

EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Council Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2005

Chairman Rawlson
Presiding

IN ATTENDANCE:

County Representatives

Commissioner Robert Pool, Lake County
Commissioner Teresa Jacobs, Orange County
Clerk of the Courts Larry Whaley, Osceola County
Commissioner Randy Morris, Seminole County
Councilwoman Joie Alexander, Volusia County
Councilman Arthur Giles, Volusia County

Municipal Representatives

Commissioner Patty Sheehan, City of Orlando
Commissioner Michael Blake, Tri-County League of Cities, Winter Springs
Commissioner Evelyn Smith, City of Eustis

Gubernatorial Appointees

Mr. Malcolm McLouth, Brevard County
Ms. Janice Kershaw, Brevard County
Mr. Jon Rawlson, Orange County
Mr. Daniel O'Keefe, Orange County
Ms. Maria Grulich, Osceola County
Ms. Nancy Acevedo, Seminole County

Ex-Officio and Other Municipal Representatives

Ms. Nancy Christman, SJRWMD
Ms. Lennon Moore, FDOT

Staff

Mr. Jeff Jones
Ms. Susan Caswell
Mr. Fred Milch
Mr. Mark Sievers
Ms. Claudia Paskauskas
Ms. Tara McCue
Ms. Andrea Fant
Mr. Gerald Livingston, ECFRPC Counsel

Other Attendees

Mr. Randy Lyon, myregion.org
Mr. Jeff Prather for Ms. Vivian Garfein, FDEP
Mr. Chris Testerman, Orange County Planning
Ms. Deanna Brown, myregion.org
Ms. A. Grant, myregion.org
Ms. Laura Klee, Orange County resident
Mr. Ronald Brooke, Orlando resident
Ms. Susan Eberle, Oviedo resident

Members not in Attendance

Commissioner Ron Pritchard, Brevard County
Commissioner Helen Voltz, Brevard County
Commissioner Homer Hartage, Orange County
Commissioner Welton Cadwell, Lake County
Commissioner Bill Lane, Osceola County
Commissioner Bob Dallari, Seminole County
Mayor John Land, Tri-County League of Cities, Apopka
Vice Mayor Wendell McKinnon, Tri-County League of Cities, Kissimmee
Vice Mayor Mary Martin, Volusia County League of Cities, Port Orange
Councilman William Harvey, City of Deltona
Ms. Maryam Ghyabi, Volusia County
Mr. Thomas Genovese, SFWMD
Ms. Vivian Garfein, FDEP

I. CALL TO ORDER AND GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr. Rawlson called the meeting to order at 10:16 am. Ms. Fant called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rawlson offered the May 2005 minutes for consideration.

MOTION: Mr. McLouth moved to approve the May 2005 minutes. Councilwoman Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Attachment 1

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Rawlson offered for consideration the May 2005 financial reports.

MOTION: Commissioner Jacobs moved for approval of the May 2005 financial reports. Commissioner Blake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE CONTRACT WITH FDOT/DISTRICT 5 – SR 40 SCENIC HIGHWAY DESIGNATION STUDY – *Mr. Jeff Jones, Acting Executive Director*

Mr. Jones requested authorization to execute a contract with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to conduct a SR 40 scenic highway designation study. FDOT approached the Regional Planning Council (RPC) to do the study because the RPC had completed a similar study for the Green Mountain Scenic Byway. The study would be a year long effort and would require hiring consultants. Approximately \$40,000 of the \$50,000 contract amount would be spent on consultants. Ms. Moore, FDOT, stated having the road designated as a scenic highway was a collaborative process between FDOT and the ECFRPC. She stated that FDOT could not initiate the process alone.

MOTION: Mr. Jones presented a motion to approve executing the contract. Commissioner Blake moved to approve the execution. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. MYREGION.ORG UPDATE – *Mr. Randy Lyon, Chair*

Mr. Lyon stated that in August 2004, myregion entered its implementation stage. He noted the myregion.org goal of creating common understanding of the Central Florida region. He stated the role of myregion.org included efforts to envision, empower, educate, communicate, and measure. Mr. Lyon discussed the priorities outlined in the myregion.org plan. He stated under the priority of **economic leadership**, myregion would provide partial funding for UCF's future growth. He stated under the element of **education**, the committee wanted to improve the quality of UCF's education by aiming to move UCF students into the 90th percentile so they could sustain competitiveness in the work force. He stated the committee would hold annual regional educational summits and begin formation of a Central Florida School Board coalition. Mr. Lyon noted that under the **environmental hub**, Central Florida needed to identify and work at acquiring environmental a-sensitive lands to maintain its quality of life in the future. He stated it will take a positive relationship between economic and environmental elements to attain successful growth in Central Florida.

Mr. Lyon stated the myregion.org environmental work group is moving to create and implement a regional land acquisition strategy. Central Florida has identified regional priorities for future land use preservation. The goal of **fragmentation** is to identify areas where there is overlap of services between communities and see where there might be benefits for a shared regional strategy. Mr. Lyon noted that regional workshops would be formed to preserve and enhance the **quality of life**. He stated under the **smart growth** hub, members would discuss ideas on how to welcome four million more Central Florida residents. The key would be to educate and inform leaders and citizens of envisions. Mr. Lyon made note of a Regional Visioning Session being held on October 26, 2005. He stated that **leadership** would be vital. Efforts have already been made to start a Regional Steward Academy, for which partial funding was received from the Florida Chamber Foundation. Lastly, Mr. Lyon stated it is necessary to know how to **measure** success. Any indications of progress would be established and communicated via the Central Florida Regional Indicators Report. Additionally, Mr. Lyon requested that the ECFRPC take on a leadership role by getting involved in the Central Florida Smart Growth Alliance (CFSGA), participating in the Regional Steward Academy, and continuing its partnership with myregion.org as Mr. Jon Rawlson has exemplified by joining the Board of Directors. Mr. Lyon noted myregion.org receives funding from private sectors, the community, and the foundation.

Attachment 1

- V. **UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA (UCF) MASTER PLAN UPDATE** – *Mr. William F. Merck, II, V.P. Administration and Finance – UCF*
Mr. Merck stated UCF has approximately 1400-1500 acres of land. Initially, the school started with fewer than 2,000 students and has grown to 42,500. Mr. Merck noted that UCF currently has approximately 4,100 beds on campus and has an affiliation with two properties on Alafaya, which includes approximately 3,750 beds. He stated that UCF is currently constructing 2,000 more beds in the northern part of the campus. Currently, UCF is ranked second in the state regarding student housing. Mr. Merck stated that with both the current available housing and plans for more housing, UCF may have more housing than any other college in the state. Additionally, he stated the school is working on obtaining a Psychology building, parking facilities, an alumni center, an engineering building, and possibly a medical school, which would be partnered with local hospitals. He noted that growth has served as a problem as well as an opportunity for UCF staff. He noted that the SAT scores increases, on average, 10 points every year. Mr. Merck stated the goal of UCF is not to become an elite institution, but to expand intellectual capita. UCF has over one billion dollars of economic impact and distributes eighteen million dollars annually in payroll. Mr. Merck continued to state that the school has 4.8 million dollars in a trust fund to help with the UCF Master Plan, however, it may be disrupted by the Sunshine Laws. He stated that ultimately, the school needed to have great communication with the Regional Planning Council because both organizations can help each other.
- VI. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (EDD) UPDATE** – *Ms. Susan Caswell, ECFRPC Staff Operations*
Ms. Caswell made reference to Attachment 4 in the Council packet. She began by stating that East Central Florida was now an economic development district. She noted that at some point, the ECFRPC would be funded for the planning and technical systems the Council provides. Ms. Caswell stated that the Council will serve as the committee. Therefore, the EDD plan will call for the ECFRPC and local governments' input. She concluded by stating that the EDD would open the door for additional funding.
- VII. **DRI UPDATE** – *Mr. Jeff Jones*
Mr. Jones made reference to the 5 DRI (Development of Regional Impact) projects proposed for the east side of Lake Tohopekaliga. Mr. Jones stated he spoke with Osceola County staff about potentially partnering to conduct a geographical study/analysis and would be meeting with Osceola County staff tomorrow [June 16, 2005] regarding such partnership. Mr. Jones noted there would be an Edgewater DRI preapplication conference on Friday, June 17, 2005. Additionally, he noted several DRIs scheduled to come before the Council in future months, including Florida Hospital [Altamonte Springs] in July or August, Plaza Colina [Lake County] in September, and an International Corporate Park (ICP) follow-up in October.
- VIII. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** – *Commissioner Randy Morris*
Commissioner Morris stated the 2006 legislation session will address the structure of growth management and related responsibilities in the state. Mr. Morris stated the number of planning councils could possibly reduce in size and increase geographically. He stated the planning councils of South Florida, Jacksonville, Orlando, and Tampa will need to stand together. He noted that Representative Randy Johnson, from the East Central Florida region, is keenly aware that this is an issue on which the cities and counties can potentially stand together. Mr. Morris stated that a direct task force had not been designed for the next legislative session.
- IX. **CENTRAL FLORIDA SMART GROWTH ALLIANCE UPDATE** – *Commissioner Teresa Jacobs*
Commissioner Jacobs stated the Council needed to continue pursuing a goal focused toward regional coordination. Additionally, she noted the Council needed to create more public awareness. She stated in expanding the Smart Growth Alliance, the Council needed to think about whether to remain exclusive or seek outside help. Also, the Council needed to continue working with the MPO and the broader community.

Attachment 1

X. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – *Chairman Jon Rawlson*

Mr. Rawlson noted the Search Committee met this morning at 9:00 AM to discuss the search for the Executive Director's position. Mr. Rawlson mentioned that prior to the meeting, he sought the advice of executive directors from the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and the Northeast Florida Regional Planning regarding retaining a search firm, and the Search Committee had decided to retain such a firm. Mr. Rawlson stated the search committee was requesting authority to retain a search firm for an amount not to exceed \$25,000, with legal counsel to determine whether it would be necessary to issue a RFP.

MOTION: Mr. O'Keefe moved to give the search committee the requested authority. Mr. McLouth seconded the motion. Commissioner Morris objected to the motion, recommending that Mr. Jones remain as Acting Executive Director until next year. He stated that the Council should not bring an outside person into the organization because the practices are different around the state. Commissioner Smith concurred.

Commissioner Jacobs noted that the Central Florida Regional Planning Council was also in need of an Executive Director as the current one is retiring.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – *Mr. Jeff Jones*

Mr. Jones noted Orange County started an initiative on brownfields.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Smith noted that Mr. Fred Yowler, mayor of Eustis and a former ECFRPC member, had passed away.

Mr. Ronald Brooke, Orlando resident, stated he believed only 30% of UCF's land could be developed. He stated when he moved from Europe, he wanted to be near an educational institution. He stated that since moving near the UCF area, his quality of life has diminished. Mr. Brooke noted that ponds have been filled and nearly 45 acres of trees have been cleared. He stated he has attended several meetings with the surrounding counties and no one has taken responsibility for such actions. He concluded that Orange County, Seminole County, UCF, and the St. John's River Water Management District have not been able to devise a plan to remedy the situation.

Ms. Susan Eberle, Oviedo resident, stated that UCF left the 45,000 seat stadium out of the Master Plan, and was subsequently able to amend the plan to include the stadium. Additionally, she stated UCF should be obligated to obtain proper permits. She noted her disappointment in Seminole County for not allowing public hearings on this matter. Commissioner Morris stated the County held a meeting and decided the matter fell within Orange County's jurisdiction.

Ms. Laura Klee, Orange County resident, stated a public hearing was not provided. She made a recommendation that the stadium be relocated.

Commissioner Jacobs requested that public speakers present their concerns to Mr. Rawlson prior to the meetings so he could forward the concerns to the Council in advance. She stated by having the concerns in advance, the Council would be able to address the issues within its scope.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Approved by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council this 20th day of July 2005.

Mr. Jon Rawlson, Chairman