

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes

November 2, 2015

South Florida Regional Council met on this date at the South Florida Regional Council, 3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140, Hollywood, FL 33021. Chair Walters called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. and asked Executive Director James Murley to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Councilmember Patricia Asseff
Councilmember Mario J. Bailey (via phone)
Councilmember Margaret Bates
Councilmember Mark Bogen (absent)
Councilmember Frank Caplan
Councilmember Daniella Levine Cava
Councilmember Tim Daubert
Councilmember Cary Goldberg
Councilmember Nelson Hernandez (absent)
Councilmember Martin Kiar
Councilmember George Neugent (absent)
Councilmember David Rice
Councilmember Stacy Ritter (absent)
Councilmember Greg Ross
Councilmember Xavier Suarez
Councilmember Paul Wallace
Chair Sandra Walters
Councilmember Jimmy Weekley

Mr. Sam Goren, Legal Counsel was present.

The following Ex-Officio Members were present:

Ms. Lisa Colmenares attended for Ms. Aileen Boucle, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI

The Honorable Roberto Martell, representing the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity / Mayor of the Town of Medley

The following Ex-Officio Members were absent:

Ms. Laura Corry, representing the South Florida Water Management District

Ms. Jill Creech, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

II. Approval of Council Agenda

Councilmember Ross moved to approve the Council Agenda. Councilmember Caplan seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

about healthy food items and choices. She explained the Council's role in a 2011 grant that was awarded from the MDCHD, which included a contract to assess the food environment and gauge store owners' willingness to offer healthier food items in corner and convenience stores in communities with limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

There was discussion on the pricing of the items to the consumers and the store owners. Ms. Hamilton explained there would be offerings from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other programs that will be incorporated to make the healthy food option affordable to the consumer. She stated that research will be conducted to identify funding that can help store owners/operators provide new accommodations. There was a discussion on where store owners can purchase supplies at a reasonable rate in order to offer the healthy food items at a low cost. Ms. Hamilton highlighted the work of The Food Trust, a Philadelphia-based organization, which has had success in converting corner stores into healthy corner stores. Council staff will be working closely with them.

Councilmember Cava inquired into the geographical area of the Program. Ms. Hamilton explained that in the 2011 assessment, 44 stores were chosen based on poverty levels and other social-economic and health indicators. She stated that initially this program will begin in those areas. She will share the locations with the Councilmembers once it is determined that these stores are still in operation and interested in participating in the program.

Councilmember Daubert questioned what the incentive would be for the store owners to participate. Ms. Hamilton stated that some store owners may wish to enhance their space by providing healthier foods as a means to increase profitability. There are others that may not wish to participate.

Councilmember Asseff stated that this is a great idea and mentioned that in Europe there are places where fruit trees and bushes are planted to increase accessibility to fresh, healthy food by neighborhood residents. This may be something the Council may want to look into. Ms. Hamilton stated there are similar programs being researched in some of the municipalities in Miami-Dade County.

Councilmember Caplan suggested that prepared meals could be made available to encourage healthy eating when compared to fast food. Ms. Hamilton explained that there will be education, cooking demonstrations and other components along with these conversions. She stated that one suggestion was to make drinks from the fruits and vegetables.

F. Hiring New Executive Director Including Consideration of Executive Committee Recommendation

Chair Walters summarized the departure of Executive Director James Murley and her decision to hold the Emergency Executive Committee Meetings on October 14 and 26, 2015, to move the decision making process of the new Executive Director forward quickly. She stated that the reason she asked for this to be an action item is because the position needs to be filled either on a permanent or interim basis so that the fiduciary responsibilities of the Executive Director can be implemented.

Mr. Goren explained in detail the other options available to the Councilmembers. He reminded the Councilmembers that the Executive Committee, a tri-county entity, was an interviewing committee on behalf of the Board and that both candidates are highly qualified, so it seemed redundant to go out and do a search. He stated that both candidates had thoughtful responses to the Executive Committee's questions and the Executive Committee made their recommendation.

There was a request for the previous minutes. Mr. Goren stated they were not transcribed but they are available on a disc.

Mr. Goren explained that Chair Walters cannot vote, debate or discuss this topic and will have to fill out a voting conflict form.

Vice-Chair Rice stated the motion being voted on is the Executive Committee's recommendation for Isabel Cosio Carballo to fill the position of Executive Director, in which Councilmember Bates made the motion and Councilmember Caplan seconded. There was a Roll Call in which the motion was passed by the Councilmembers present and on the phone. Councilmember Goldberg and Councilmember Ross voted no.

Mr. Goren stated the next step would be to direct an Executive Committee Member to negotiate a contract face to face with the new Executive Director.

Councilmember Suarez motioned to give Ms. Cosio Carballo the same salary and contract as Mr. Murley's contract having it effective today. Councilmember Kiar seconded the motion. Mr. Goren clarified the motion.

Mr. Goren explained in detail Mr. Murley's contract and the contract for termination.

There was discussion on the salary for the new Executive Director and responsibilities.

Mr. Murley stated that he received no increases during his time as Executive Director and stated that even though there was a four day work week and a 20% cut in pay the work load never changed and the authority of the RPC has not changed. He stated that the workload that faces the Executive Director will be immense.

There was a motion for Councilmember Asseff to negotiate a contract with Ms. Cosio Carballo and bring the contract back at the December Council Meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Councilmember Suarez motioned for Ms. Cosio Carballo's salary be halfway between her current salary and the present Executive Director salary. Roll was called and was the motion was adopted unanimously.

Ms. Cosio Carballo thanked the Councilmembers for the opportunity to be the next Executive Director. She happily accepted the position of permanent Director with the willingness to serve as an Interim during the final negotiations. She stated that she thinks the best days are ahead and is looking forward to working with everyone.

This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL, and that the information provided herein is the true and correct minutes for the November 2, 2015 meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL adopted the 7th day of December, 2015.

Patricia T. Asseff, Secretary

Date