

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

**January 22, 2024**

The South Florida Regional Planning Council met virtually and in person on this date at the South Florida Regional Planning Council, 1 Oakwood Boulevard, Suite 250, Hollywood, FL 33020. Chair Geller (virtually) welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said at the SEFRPI Meeting, held before the SFRPC Council Meeting. The recording of this meeting can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8F6mF2Xw3k>.

**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 Member was virtually present:

Ken Jeffries, for Dat Huynh, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI

The following Ex-Officio Members were not present:

Sirena Davila, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Armando L. Vilaboy, representing the South Florida Water Management District

Sam Goren, Legal Counsel, stated for the record there is a quorum.

**Public Hearing**

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

**Public Comments**

There were no comments or questions from the public in person or virtually.

*Chair Geller motioned to approve the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments. Councilmember Ross moved the motion and Councilmember Furr seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.*

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

**Adopted**

- Broward County 23-01ESR
- Broward County 23-02ESR
- City of Coral Springs 23-01ESR\*
- City of Florida City 23-01ESR\*
- City of Hallandale Beach 23-02ESR
- City of Hallandale Beach 23-03ESR
- City of Hialeah Gardens 23-03ESR\*
- City of Hollywood 23-02ESR

**Public Hearing**

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

**Public Comments**

There were no comments or questions from the public in person or virtually.

*Chair Geller motioned to approve the adopted Comprehensive Plan Amendments. Councilmember Ross moved the motion and Councilmember Horland seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.*

- D. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Review – None
- E. Nominating Committee Report / Election of Officers

Chair Geller summarized the meeting of the Nominating Committee, held on January 12, 2024, noting the Nominating Committee Members were Councilmembers Kaufman, Udine, and Garcia. In consideration of Vice Mayor Kaufman possibly being elected as Mayor of Key West, the Committee suggested that Councilmember Kaufman become Secretary, and the other Executive Committee Members move up the slate, to which Vice Mayor Kaufman agreed. Commissioner Furr, who would be 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair requested to be moved to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair since he would be the Broward County Mayor in 2025 and suggested Commissioner Garcia move to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair. Both Councilmembers felt they could not be Mayor and Chair at the same time. Chair Geller stated that the Nominating Committee recommends the following slate:

*Councilmember Ross motioned to take this item back to the Nominating Committee and report back at the next Council Meeting. Councilmember Lincoln seconded the motion. The motion carried by 11-1 with Councilmember Udine opposing.*

F. 2024 Council Meeting Topics – not discussed.

G. Resolution 24-01 Kristen Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area / Florida Aquatic Preserve

Mrs. Cosio Carballo explained that House Bill 1557 and Senate Bill 1386, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's legislative package, includes provisions that would designate the Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area a Florida Aquatic Preserve Area. SFRPC Resolution 24-01 supports the inclusion of the Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area to the list of Florida Aquatic Preserve Areas along with urging the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to work collaboratively to develop and implement a long-term coral reef conservation strategy for the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Conservation Area before adverse impacts to the reef cannot be reversed.

*Chair Geller motioned to approve and sign SFRPC Resolution 24-01. Councilmember Furr moved the motion and Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.*

H. Central & Southern Florida Flood Risk Study Presentation (11:00 a.m. Time Certain)

Physically present in the office for the presentation were Jennifer L. Jurado, Ph.D., Deputy Director and Chief Resilience Officer, Broward County Resilient Environment Department; Ana Carolina Coelho Maran, P.E., Ph.D., District Resiliency Officer, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD); and James F. Murley, Chief Resilience Officer, Miami-Dade County. Virtually present were Mayor Cory J. Bell, Deputy District Commander for South Florida, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jacksonville District; Eva B. Velez, P.E., Chief, Ecosystem Branch, USACE, Jacksonville District; E. Timothy Gysan, P.E., PMP, Resilience Senior Project Manager, Ecosystem Branch, Programs & Project Management Division, USACE, Jacksonville District.

Dr. Jurado gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Central & Southern Florida Flood Risk Study (C&SF Study). She explained in detail the terms of Flood Protection Level of Service and the Phases, coastal structures managing water and salinity, and funding; coordination and responsibilities with SFWMD, USACE, and counties; 216 Flood Risk Study Status, scope of work, new study requirements, structures, engineering studies, timeline, etc.; the current status of funding for the counties, phasing, studies, and scheduling. She summarized the Resilience Plan progress, Resilient Florida Funding, anticipated regional funding conversation, and the need for scope approval from the USACE, followed by subsequent appropriations. Discussion ensued on upgrading the salinity control structures (barriers/pumps), project timeframe/ completion, flooding, incremental improvements, funding, etc.

Ms. Velez, USACE, thanked Dr. Jurado for her excellent presentation. Ms. Velez commented on pump station funding for 2024 and the growing cost of civil works projects across the nation. She explained the

**B. SFRPC CARES Act RLF Status Report**

Mr. Jeff Tart, Senior Loan Officer and Manager of the Revolving Loan Fund Programs stated the RLF Administration Team participated in a joint small business technical workshop "Get in Gear For the New Year" with our partner M. Gill & Associates. The webinar provided technical assistance to more than 50 small businesses on topics such as understanding credit, tips on cybersecurity, marketing, building website traffic, and construction bonding assistance. Marie Gill, from M. Gill & Associates, and Lisa Mooney from Centennial Bank, are both RLF Boardmembers who participated in the technical assistance webinar.

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, the RLF Board approved \$1.1 million in financing to two non-profit organizations; the Housing Foundation of America, Inc. and the Community Partners of South Florida, Inc. These two borrowers specialize in housing services and counseling to underserved families in South Florida and are truly grateful to the SFRPC and the RLF programs for helping address the affordable housing crisis.

The CARES ACT RLF Program provided \$7.17 million to 34 businesses and continues to perform as an "A" rated program pursuant to the EDA's 2023 Annual Review.

The Traditional RLF Program has provided \$5.5 million to 30 businesses. Two borrowers filed for bankruptcy in December: Cornerstone Paving and CCesar, Inc., and Mr. Tart detailed their future business plans of liquidation and modification. Further details are included in the Agenda Item.

The Affordable Housing Initiative, provided by the Southeast Florida Community Development Fund, Inc. is in the process of closing a new construction loan with the Housing Foundation of America (a HUD-approved non-profit) to assist with 4 new single-family homes in West Park. The Housing Finance Authority of Broward County awarded 8 new vacant lots as part of Broward County's residential single-family In-fill lot program to 2 of our affordable housing developers: Minority Builders Coalition and the Housing Foundation of America. He stated that this initiative has been successful because of its collaboration between local minority-owned non-profit homebuilders, the Urban League of Broward County, the Broward County Commission, and the Housing Finance Authority of Broward County.

*Councilmember Horland motioned to approve the SFRPC RLF Status Report and the SFRPC CARES Act Status Report. Councilmember Caplan seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.*

**VI. Discussion Items**

- A. Executive Director's Report - none
- B. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Goren explained some of the details of the Angela Dawson litigation.