

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes

January 4, 2016

The South Florida Regional Council met on this date at the South Florida Regional Council, 3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140, Hollywood, FL 33021 after the Southeast Florida Regional Prosperity Institute Meeting. Chair Walters called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and Councilmember Wallace led the Pledge of Allegiance before the Southeast Florida Regional Prosperity Institute Meeting.

I. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Councilmember Patricia Asseff
Councilmember Mario J. Bailey
Councilmember Margaret Bates
Councilmember Mark Bogen (absent)
Councilmember Frank Caplan
Councilmember Daniella Levine Cava (absent)
Councilmember Tim Daubert
Councilmember Cary Goldberg
Councilmember Nelson Hernandez (absent)
Councilmember Martin Kiar (via phone)
Councilmember George Neugent (via phone)
Councilmember David Rice (via phone)
Councilmember Greg Ross
Councilmember Tim Ryan (absent)
Councilmember Xavier Suarez (via phone)
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 representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI
Ms. Laura Corry, representing the South Florida Water Management District

The following Ex-Officio Members were absent:

The Honorable Roberto Martell, representing the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity /
Mayor of the Town of Medley
Ms. Jill Creech, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

II. Approval of Council Agenda

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

III. Action Items

A. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councilmember Asseff moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Councilmember Weekley seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Financial Report

Councilmember Caplan moved to approve Agenda Item III.B, Financial Report. Councilmember Bates seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

C. Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Report

Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item III.C, Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Report. Councilmember Caplan seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

D. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

- Broward County 15-3ESR & 15-7ESR (combined amendments)
- Broward County 15-6ESR
- Miami-Dade County 15-3ESR
- City of Homestead 15-1ESR
- City of Homestead 15-2ESR
- City of Lauderdale Lakes 15-1ESR
- City of Parkland 15-1ER
- City of Parkland 15-3ESR
- City of Parkland 15-
- Town of Surfside 15-1ESR

Councilmember Bailey recused himself from voting on the above mentioned amendments for Miami-Dade County, and the Cities of Homestead and Lauderdale Lakes due to a conflict of interest.

Councilmember Bailey requested information regarding the Water Facilities update.

Karen Hamilton of Council staff explained that the Water Facilities update is provided on a regular basis to assist in municipal compliance with the Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan. She stated that Council staff reviews the Water Facilities update to make sure there are no impacts of regional significance. Other review agencies, such as the South Florida Water Management District, review the update and may provide comments based on their purview as directed by Florida Statutes.

Councilmember Weekley moved to approve Agenda Item III.D, Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews for Broward County, City of Parkland and the Town of Surfside amendments. Councilmember Caplan seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Councilmember Daubert moved to approve Agenda Item III.D, Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews for Miami-Dade County, and the Cities of Homestead and Lauderdale Lakes amendments. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

E. Election of Officers – 2016

Sam Goren, Legal Counsel, stated that the Nominating Committee met earlier this morning and explained the logistics of choosing the SFRC Executive Council Officers and that under the Council Rules the Executive Committee is required to be a balance between the Governor Appointees and local Government Officials. He informed the Councilmembers of the unique situation this year regarding Immediate Past Chair Ritter, and Councilmembers Rice and Suarez. Mr. Goren stated that the Nominating Committee consisted of Councilmembers Daubert, Wallace and Weekley and confirmed the nominations and their approvals.

He stated the recommendations were:

Councilmember Asseff was nominated as Chair, who is currently Secretary.
Councilmember Daubert was nominated as Vice Chair, a Miami-Dade County City Official.
Councilmember Caplan was nominated as Treasurer, a Miami-Dade County City Official.
Councilmember Ross was nominated as Secretary, the Cooper City Mayor.
Councilmember Walters becomes the Immediate Past Chair.

Councilmember Wallace moved to approve Agenda Item III.E, Election of Officers - 2016. Councilmember Bates seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Councilmember Asseff thanked Chair Walters for a great job.

F. FRCA Policy Board

Isabel Cosio Carballo explained that each Regional Planning Council is asked to select three policy board members, and alternates, consisting of a Governor's Appointee, a Municipal Appointee and a County Appointee to reflect the makeup of the Board, not geography. The current Boardmembers are Councilmembers Bailey, Caplan, and Rice.

Chair Walters stated she has substituted for Councilmember Rice in the past. Chair Walters asked Councilmember Rice if he would consider maintaining the position as a representative, if not she offered to be the representative instead of the alternate. Councilmember Rice stated he would be very grateful if Chair Walters would be the representative. Councilmembers Bailey and Caplan stated they would like to continue as representatives. Chair Walters stated the meetings are in late January in Tallahassee and in July at various locations in the State. Councilmembers Asseff, Bates and Ross offered to become alternates with Chair Walters and

Councilmembers Bailey and Caplan as representatives. Ms. Cosio Carballo stated that Councilmember Cava may want to serve as an alternate since pursuant to the new appointments; the SFRC Policy Board Members no longer include a county representative.

Councilmember Asseff suggested that the FRCA meeting should coordinate with the Florida League of Cities to make it convenient for those having to attend both meetings.

Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item III.F, FRCA Policy Board, Chair Walters, Councilmembers Bailey and Caplan as representatives with Councilmembers Asseff, Bates and Ross as alternates Councilmember Caplan seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

G. Proposed Meeting Schedule – 2016

Chair Walters explained the meeting locations, dates and the reasoning for the Executive Committee Meetings alternating between full Board Meetings.

Ms. Cosio Carballo requested that the Council return to a full Board schedule. She stated that the Councilmembers are committed and have clearly expressed that they want to be more engaged in the Council's work and be more relevant. She stated that it is difficult to engage Councilmembers in discussions and work regarding strategic direction and important policy issues aware under the current meeting schedule.

There was discussion on the location of the meetings. Chair Walters stated that these locations were chosen because of their traveling convenience, the parking and expense. She reminded the Council that in the past, meetings were held in various locations that included traveling and spending the night; this no longer became economically feasible.

Councilmember Bailey moved to return to a full Board Meeting. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Chair Walters recommended that the Council maintain the meeting locations on the current schedule and convene the former Executive Committee Meetings at the Council Office. Ms. Cosio Carballo stated that it is difficult to move the Council Meetings every other month at this time. Video conferencing was mentioned and Ms. Cosio Carballo stated that this is something she is the process of researching and would like to have that conversation. Councilmember Neugent suggested the meetings be held at the Council Office as in the past due to Councilmember participation. Chair Walters stated she had requested a survey on the Councilmember attendance at the various locations and she noted that the Council Meeting location had nothing to do with attendance. Councilmember Goldberg stated that as long as the Agenda has items that the Council is involved and engaged in, Councilmembers will travel to where they need to be to part of the discussion. Councilmember Asseff stated she enjoyed the times when the Councilmembers would stay the night in the Keys; it was a way to get to know our colleagues. She suggested this would be something that should be looked into. Chair Walters agreed and stated that it became an expense in bringing the staff overnight.

Chair Walters recommended the Council proceed with the proposed 2016 Meeting Schedule and asked staff to explore the opportunity to potentially include more travel if affordable. She stated that it is important to have agenda items that are directly relevant to the county hosting the meeting and to promote the regional convening for all three counties. She suggested Council staff send out news releases to make the public aware of these meetings to participate. Councilmember Asseff suggested that the Councilmembers pay their own way, if they have the available resources, when there is overnight travel to reduce the cost burden on the Council.

Chair Walters suggested a board retreat. Ms. Cosio Carballo stated that perhaps this would be the time to combine the strategic visioning process with dinner and have the Council Meeting the following day. Councilmember Bailey moved to approve the Meeting Schedule as is, with the full Board, and for staff to bring back recommendations to add additional meetings. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Councilmember Goldberg suggested staff send out an updated Meeting Calendar.

H. Executive Director's Contract

Chair Walters recapped the Executive Director's Contract meeting for the Councilmembers. She stated Councilmember Asseff and Mr. Goren negotiated the contract with Ms. Cosio Carballo. She stated that previous contracts were reviewed and Ms. Cosio Carballo's contract is identical to past contracts. Mr. Goren then explained the contract and meeting in detail with the Board's approval to become effective today.

Councilmember Wallace moved to approve Agenda Item III.H, Executive Director's Contract. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Councilmember Goldberg inquired about the finances and would this contract inhibit the Council from hiring the quality of people needed. Chair Walters stated that this is keeping with the budget that was approved in December for the next fiscal year.

Ms. Cosio Carballo stated that there has been a lot of transition in the Council. She informed the Council that the financial outlook has improved since her position will not be replaced. Additionally, Rhonda Noah, the Director of Administration has retired and will not be replaced. She stated that she is working with staff internally to fulfill those obligations. Ms. Cosio Carballo stated that Karen Chang has been moved up to the position of Director of Administration; she has been at the Council for 26 years. She stated that as employees have left the Council, positions have not been replaced. Although that is a goal for the future, the Council has several professional services contracts to fill current gaps. She stated that she is aware of needed improvements in staffing, technology, and additional resources.

IV. **Discussion Items**

A. Executive Committee Report - none

B. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Cosio Carballo gave short explanations on the attachments included in the Executive Director's Report.

- 1) Downtown Miami Development of Regional Impact Increment III
- 2) America's Dream Mall
- 3) Organizational Update

Ms. Cosio Carballo gave details on the organizational update to improve staff infrastructure, and technology, enhance Councilmember experiences and facilitate participation, and to work with our external partners and enhance Council's "relevancy." She informed the Council that Manny Cela is serving as the Deputy Director. She stated that Rhonda Noah has retired and there will be a get together January 15, 2016 from 2 pm to 6 pm at the Council's Office. Karen Chang will be Director of Administration and continue in her existing role. She stated that there will be a realigning of responsibilities to continue working within our resources as we seek additional work and funding.

Ms. Cosio Carballo informed the Council that she would like to have a Strategic Visioning Planning Workshop in the near future so that the Board can assess where we are today and where we want to be in the future. She stated that once the Board defines the greater role it wishes to play in the Region, there will be a need to reassess the Council's existing and potential funding sources to assess whether it is sufficient to achieve the direction the Board has set. Ms. Cosio Carballo explained in detail the Council's past and present funding.

Ms. Cosio Carballo stated that the Florida Regional Council Association (FRCA) has not submitted its traditional state appropriation funding request of \$2.5 million for the now ten Regional Planning Councils. She was informed by the other Regional Directors, at the Executive Director Advisory Committee (EDAC) Meeting in December this was a decision of the Policy Board Members at a meeting in the summer of 2015. She requested that this position be reconsidered and that a request be submitted immediately. Councilmembers Bailey and Caplan stated that they did not vote to abstain from seeking the appropriation. Chair Walters stated, that in her recollection, the Policy Board Members had all agreed not to seek the appropriation.

Ms. Cosio Carballo stated that her concern is that once the funding is not requested it would become increasingly difficult to ask for in the future. Ms. Cosio Carballo also informed the EDAC of her intent to seek independent funding for the South Florida Regional Council. This news was not well received. She stated that the Executive Directors were concerned if the Regional Planning Councils applied for independent appropriations, it would fracture the Association and lead to competition between the Councils for funding.

She recommended that Policy Board Members ask FRCA to pursue a state appropriation for the State's ten Regional Planning Councils this session. Ms. Cosio Carballo stated she would like to have a conversation with Senator Latvala, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development, to include the appropriation request in the budget. The Policy Board will not meet until the end of January, well into session. Councilmember Bailey explained why moving forward now is imperative.

There was discussion regarding the timing of the budget request, whether or not to ask for the funding independently and/or with the other Councils, whether there is an opportunity for the Senate and House to include the RPCs in the budget, and the process for requesting that Ron Book, Executive Director of FRCA, request the funding.

Councilmember Daubert stated that he will have conversations about funding with his colleagues when he is there for Dade Days.

Chair Walters stated that the feeling of the Board is to have a conversation with President Constantine and to our lobbyist to recommend that the allocation be made again this year.

There was discussion regarding the FRCA decision of not asking for an appropriation. Some Councilmembers had the view that FRCA will be asking for an appropriation. Chair Walters stated that at the July Policy Board Meeting there was no motion or second regarding not pursuing the money this year.

Councilmember Bailey suggested the SFRC move forward on the appropriation since we have regional impact with the three counties. Councilmember Asseff suggested going to different departments, such as the Department of Economic Opportunity.

Councilmember Bailey stated some of the other Councils are not as active as the SFRC which may be an issue regarding funding for FRCA.

Councilmember Wallace stated that today we should try to get our appropriation however best we can do it.

Councilmember Asseff stated that regionally this Council has two of the largest counties in Florida. She stated this is an election year for the Senate and this would be a good opportunity.

Chair Walters questioned if the Council can make the case that we have regional significant programs that have state level significance that would warrant the state funding us separate from the other Councils.

Ms. Cosio Carballo stated she did not want the Councilmembers to think that the Council has not been receiving state funding. She explained that the Council has been funded through the Department of Economic Opportunity with the "Train the Trainer" Resiliency Training for all the regions, Adaptation Action Area planning, and hurricane evacuation and emergency planning. She did not want the Councilmembers to think the \$2.5 million in appropriation is the Council's only state funding. She stated her concern is the timing because the session starts next week and the budget will be done soon. She stated she would like to see an independent appropriation. She also mentioned that maybe there is a way for the Counties to ask for the appropriation to include the SFRC to be part of their legislative program. She stated that in speaking with Pat Steed, Director of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council; Michael Busha, Director of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council; and Chris Rietow, Director of the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, they are not opposed to the SFRC requesting project-

based funding; only funding for general activities. She stated that she would be in Tallahassee the following week and would have conversations to identify possible options.

Councilmember Bailey stated that the individual counties have set their legislative priorities and it would be difficult to add the SFRC funding to their issues. He stated that there was one RPC Executive Director who spoke poorly about the Governor which had an effect on the veto in the past.

Mr. Goren stated the motion is requesting a single focus of the SFRC request from the legislature in some form of fashion which can be legally requested during the session, bypassing FRCA.

Councilmember Daubert amended the motion for the SFRC to independently request appropriation funding for a specific project with an amount to be determined. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

There was discussion having the Miami Dream Mall, in which Miami-Dade and Broward Counties have requested the SFRC assistance, be part of the request. It was suggested the Revolving Loan Fund be part of the funding request since it is a successful program.

Ms. Cosio Carballo stated that she would like to work with the Councilmembers to come up with some proposals. Chair Walters suggested Ms. Cosio Carballo work with the Executive Committee because of time restraints.

Chair Walters reiterated that there is a motion and a second for funding but there is no funding proposal in place. She asked if it is possible for the full Board to authorize the Executive Committee to make an emergency action to approve what plan gets developed. Mr. Goren answered yes.

Ms. Cosio Carballo mentioned that Ex Officio Member Martell would be in Tallahassee in the near future to meet with the Governor. She stated that our proposal advances multiple interests. Councilmember Ross stated that jobs would be created with the American Dream Mall in all phases of the project.

Councilmember Bates requested the motion be explained in detail.

Mr. Goren stated the motion is to allow the Council to independently request funding from the Legislature for specific projects and destination of funds that will be defined by the Executive Committee of the Council.

Councilmember Daubert amended the motion to allow the Council to independently request funding from the Legislature for specific projects and destination of funds that will be defined by the Executive Committee of the Council. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Cosio Carballo stated that she had been consulting with Mr. Goren and his staff to draft legislative language that would allow the Councils to achieve a quorum through technology and

still be in compliance with the Sunshine Law. Mr. Goren explained the language provided in detail.

Ms. Cosio Carballo stated that staff will pursue multiple venues to address this issue. The first will be to seek an informal, non-binding opinion from the Office of the Attorney General. Based on the outcome, staff will know whether it is necessary to amend Florida Statute. The challenge will be to find a legislative vehicle that does not seek to harm the Regional Planning Councils or diminish their authority.

Chair Walters decided to amend the Agenda for the Enterprise Florida Presentation.

- 4) Sunshine Training
- 5) Strategic Planning

C. Legal Counsel Report

D. Ex Officio Reports

V. Program Reports and Activities

A. Presentations of Regional Relevance

- 1) Enterprise Florida Presentation – Alan Becker, Vice Chair, Enterprise Florida, Inc. Founding Shareholder, Becker & Poliakoff, P.A.

Alan Becker Vice Chair, Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) and Founding Shareholder of Becker & Poliakoff P.A stated that Enterprise Florida is the State's official economic development organization. He stated that it is a public/private partnership which was the first of its kind. He stated that it replaced the Department of Commerce in 1997 in order to engage the private sector along with state government in helping to grow our economy. He informed the Council that the Enterprise Florida model has been replicated by many other states. He explained that the Chairman is always the Governor; the Vice Chairman is the private sector leader who sets the agenda and conducts the meetings. Mr. Becker stated that in the 17 years he has been part of Enterprise Florida, Governor Scott is the first Governor to attend every Board dinner and meeting and actively participate. Mr. Becker presented data on current job statistics as it relates to Enterprise Florida's activities. He explained the roles of Enterprise Florida and the Department of Economic Opportunity. Enterprise Florida exists to help Florida companies grow and bring new companies into Florida. The goal is to diversify the economy and attract higher than average wage paying jobs. He went into detail explaining the various statistics, tables, job growth and wages.

Councilmember Bates referred to the earlier report by Richard Ogburn related to migration from other countries. He stated that it appears that Florida attracts several technology companies but it is unclear whether Florida residents are filling the jobs. She questioned if Florida's educational institutions are keeping up.

Mr. Becker stated that yes they are; more than people give them credit for. He stated that Miami-Dade County, through the Beacon Council initiative “One Community One Goal,” updated its strategic plan for economic development. He stated that this year they started meeting with every college and university president, and public schools, to explain the targeted industries and the knowledge and skills sets they are looking for in their employees. He stated that they meet every quarter to track progress to ensure that educational systems are aligned with current and projected job opportunities. The Chancellor of the State University System, who is a member of the Enterprise Florida Board, is a key partner. Mr. Becker stated that many of the largest companies throughout the State are working with the colleges.

Councilmember Caplan stated that the Council is very accomplished in data and analysis. He asked Mr. Becker if there might be an opportunity to work in partnership with Enterprise Florida on special economic development data analysis projects. Mr. Becker stated he does not see why not since data is important. He said companies want to see the facts, they ask about education and they are concerned about transportation. He stated they have, as well as the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, the Beacon Council and the Palm Beach Economic Development Council, economists on board that generate the data but he does not know the extent of its coordination. He stated it may not be a bad idea.

Councilmember Goldberg inquired which States are ahead of Florida in high tech. Mr. Becker stated it would probably be California – the Silicone Valley, Massachusetts and North Carolina – the Research Triangle. Councilmember Goldberg inquired if Enterprise Florida is working with existing large companies such as Citrex to keep them in Florida.

Mr. Becker stated yes they are involved; retention is very important. He said historically for Citrex their biggest problem is workforce. He stated Citrex would be happy to stay in Florida if they could find the employees they need. He stated that in Florida the educated workforce they needed was not sufficient, although it is improving. Enterprise Florida works closely with companies where there is an opportunity for growth and a place to grow.

Chair Walters thanked Mr. Becker for his presentation. She requested his presentation be available on the SFRC website and sent to the Councilmembers.

Chair Walters stated that she had confirmed with the Executive Director and Legal Counsel that there is nothing urgent that needs to be handled before the next meeting.

B. Revolving Loan Fund Reports

1) SFRC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report

C. Southeast Florida Clean Cities Program Update

VI. Announcements and Attachments

A. Correspondence and Attendance Form

B. Upcoming Meetings

1) February 1st, 10:30 a.m. (SFRC Offices, Hollywood)

2) March 7th, 10:30 a.m. (FDOT 6, Miami)

- 3) April 4th, 10:30 a.m. (SFRC Offices, Hollywood)
- 4) May 2nd, 10:30 a.m. (MENC, Key Largo)

VII. Councilmember Comments

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

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 January 4, 2016 meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL adopted the 1st day of February, 2016.

Greg Ross, Secretary

Date