

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL**

May 15, 2023

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met virtually and in person on this date at the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), 150 West Flagler Street, Suite 1900, Miami, Florida 33130. Chair Geller, who was taking the Brightline Train was not physically present due to a gas spill which ceased all Brightline travel. Chair Geller joined virtually and called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Councilmember Furr was asked to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Cosio Carballo introduced Mrs. Aileen Bouclé, Executive Director of the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization. Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that the SFRPC has been working with the TPO for many years. Chair Geller thanked Mrs. Bouclé for using the TPO Conference Room and welcomed her to the SFRPC meeting. Mrs. Bouclé thanked Chair Geller and had many accolades for Madam Director Isabel Cosio Carballo. She stated it was the TPO's pleasure to host and work with the Council on the region's critical issues.

I. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Chair Steve Geller
Councilmember Mario J. Bailey**
Councilmember Frank Caplan
Councilmember Craig Cates*
Councilmember Joseph Corradino*
Councilmember Beam Furr
Councilmember René García
Councilmember Oliver Gilbert, III**
Councilmember Cary Goldberg*
Councilmember Denise Horland
Councilmember Samuel Kaufman*
Councilmember Michelle Lincoln*
Councilmember Kionne McGhee**
Councilmember Greg Ross*
Councilmember Michael Udine*

* Virtually Present

** Absent

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

The following Ex-Officio Members were virtually present:

Jon Moore for Jason Andreotta representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (SE District)
Dat Huynh representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI

Sam Goren, Legal Counsel, stated that at this time there is not a quorum and the Council needed one more person physically present to legally create an Executive Committee to conduct public business. If so, the agenda items can be voted on and ratified at the next meeting. As of now, this meeting will be considered a workshop.

Since a quorum was not present, Chair Geller asked if there were any comments on the Minutes from April 3, 2023, and April 17, 2023. The Councilmembers did not have any corrections/comments. The other Action Items were not reviewed at this time.

IV. Action Items

D. Interim Deputy Director / Prospective Executive Director Search Update

Chair Geller summarized the search, interview process, and the decision for the Interim Deputy Director. Prior to formally extending an offer, the State of Florida Legislature extended the DROP Program for three more years. Chair Geller's recommendation was to cancel the Interim Deputy Director search and was in favor of reviewing Mrs. Cosio Carballo's annual performance (in September) with the expectation of renewing her contract this upcoming, and subsequent, year(s). He asked the other Councilmembers for their input. It was asked, "Does she want to stay?" The Councilmembers, both physically and virtually present complimented Mrs. Cosio Carballo's accomplishments and agreed she stay on as Executive Director for another three years. Continuing his summarization of the Interim Deputy Director search, Chair Geller stated that Ms. Kathleen Gunn, former City Manager of Tamarac, had the most votes during the interview process. Mrs. Cosio Carballo and Chair Geller offered Ms. Gunn the Deputy Director position, which she declined. There was a consensus that the search for a Deputy Director continues. Mr. Goren approved that the Chair could legally take action along with the guidance of the Councilmembers present for Mrs. Cosio Carballo to continue as Executive Director and review her contract accordingly. Chair Geller stated that the Deputy Director or another supervisory position is in the budget and one of those positions could be filled. Mrs. Cosio Carballo thanked Chair Geller and the Councilmembers for their kind words and support and stated that she loves her job, loves working with the Councilmembers, and would like to continue her work on those issues that are important to them. She complimented Ms. Gunn and stated that she was an excellent candidate. Chair Geller stated that Senator García is on his way, and soon there will be a quorum and the ability to vote on the agenda items.

E. FY 2023-24 Membership Fees Update

Mrs. Cosio Carballo summarized the April 17, 2023, Council Meeting discussion on increasing the Council dues. She stated that no Miami-Dade County Council Members attended the meeting, and their input is very important for this discussion. She recapped the history of the SFRPC dues, lack of state funding, legislative changes, statutory responsibilities, staffing, growing expenses related to increased regional meetings, etc. Chair Geller explained the other RPCs per capita, the increased dues choices, the decisions made at the Executive Committee Workshop on April 3, 2023 (.02 cents per capita), and April 17, 2023 Council Meeting (.025 cents per capita), the loss of SFRPC staff, leveraging and matching funds, etc., and stated that the SFRPC has the lowest dues of the RPCs. He opened the discussion on the dues.

Councilmember García arrived and a quorum was established. Chair Geller reiterated the previous information for Councilmember García. Councilmember García stated that he is generally opposed to increasing government dues but understanding what the SFRPC has been doing, has done in the past, what is planned for the future, and taking into consideration the other RPCs rates, he agreed to support the proposed increase to .025 cents per capita and will take this matter to the Miami-Dade County Commission for approval. Chair Geller noted that at the April 17th meeting the Board voted to support the increase to .025 cents for FY23-24.

Chair Geller designated Councilmembers Horland and Caplan as Executive Committee members for voting purposes.

The Agenda order was changed to accommodate the presentation.

III. South Florida Regional Military Update (Time Certain @ 11:15 a.m.)

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

Captain Miller thanked Chair Geller and the Council for the opportunity to provide them with important updates on recent developments impacting South Florida's Military Community. The South Florida Defense Alliance is a local nonprofit organization focused on uniting, championing, and growing the national security and defense alliance in southeast Florida. He also represents South Florida at the State level as the Vice Chair of the Florida Defense Alliance, a state-chartered nonprofit. There were five main topics he detailed: South Dade Aerospace Technology Hub (SDATH); HARB Advocacy; Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR); Florida Advanced Training Range (FATR); and Florida National Guard Bureau Expansion/Rebalancing. He thanked the Council for sponsoring and being a grantee with the Department of Defense's Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation which provided the funding for the MIRR. He highlighted the details of the MIRR, and the attention brought to the military installations' resiliency in the South Florida area. Due to Isabel's great leadership, three more studies are up and running, ours and two others in the state of Florida, and three more will probably be granted before the end of this Federal Fiscal Year. We have essentially blanketed all the defense concentration areas in the state of Florida, and we are the first state in the country to do that.

Captain Miller spoke on the importance of keeping the Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB) located in Miami-Dade County and provided an overview of multiple issues including the pending retirement of multiple older legacy aircraft, the reduction of aircraft people and funding, the risk of maintaining the national guard footprint, Customs and Border Patrol aviation, the Coastguard, etc. He thanked the Monroe County Commissioners who recently passed a resolution of support related to HARB, and the Miami-Dade County Commissioners who will also have a resolution at their Commission Meeting. He spoke about the South Dade Aerospace Technology Hub (SDATH) and its work with the Beacon Council, Miami-Dade College, and Space Florida. Together they are reviewing the old Homestead Air Force Base land that has been vacant to see how to leverage and develop an industrial aerospace technology park hub. This will bring economic development to the area. The Florida Advanced Training Range is an effort to leverage the training military training ranges and complexes across the state to drive significantly more defense investment in the coming decade into the State of Florida. Florida is the only place in the world where you can train for a fight in the south China Sea with the joint forces you need at the range and scale needed to replicate conditions that would be encountered in the Pacific Ocean. He continued to detail information on the other main topics. The PowerPoint and recording can be found here: <https://sfregionalcouncil.org/meeting-materials/> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRRpopTJltc>. Captain Miller stated that the MIRR vulnerability assessments are unclassified and publicly available. It was suggested that the Council send the assessments to each county. The subject of energy distribution systems, resiliency, and infrastructure were discussed. Chair Geller appreciated Captain Miller's presentation.

II. Approval Council Agenda

Chair Geller motioned to approve the Council Agenda. Councilmember Lincoln moved the motion and Councilmember Kaufman seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

III. South Florida Regional Military Update (Time Certain @ 11:15 a.m.)

Done earlier in the meeting.

IV. Action Items

A. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, April 3, 2023
- SFRPC Meeting Minutes, April 17, 2023

Chair Geller motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes for April 3, and April 17, 2023. Councilmember Caplan moved the motion and Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Financial Report

Director of Finance and IT, Leo Braslavsky Soldi, presented the Financial Report in detail.

Chair Geller motioned to approve the Financial Report. Councilmember Udine moved the motion and Councilmember Ross seconded the motion. Roll was called and the item was carried by a unanimous vote.

C. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews (*Property Rights)

Legal Counsel, Sam Goren, read the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews, Proposed.

Proposed:

- Broward County 23-01ESR
- Village of Biscayne Park 23-01ESR

Public Hearing

Chair Geller opened the Public Hearing and asked if there were any comments or questions.

Public Comment

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

Legal Counsel, Sam Goren, read the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews: Adopted.

Adopted

- Town of Cutler Bay 23-01ESR
- City of Key West 22-03ACSC
- City of Tamarac 20-01ESR

Public Hearing

Chair Geller opened the Public Hearing and asked if there were any comments or questions.

Public Comment

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

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

D. Interim Deputy Director / Prospective Executive Director Search Update

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

E. FY 2023-24 Membership Fees Update

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Public Comment

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

V. Program Reports

A. South Florida Clean Cities Coalition to offer First Responders Training for EV Fires in South Florida

Alisha Lopez, Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition Director, explained that the Coalition and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) have identified first responder training needs for LEPC Region 10, which includes Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties. The Coalition has partnered with Florida Transportation Systems, Inc., and the LEPC to bring two novel first responder training courses on alternative fuels and electric vehicles to the Region. The training will be provided by Florida Transportation Systems, Inc., Florida's only authorized Blue Bird™ bus dealer. The Broward County training will take place at the Hollywood Fire Rescue Training Center on May 18, 2023. The training will cover electric and propane school buses recently delivered to Broward County Public Schools. Opportunities for First Responder Training in Monroe County are being explored. The Coalition and Florida Transportation Systems, Inc., are working with the Miami-Dade County School District to move the training to coincide with the release of Miami-Dade County electric school buses later this year.

B. SFRPC Brownfields Program RLF Funds Cleanups in Miami-Dade County

C. SFRPC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report

D. SFRPC CARES Act RLF Status Report

Jeffrey Tart, Senior Loan Officer updated the Councilmembers on the Brownfields Program. The SFRPC committed \$1,000,000 from its EPA Brownfields Clean-Up Revolving Loan Fund to help remediate and redevelop a 2.08-acre property located in Miami, Florida. This project is a collaborative effort between the SFRPC, Goldstein Kite Environmental (GKE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM), and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The SFRPC, in partnership with the Homestead CRA and other partners, prepared an application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a new \$500,000 Community Wide Assessment Grant to help assess and remediate sites within the Homestead CRA. The Brownfields redevelopment projects are expected to support job creation and housing development, stimulate the economy, and promote economic diversification throughout Miami-Dade County. He summarized the SFRPC RLF Status Report and commended the attorneys at the Law Office of Goren, Doody, and Cherof for their participation in the legal proceedings/updates on the three collection items. He announced that the Affordable Housing Initiative resources provided by the Southeast Florida Community Development Fund, Inc. and the SFRPC Traditional RLF recently commenced a new duplex in Dania Beach, (Broward County) and four new homes in Homestead, Miami-Dade County.

VI. Discussion Items

A. Executive Director's Report

Mrs. Cosio Carballo congratulated Miss Lopez and Mr. Tart for their excellent work in their respective program areas, which are bringing new resources and assistance to the region's communities. She is working with Councilmember Garcia's staff on updating the discussion on solid waste. At the April 17th meeting, it was decided that a letter would be sent to SFWMD Chairman Goss on the ad valorem rates and detailed the information in the letter. Councilmember Furr commented on the importance of increasing the millage rate and the funding for the Comprehensive Resilience Study for the C&SF Project. Chair Geller gave a brief update from the Broward County Advisory Board Meeting with the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Advisory Board and SFWMD in which he made a presentation on the urgency of

our flooding/water problems. At this time there is nothing to prevent the flooding. One is limited to trying to shorten the duration of flooded conditions. He summarized the structures needed, funding, the study, etc. He mentioned that he spoke with SFWMD Board Members who stated they saw and were appreciative of the letter. Mrs. Cosio Carballo announced that Armando Vilaboy is the Council's newly appointed SFWMD Ex-Officio Member. He will join the Council in June.

B. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Goren detailed the passing of SB 1604 relating to land development and land use amendments. He also detailed SB 774 which affects municipal elected officials.

Mrs. Cosio Carballo announced that the next Council Meeting will be Friday, June 16th in Monroe County. She asked the Monroe County Councilmembers to contact her on subject matters they would like to be profiled at the meeting.

C. Councilmembers Report

Chair Geller announced that he presented the CEDS at the Broward Workshop Retreat at the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo. Everyone loved the CEDS presentation.

D. Ex-Officio Report

Dat Huynh, FDOT, District 6, announced that Secretary of Transportation Jared Perdue was officially confirmed by the vote of the Florida Senate.

VII. Announcements and Attachments

- A. Attendance Form
- B. Correspondence and Articles
- C. Upcoming Meetings

- 1) Friday, June 16, 2023, 10:30 a.m. (Monroe County, Murray Nelson Government Center)
- 2) Monday, July 17, 2023, 10:30 a.m. (SFRPC)
- 3) August, Summer Break, no scheduled meeting

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Geller adjourned the meeting at 12:01 pm.

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 May 15, 2023, meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted on the 16th day of June 2023.

Michelle Lincoln, Secretary
Monroe County Commissioner, District 2

Date