

## SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

June 22, 2020

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met virtually on this date. Chair Levine Cava welcomed everyone participating in the meeting virtually via the web and phone. Chair Levine Cava called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Patricia Asseff  
Councilmember Mario J. Bailey  
Councilmember Margaret Bates (absent)  
Chair Daniella Levine Cava  
Councilmember Michelle Coldiron  
Councilmember Joseph Corradino (absent)  
Councilmember José (Pepe) Diaz (absent)  
Councilmember Beam Furr (absent)  
Councilmember Steve Geller  
Councilmember Cary Goldberg  
Councilmember Samuel Kaufman  
Councilmember Jordan Leonard  
Councilmember Jean Monestime  
Councilmember David Rice (absent)  
Councilmember Greg Ross  
Councilmember Michael Udine  
Councilmember Sandra Walters

Isabel Cosio Carballo, SFRPC Executive Director, and Sam Goren, Legal Counsel, were virtually present.

The following Ex-Officio Members were present:

Laura Corry, representing the South Florida Water Management District  
Dat Huynh, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI

The following Ex-Officio Member was not present:

Jason Andreotta, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

The meeting was conducted as a Virtual Meeting. A quorum was present.

### **II. Approval of Council Agenda**

*Councilmember Geller moved to approve the Agenda. Councilmember Asseff seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote by the Councilmembers.*

### **III. Guest Presentations:**

At this meeting the Council was pleased to welcome two guests: John “Jack” Seiler, Chairman of South Florida Business Council speaking about “Five Major Issues as Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic” and Francisco “Paco” Vélez, President & CEO of Feeding South Florida, speaking about “Feeding South Florida Families During COVID-19”.

Prior to starting his presentation, Mr. Seiler paused to thank Paco Vélez for all the work he and Feeding South Florida have been doing for South Florida communities over the years and especially now through

the COVID-19 pandemic. He was impressed by those who are part of the SFRPC Council and thanked them for their time and public service. The South Florida Business Council (SFBC) is a partnership of the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. Together they work on critical issues affecting the South Florida Region. He spoke on the ways the SFBC brings their members and other partners together for regional discussions on the topics such as the diversity of the counties, the travel between counties for work, and how the counties should come together to work jointly across county lines. He commented on the amazing leadership within the three Chambers, who have been working to bring the economic engines together. Mr. Seiler explained the “Top Five Watch List”, created with ideas from the Chambers, for the SFBC. The most important topics are:

- 1) Mobility and Transportation (how do we move people, not just cars);
- 2) Education Quality (not just education in schools but providing skills for the workforce, as well as recruiting businesses);
- 3) Affordable Housing (not just affordable housing in certain cities but connecting it with transportation);
- 4) Water Management (water quality, water quantity, water retention); and
- 5) Tourism Growth. Tourism was hit the hardest during the pandemic. Tourism was growing for many years with great leadership in the counties but now that growth has been lost. The SFBC is meeting with county chambers, schools, airports, seaports, education institutes, editorial boards and would like the SFRPC to assist with this progression, especially with public policy. Chair Levine Cava thanked Mr. Seiler for the SFBC’s efforts and his presentation.

Councilmember Geller expressed his desire for the SFRPC to become more involved in regional discussions such as transportation, water management, and economic development. He then explained how the timing of the convening regional meetings has changed due to the pandemic. There are many opportunities for the Council and the SFBC to work and accomplish together. Mr. Seiler stated that the SFBC’s Chair is rotated from county to county on a yearly basis, and their meetings are rotated as well. He stated that it will take everyone on this web meeting to work together on these issues.

Executive Director, Isabel Cosio Carballo thanked Mr. Seiler. She reminded the Council that the South Florida Regional Planning Council has a long history of working with the regional business community and business leaders. The Council directly supported the South Florida Regional Business Alliance (RBA) that came together in 2002 to advocate for a dedicated funding source for the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority and continued working on regional business issues for more than a decade. The RBA was a partnership of the Broward Workshop, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, and Economic Council of Palm Beach County. Mr. Seiler concurred graciously stating that the South Florida Business Council stood on the shoulders of these business leaders who spearheaded this earlier effort.

A discussion ensued regarding affordable rent, rental property ownership, and rental relief, CARES ACT monies, meetings with cities, the private sector, banks, affordable housing rentals near public transportation areas, etc. Hotels and tourism issues were also mentioned. Councilmember Furr stated that the SFBC would be helpful with the New River Bridge and the FEC that connects the three counties and to include the business community to help financially. Dan Lindblade, President and CEO of the Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, stated that the New River Bridge is a priority issue and he has been in discussion with other entities.

Francisco “Paco” Vélez, President & CEO of Feeding South Florida, “Feeding South Florida Families During COVID-19” - Chair Levine Cava introduced Paco Vélez. Feeding South Florida is providing food for people

throughout the counties everyday with multiple events per day in partnership with local nonprofits and local governments.

Mr. Vélez thanked Chair Levine Cava and Mrs. Cosio Carballo for inviting him to speak. Feeding South Florida serves the four counties of Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe and believes that the counties should work together to be a true region to ensure that our families are taken care of. His presentation depicted the Feeding South Florida warehouses filled with food from those who have and dispersing to those that are in need of food. He provided an overview of the organization, who they are, who they serve, the food distributed, and their role in the community. There was an explanation on the hunger and poverty cycle (how to break the cycle) and the lack of nutritional food options, education and the health impacts on the children afflicted by poverty and hunger. The role in the community for Feeding South Florida was depicted: FEED - to feed/nourish individuals and families from children to seniors; LEAD - convene stakeholders to ensure hunger and poverty issues are the forefront of community conversation and develop innovative solutions, and STRENGTHEN - to connect families with the life skill/job training and resources to increase stability and self-sufficiency. Details were given on the number of pounds of food distributed, in 2019 and in 2020 since the COVID-19 pandemic, by counties, the locations, and the distribution times. They contracted with delivery companies to make sure individuals and families without transportation had food boxes delivered to their homes. Feeding South Florida is looking for a new home big enough to include programs and services such as a community kitchen, local market, produce processing facility, training garden, classroom and training space, a hub for the community, and more so they can serve the community in various ways to help and teach families and individuals. Chair Levine Cava thanked Mr. Vélez. Miami-Dade County entered into a contract with Feeding South Florida in conjunction with their farmers. The Councilmembers thanked Mr. Vélez for their help through the pandemic, especially in their communities, and offered their support and help in any capacity that may be needed. Mayor Ross mentioned the joy of Cooper City's residents when they received the food and the professionalism and promptness of Feeding South Florida. The subject of the truckers' struggles was mentioned, where they can park, fines received, incentive to bring needed food to the communities, etc. Food pantry coordination, communication, community partner communication, and weekly, scheduled distribution in the various communities was discussed. Mr. Vélez gave information on the various food distribution agencies throughout the country and gave details on the agencies situated in Florida.

#### **IV. Action Items**

Sam Goren, Legal Counsel, suggested that a Roll Call be said to reflect for the record the voting Councilmembers present at this time for the following Action Items. Mrs. Cosio Carballo named the Councilmembers virtually present.

##### **A. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

*Councilmember Furr moved to approve the Minutes. Councilmember Asseff seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote by the Councilmembers virtually present.*

##### **B. Financial Report**

*Approval was carried by a unanimous vote by the Councilmembers virtually present.*

Mrs. Cosio Carballo introduced Leandro Braslavsky Soldi as the new Finance Manager. Mr. Braslavsky Soldi stated that he was excited to be part of the SFRPC.

C. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

Proposed

- City of Doral 20-01ESR
- City of Doral 20-02ESR
- City of Hollywood 20-01ESR
- Islamorada, Village of Islands 20-01ACSC

Adopted

- City of Layton 20-01ACSC

**Public Hearing**

There were no comments or questions from the public via email or virtually.

*Councilmember Monestime moved to approve Agenda Item IV.D Consent Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review, Proposed and Adopted. Councilmember Geller seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote by the Councilmembers virtually present.*

**Public Hearing**

D. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review-None

E. South Florida Virtual Public meetings Extension Request

Mr. Goren explained that the Governor's Executive Order 20-69, under Executive Order 20-139 will expire on June 30, 2020. He has no knowledge, as of now, if the Governor will extend the June 30<sup>th</sup> date. Many local governments have made the request to extend the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Legal Counsel has prepared a letter requesting authorization, from the Governor, for the South Florida local governments to continue conducting virtual public meetings due to the impact of COVID-19.

*Approval was carried by a unanimous vote by the Councilmembers virtually present.*

**Public Comments**

There were no comments or questions from the public via email or virtually.

**V. Discussion Items**

A. Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that detailed information on the Council's projects are in the Council Highlights. Senate Bill 1398 was signed and presented to the Governor, with the support of prime sponsor Senator Flores; co-sponsor, Senator Rodriguez; and championed in the House by Representative Geller. She reminded the Councilmembers to fill out the forms (Form 1 or Form 6) required by the Supervisor of Elections. The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) and the SFRPC are continuing to work together on the Coral Reef issues, which is co-chaired by Councilmember Furr and Councilmember Smith. A letter will be transmitted to the RPC's Chairs and Coral Reef Co-Chairs for approval in supporting coral reef reauthorization legislation in Washington. Councilmember Furr stated that there is good work being done involving the FDEP and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation, and with everyone working together it will be a lot easier to get legislation passed. Mrs. Cosio Carballo explained the history of the Coral Reef Program, the creation of "the Box" which may be renamed in honor of Representative Jacobs, and

exploration of the opportunity to create a management plan for that area. It was mentioned that there are some preliminary links to the coral reef disease from wastewater discharge and level of treatment. Chair Levine Cava stated that a SFRPC regional meeting was to be scheduled prior to the pandemic. Chair Levine Cava thanked Councilmember Furr for his work with Councilmember Smith and their leadership on the Coral Reef efforts. Mrs. Cosio Carballo updated the Councilmembers on the review and reorganization of staff and responsibilities, and the building of planning staff to provide a direct value to the Council and region. The Council Highlights reflect some of the successes of the SFRPC staff and programs.

**B. Legal Counsel Report**

Mr. Goren thanked the Councilmembers for their support on the extension of the virtual meeting concept. He explained in detail the inconsistency between the Auditor's RFP regarding the length of the contract terms. There will be an update at the July Council Meeting. He thanked everyone for being good listeners and being part of today's process.

**C. Councilmembers Report**

Councilmember Geller stated that it was good to hear from Mr. Seiler and is looking forward to working with him and SFBC in the future.

**D. Ex-Officio Reports**

Dat Huynh, FDOT, VI representative, reported that they are continuing the traffic analysis study for the FIU Biscayne Campus and is looking forward to the Council's continued coordination with stakeholders to complete the Study.

**E. Florida Regional Councils Association**

Councilmember Walters, who is President of the FRCA, updated the Councilmembers on the upcoming Policy Board meeting on July 10, 2020.

**VI. Program Reports and Activities**

**A. SFRPC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report**

Jeff Tart, Senior Loan Officer, announced that the Economic Development Administration invited the SFRPC RLF to apply for an additional CARES ACT Grant to assist businesses impacted by COVID-19. The amount is \$5.3 million plus an additional 10% to cover administrative costs. The application was completed and submitted, and we are waiting for the official approval. Mrs. Cosio Carballo recognized and thanked Councilmembers Asseff and Bates for their dedication for being on the RLF Board along with the other RLF Board Members who volunteer their time to this Program. Mr. Tart explained once EDA gives their approval, how the Council will market this information with the various stakeholders, the counties, economic development agencies, TCRPC, etc. There will be a press release and social media announcements. Councilmember Asseff commended Mrs. Cosio Carballo and Mr. Tart for their leadership and hopes that all the Councilmembers will share this information. Mrs. Cosio Carballo noted the various county, economic development, and other agencies she has been and will be in contact with to make this Loan Program successful. She would like the Councilmembers to be a big part of announcing the Program to their districts. Mr. Tart explained the interest rate will be between 3%-4% and the loan terms are up to ten years and is offered to businesses impacted by COVID-19.

**B. Development of Regional Impact Status Report – None**

C. Economic Development District

Mrs. Cosio Carballo explained that with the news of the EDA's special funding over the next two years, the SFRPC is able to expand economic development activities and staff. Council staff has been assisting local governments and eligible applicants with the U.S. EDA CARES application process and has also spearheaded the development of a regional application which will involve the four counties, the economic development organizations, the South Florida Manufacturers Association, Tech Lauderdale, and other partners, etc. to develop a cohesive economic development strategic plan and program for South Florida to respond to COVID-19. She updated the Councilmembers with the other economic development projects the SFRPC is involved with in the counties and other agencies.

D. Council Highlights

Mrs. Cosio Carballo had referred the Councilmembers to this item earlier in the meeting.

Chair Levine Cava opened the discussion to the Councilmembers on their ideas for future meetings. The presentation would be on one topic due to time constraints. The two main topics that were suggested were transportation and foreclosures / evictions due to COVID-19.

Transportation topics should include the various rail organizations, other interconnectivity transportation (public and private) with the counties and municipalities, extra stops, access fees, New River Bridge capacity, various funding availability, transit (buses), etc.

Rent relief, evictions, and homelessness were the other main topic for discussion. Ideas included information about rent relief with reports from the Miami-Dade and Broward County, municipalities and how they will be spending their CARES ACT monies, information on the resources to be utilized, impact on the organizations that provide for the homeless and their funding, possible foreclosure crisis, and using the private sector to get more accurate foreclosure data information.

Mrs. Cosio Carballo suggested that it would be helpful if the Councilmembers could help frame the issues for discussion so that the Council could bring to them the information and expertise that is most needed. Chair Levine Cava stated that the eviction topic is the most pressing issue and should be discussed in July with the transportation topic to be discussed at a later time. These topics may make the Council meetings longer. It was suggested that it might be necessary for the Council to meet in August instead of taking a summer break.

Rail Volution will be conducting a virtual conference for two days in late October.

**VII. Announcements and Attachments**

A. Attendance Form

B. Correspondence and Articles

Council sent out a support letter on funding for the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project Update Study ("Resiliency Study" or "Restudy") in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year 2021 Work Plan and a letter to Governor DeSantis to request maintaining full funding for the Sadowski Trust Fund.

C. Upcoming Meetings

- 1) August – TBD - No Meeting (Summer Recess)
- 2) September 21, 2020, 10:30 a.m., TBD - (SFRPC, Hollywood)
- 3) October 16, 2020, 10:00 a.m., TBD – (TCRPC/SFRPC Joint Meeting)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.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 June 22, 2020 Meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted the 27<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020.

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Beam Furr, Secretary

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Date