

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

January 25, 2021

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met virtually and in-person on this date. Chair Geller welcomed those in attendance, virtually, and on the phone. He called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was said prior to the Southeast Florida Regional Prosperity Institute Meeting which was held before the Council Meeting.

Councilmember Patricia Asseff (virtually present)
Councilmember Mario J. Bailey
Councilmember Michelle Coldiron (virtually present)
Councilmember Joseph Corradino (absent)
Councilmember José (Pepe) Díaz (absent)
Councilmember Beam Furr
Councilmember Steve Geller (virtually present)
Councilmember Cary Goldberg (absent)
Councilmember Samuel Kaufman (virtually present)
Councilmember Jordan Leonard
Councilmember Jean Monestime (virtually present)
Councilmember David Rice (absent)
Councilmember Greg Ross
Councilmember Michael Udine (virtually present)
Councilmember Ana M. Ziade

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

The following Ex-Officio Members were virtually 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 virtually present:

Jason Andreotta, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

II. Approval of Council Agenda

Motion was carried by a unanimous consent

III. Presentation (Time Certain: 11:45 a.m.)

South Florida Defense Alliance: A Regional Look at Defense & National Security Interests

Steven C. Williamson, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret); Board President, South Florida Defense Alliance;
Managing Principal, BEST Solutions Consulting Group

Rick Miller, Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret); Executive Director, South Florida Defense Alliance; Founder &
CEO, PHAROS Mission Critical Solution

IV. Action Items

A. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councilmember Asseff moved to approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Councilmember Udine seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Public Comments

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

B. Financial Report

Finance Manager, Leo Braslavsky Soldi explained the Financial Report in detail.

Sam Goren, Legal Counsel, explained the meeting process regarding Action Items, public comments, and voting.

Public Comments

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

Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item IV.B Financial Report. Councilmember Leonard seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

Chair Geller moved Agenda Item IV.E Nominating Committee Report / Election of Officers up on the Agenda due to Councilmember Coldiron, Chair of the Nominating Committee, has other commitments.

IV.E Nominating Committee Report / Election of Officers

Councilmember Coldiron stated there was a unanimous vote for the following nominations:

- Chair – Gubernatorial Appointee Mario Bailey
- 1st Vice Chair – The Honorable Steve Geller
- 2nd Vice Chair – The Honorable Sam Kaufman
- Treasurer – The Honorable Beam Furr
- Secretary – The Honorable Jordan Leonard
- Immediate Past Chair – The Honorable Greg Ross

Chair Geller stated that as Mayor of Broward County he would not be able to be Chair of the SFRPC. Both positions require a great deal of time and has asked to return as the SFRPC's 1st Vice Chair. He also recommended that Councilmember Ross remain as the Immediate Past Chair. Councilmember Leonard was nominated as Secretary and will serve until his municipal term expires. Councilmember Leonard has agreed to step down when the Miami-Dade County appointments are received if another Councilmember expresses interest in serving as Secretary.

Public Comments

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

Councilmember Coldiron moved to approve the Nominating Committee Report / Election of Officers. Councilmember Udine seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Chair Geller stated that the new officers will take their positions at the beginning of the next meeting, February 22, 2021.

Mr. Goren read the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews.

C. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

Proposed

- Broward County 20-08ESR
- City of Miami 20-02ESR
- North Bay Village 20-01ESR
- City of Pompano Beach 20-04ESR

Adopted

- Broward County 20-04ESR
- Broward County 20-07ESR
- Miami-Dade County 20-03ESR
- Miami-Dade County 20-04ER
- City of Coral Gables 20-01ESR
- City of Fort Lauderdale 20-02ESR
- Town of Golden Beach 20-01ESR
- City of Hialeah 20-01ESR
- City of Homestead 20-02ESR
- City of Marathon 20-03ACSC
- City of Miami 20-01ESR
- City of Oakland Park 20-01ESR
- City of Parkland 20-01ESR
- City of Plantation 20-01ESR
- City of Pompano Beach 20-01ESR
- City of Pompano Beach 20-02ESR
- City of Pompano Beach 20-03ESR
- Village of Virginia Gardens 20-01ESR

Dat Huynh, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI, (FDOT) stated that FDOT commented on the Village of North Bay Village 20-01ESR Proposed, about the potential lane repurposing study. Those comments have been submitted to North Bay Village. FDOT also sent technical comments on the City of Hialeah 20-01ESR Adopted, regarding the impact of the project's access, leading openings, and the proposed traffic signal. These comments were also sent to the City. Neither amendment had significant impact.

Public Hearing

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

Councilmember Monestime moved to approve Agenda Item IV.C Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review, Proposed and Adopted. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

D. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review - None

E. Nominating Committee Report / Election of Officers

Reviewed earlier in the meeting.

F. Resolution 21-01 / SB 62 Regional Planning Councils

Mrs. Cosio Carballo explained Resolution 21-01. All the Florida Regional Councils will be creating similar Resolutions stating the value of the Councils and why the Councils' will oppose Senate Bill 62 until the Bill is amended to no longer remove the RPCs from Florida Statutes. Chair Geller stated that he has become convinced through various discussions, that the use for the regional planning councils lies in our title, that we should be doing regional planning. Before the pandemic there was discussion on convening in large groups with Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties to discuss important issues such as transportation, water, affordable housing, etc., that require regional approaches. Currently, there are no organizations coordinating these types of regional meetings, only per county. This is the reason why the RPCs need to maintain their existence and increase regional gatherings once the pandemic is over.

Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item IV.F SFRPC Resolution 21-01 SB 62 Regional Planning Councils. Councilmember Udine seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

G. CEDS Committee Board Appointment

Mrs. Cosio Carballo explained 2022-2027 South Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process, development of the CEDS responsibilities, the update, regional meetings, regional stakeholders, funding, etc. She stated that it would be beneficial to have a Councilmember involved on the CEDS Committee. Chair Geller volunteered himself to be on the CEDS Committee.

H. Executive Director / Spending Authority

Mrs. Cosio Carballo informed the Councilmembers on the technology improvements for the Conference Room and the price range of those proposals. Chair Geller suggested Mrs. Cosio Carballo have a one-time authorization to spend up to \$15,000 for office technology. In July 2019, the Council ratified an emergency expenditure, but it was not ratified in the Statement of Organization that was considered and adopted by the Council in January 2020. She would like to ratify and increase the Executive Director's spending authority from \$3,500 to \$7,500.

Councilmember Udine moved to approve the authorization of the Executive Director to spend up to \$15,000 for conference room technology improvements. Councilmember Leonard seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Chair Geller suggested that the Executive Committee meet before February 22, 2021 for a 15-minute phone call to discuss the appropriate spending amount. Mr. Goren stated for the record, this would be a change to the Statement of Organization in which was the conclusion that the Board had previously ratified an amount. Councilmember Ross stated that this discussion took place when he was Chair. Chair Geller requested that if the spending authority increase was approved, the Executive Committee need not meet, and the Council will simply vote to change the Statement of Organization at the next meeting. If there was discussion, but not a vote, the Executive Committee will meet to propose a new number.

Public Comments

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

V. Discussion Items

A. Executive Director's Report

Isabel Cosio Carballo introduced Jason McMahon as the new LEPC Coordinator. She summarized his education and experience in emergency planning. Jason stated that he is grateful to be part of the SFRPC team and looks forward to working with everyone. Mrs. Cosio Carballo explained in detail Senate Bill 62 and its language. Discussion ensued on the Senate Bill, the possibility of the Bill passing, that there is not a House companion for SB 62, etc. Councilmember Bailey stated that he would be Tallahassee and will find out more information. He also stated an amendment has been filed. He had not been able to review all of it, but it removes some of the language regarding regional planning councils. Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that she would update the Councilmembers this afternoon with more information. Mr. Goren read SFRPC Resolution 21-01 to have the record reflect the Council's approval. Mrs. Cosio Carballo announced that Monroe County Commissioner Rice will be retiring from the SFRPC. Mayor Coldiron stated that Monroe County is happy for the work that Commissioner Rice had contributed to the SFRPC. He will remain as Monroe County Commissioner. Monroe County Commissioner Eddie Martinez will be joining the SFRPC Board. Chair Geller announced the retirement of Deputy Director, Manny Cela, who has been with the SFRPC for 42 years. There was a short video dedicated to Mr. Cela with messages from various people he worked with over the years. Mr. Cela stated that he never expected to stay at the SFRPC so many years but as time went on he was offered a new jobs/responsibilities, such as computer programmer, network manager, webmaster, LEPC Coordinator, and the last five years, Deputy Director for Isabel. He said that it is now time to go and he has other plans to enjoy life and what is to come. He stated that the Council is in good hands, the budget is robust, things are working well, there has been a thoughtful effort to bring in new people and staff who will take the Council through the next five to ten years. He thinks the Council will be very successful and things are looking up. He thanked everyone and said he enjoyed the trip. There was a standing ovation. Councilmember Asseff wished Mr. Cela a happy retirement. She had served on the Council for the 21 of his 42 years. She stated that the SFRPC has been like a family and that the Council will miss him.

B. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Goren thanked everyone for their support during the last session on the passage of SB 1398 to be adopted by the Legislature. He explained the extension on Executive Order 20-316 and other Executive Orders, Senate Bills, Agency meeting requirements, etc. He announced a foreclosure on one of the RLF accounts and noted the Council will be updated at the next meeting.

C. Councilmembers Report

Councilmember Furr stated that at the Broward County Commission Meeting there will be a Resolution for renaming of the Southeast Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation area in honor of the Honorable Kristin Jacobs. Sponsors for the Resolution are from both South Florida and the Treasure Coast RPCs, Democrat and Republican. Chair Geller stated that the final naming of the park will be in March. Councilmember Udine stated that the South Florida region is sizzling with high tech and finance companies looking to relocate. He has had discussions with Mayor Trantalis from Fort Lauderdale, Mayor Singer from Boca Raton, and the City of Miami's Mayor Suarez. Over the past month he has heard from Elon Musk and other companies to bring their businesses to South Florida and has plans to meet with them. Companies are looking at our region to move forward with business development and startups from other areas. He will keep the Council updated with more information. There was discussion regarding the South Florida Region is being promoted as "Miami" even though the area being considered is in Broward. There was a small discussion on the New River and the tunnel.

D. Ex-Officio Reports

Laura Corry, SFWMD, stated that there was discussion with the 166 municipalities, and sixteen counties to adopt a year-round irrigation ordinance. The water conservation staff is working with the local governments to adopt the ordinance along with educating everyone.

Dat Huynh, FDOT VI, announced that FDOT, VI, District Secretary Jim Wolfe has announced that he will be retiring in early March. He read an email that Mr. Wolfe sent to the District, which summarized his career, specifically at FDOT. Mr. Huynh reported that the Policy and Performance Elements of the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP), for the State of Florida has just been released. Also, the FTP Vision Element has been released to the public.

Jason Andreotta, FDEP, announced on December 22nd the State of Florida assumed State 404 Program, wetland permitting from the EPA. Florida is the third state to do this. This means that a person would no longer have to get State and Federal permitting, they would just have to get the State 404 Program Permit through Florida DEP.

VI. Program Reports and Activities

A. SFRPC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report

Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that the Status Report is in the packet for the Councilmembers review. There were no inquiries.

B. SFRPC CARES Act RLF Status Report

There were no inquiries.

C. Development of Regional Impact Status Report – None

D. FRCA Winter Policy Board Forum / 2019 – 2020 Annual Report

Councilmembers Bailey, Udine, and Leonard have been appointed to the FRCA Policy Board. The January 8th Agenda and Annual Report are part of this Agenda Item.

E. Council Highlights

Mrs. Cosio Carballo mentioned some of the SFRPC programs, and other programs that the SFRPC and other RPCs work together on. Some of those programs include information on the FIU Biscayne Bay Campus Access with Senator Pizzo; the Council is hosting a DEO Broadband Workshop, Travel Behavior Report with Miami-Dade TPO, etc.

III. Guest Presentations:

Presentation (Time Certain: 11:45 a.m.)

South Florida Defense Alliance: A Regional Look at Defense & National Security Interests

Steven C. Williamson, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret); Board President, South Florida Defense Alliance; Managing Principal, BEST Solutions Consulting Group

Rick Miller, Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret); Executive Director, South Florida Defense Alliance; Founder & CEO, PHAROS Mission Critical Solution

Chair Geller introduced Colonel Williamson and Captain Miller and summarized their education and careers. Gus Cruz, Director of Military Affairs for Miami-Dade County Chairman Díaz was virtually present and expressed appreciation for the invitation and opportunity to listen to presentation.

Colonel Williamson thanked Mayor Ross for connecting them with the SFRPC and the opportunity to present to the Council. He stated the purpose of the South Florida Defense Alliance (SFDA) is to unite, champion, and grow. This is an opportunity for our two organizations to work together to address major resilience challenges facing both the military and the South Florida community. Both Colonel Williamson and Captain Miller explained various parts of the presentation. The presentation depicted the military bases in South Florida; the SFDA background; the resiliency challenge not just from a military perspective but also interconnecting with the community – such as infrastructure; what the military brings to the region – significant industries such as aviation, healthcare, technology; programs and initiatives; base closures; protecting the bases, etc. The SFDA is seeking a federal grant to support moving forward on addressing combined military and community resilience for our South Florida defense installations and missions. There was discussion on potential closures and sea level rise, resilience infrastructure, coastal issues, and why join forces. Councilmember Kaufman invited them to Key West since it is one of the strongest pro-military small towns in America and there is a close partnership between the local government and the military.

The presentation can be viewed at this link:

<https://sfregionalcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/SFDA-SFRPC-Board-Mtg-Presentation-25-Jan-21-Final.pdf>

Public Comments – None

VII. Announcements and Attachments

A. Attendance Form

B. Correspondence and Articles

C. Upcoming Meetings

- 1) Monday, February 22, 2021, 10:30 a.m. TBD - (SFRPC, Hollywood)
- 2) Friday, March 19, 2021, 10:30 a.m. TBD - (SFRPC / TCRPC Joint Meeting)
- 3) Monday, April 26, 2021, 10:30 a.m. TBD - (SFRPC, Hollywood)

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 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 January 25, 2021 Meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted the 22nd day of February 2021.

Jordan Leonard, Secretary

Date