Mr. Sam Bitar

**I. Call to Order and General Business**

Chairman Jon Rawlson called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Ruth Little called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.

**II. Prior Minutes**

Minutes of the August 2007 council meeting were presented for approval by Vice Mayor Martin. Mr. Mercer made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mayor Land. THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 2007 MINUTES PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**III. Financial Reports**

Mr. McLouth presented the August 2007 financial report, noting that the fiscal year ends on September 30 and expenditures are about 10% below budget for the year. Vice Mayor Martin moved for approval of the financial report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mercer and the MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 2007 FINANCIAL REPORT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**IV. Budget – Fiscal Year 2007-2008**

Mayor Land made a motion that approval of the 2007-2008 Budget be taken from the table. (During the August Council Meeting, a proposed budget with a 6.3% reduction in the dues multiplier was presented. Motion to approve was made and seconded, but then tabled by vote of council members.) Mr. McLouth seconded, and the MOTION TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

With the motion to approve the Budget again pending, Chairman Rawlson opened the floor to discussion. Commissioner Jacobs said that as a member of the Council she believes the 6.3% reduction is reasonable, however, the Orange County Commissioners voted for a 10% reduction in the dues paid to the ECFRPC and she will be voting against the motion in her role as representative of Orange County. The question was raised about what effect it will have on the budget if Orange County does not pay their full dues. Mr. Rawlson said that the counties will be billed based on the vote of the council today.

A motion to call a vote on approval of the recommended budget was made by Mr. Mercer and seconded by Mayor Land. THE MOTION TO CALL WAS UNANIMOUSLY PASSED. Chairman Rawlson called for a vote on the motion to adopt the recommended budget for the fiscal year 2007-2008 with a 6.3% reduction in the dues multiplier. THE MOTION FOR BUDGET APPROVAL PASSED with Commissioner Jacobs voting nay.

**V. Chairman's Report – *Chairman Jon Rawlson***

Chairman Rawlson called on Mayor Land for the recommendation of the nominating committee for the 2007-2008 ECFRPC officers. Mayor Land reported that the Nominating Committee, made up of himself, Mr. O'Keefe and Commissioner Cadwell, formulated the following slate of officers for consideration: Commissioner Teresa Jacobs, Chair; Mr. Malcolm McLouth, Vice Chair; Vice Mayor Mary Martin, Treasurer; Mr. Atlee Mercer, Secretary. Mr. Jon Rawlson will remain on the Committee as past chair. Mr. Rawlson

called a vote by acclamation of the Council to accept the slate of candidates placed in nomination and the NOMINEES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL.

Chairman Rawlson thanked the Council for the experience of serving as Chairman of the ECFRPC. Commission Jacobs presented Mr. Rawlson with a plaque in recognition of Mr. Rawlson's service, noting his perseverance through the loss of one Executive Director and the search for the new one, his dedication to the RPC and untold hours of his personal time spent for the benefit of the region. The council responded with a standing ovation.

Next, the 2007 - 2008 council meeting dates were reviewed. Because the November meeting date falls the day before Thanksgiving, Mr. McLouth suggested holding a combined November-December council meeting. After discussion it was agreed that Council members will be polled by email to decide if the November-December combined meeting should be held on November 28 or December 5.

Mr. Laurien discussed the task for revising the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP). Andrew Landis and Laura Murray will be the staff coordinators heading up a SRPP Task Force. Vice Mary Martin, Commissioner Grieb, Mr. McLouth, Commissioner Bolin and Mr. Glover volunteered to serve on the SRPP Task Force. Members of the Smart Growth Alliance will also be invited to participate. Mr. McLouth stressed the importance of the SRPP document in supporting the findings of the How Shall We Grow project. Commissioner Carey suggested including myregion.org for the sake of consistency.

**VI. Executive Director's Report – Executive Director Phil Laurien**

Mr. Laurien reported on the next steps of the How Shall We Grow project. Identifying the greenprint of critical environmental areas is key to implementing the findings of the project, along with a discussion of urban form and design. The decision makers at the Florida Forever program are interested in a greenprint with a grassroots consensus and scientific backing.

Mr. Laurien updated the Seminole County implementation project. The RPC has submitted a draft scope of work and a draft contract is being drawn up which will incorporate local decision-making. The best use of RPC time and skills is to help with the creation of local vision and then release to the project to county staff or private sector consultants.

The status of the UASI grant was addressed next. A scope of work and contract are in negotiation phase with the Orange County Sheriff's office. Requests for proposal will go out in October.

Mr. Laurien serves on the St. Johns River Alliance Committee and had previously asked council members to submit their suggestions for nominations for the upcoming Workplan. Six suggestions were submitted and reviewed by staff, and the Volusia County Water Assessment project submitted by Commissioner Alexander was chosen for nomination.

## **VII. Regular Business**

Mr. Bob Mendick presented information on the Osceola County Shingle Creek Regional Park master plan. Situated in a vibrant community, the park provides a corridor through the middle for exercise, water quality, and recreation. The Shingle Creek is also being looked at as a possible future drinking water source. Mr. Mendick reviewed the important historical and ecological aspects of the Shingle Creek and surrounding area. At 3500 acres, it is comparable to many State parks.

Kimberly Loewen gave a short update on affordable housing issues as they relate to DRIs. She reviewed the history of the current affordable housing methodology and the fact that many RPCs across the state have abandoned the current methodology. DCA recognized that the methodology was flawed in 2006, but there are no conclusions and no new methodology offered to date. Because income levels in Florida have not kept pace with increased property prices, affordable housing issues are more important than ever. A discussion followed about zoning and its role in sprawl and zoning out affordable housing. Mr. McLouth voiced again that the SRPP will provide an important role in the solution.

Mr. Bitar and Mr. Laurien updated the Council on the CEDS project. After working on this project for most of a year, it is ready for adoption by the Council and submission to the Economic Development Administration. Mr. Bitar reviewed the key elements of the document which has been formulated in cooperation with *myregion.org*. He also reviewed projects under three different missioner which will be submitted for consideration for federal EDA funds. Commissioner Nelson would like to see more support of space programs included in the document. Mr. Laurien asked for input from all Council members. The document will be posted on the ECFRPC website for review an final input before the submission deadline next week.

Mr. McLouth made a motion for adoption for the CEDS program document, including the final changes that will be made in the last week before submission. The motion was seconded by Mayor Land and the MOTION FOR ADOPTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

Mr. Milch presented a brief update of upcoming DRI activities.

## **VIII. Announcements / Comments**

Chairman Rawlson provided an opportunity for Council members and members of the public to bring up events, issues or other items of interest. Tara McCue announced that the Governor has approved the release of Florida Forever funds for the East Central Florida Rail Trail. It is expected to close in 120 days. Mr. Rawlson recognized Sue Carlson and her service to the RPC as a Gubernatorial appointee.

## **IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Council, Chairman Rawlson adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.