

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

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

The South Florida Regional Planning Council Executive Committee 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 welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m., and asked Councilmember Furr to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. The recording of this meeting can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbaaGdyiwH4>

I. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Chair Steve Geller
Councilmember Mario J. Bailey**
Councilmember Frank Caplan
Councilmember Craig Cates
Councilmember Beam Furr
Councilmember René García*
Councilmember Cary Goldberg*
Councilmember Denise Horland
Councilmember Michelle Lincoln
Councilmember Greg Ross

* Virtually Present

** Absent

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

Sam Goren, Legal Counsel, stated that Councilmember Furr could be appointed as a temporary Executive Committee Member so that a quorum of the Executive Committee Meeting could be obtained. Chair Geller appointed Councilmember Furr to the Executive Committee and the Executive Committee meeting was convened. Councilmembers Caplan, Cates, García, Lincoln, and Ross arrived after the roll call.

II. Approval of Council Agenda

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

III. General Counsel Annual Review

Chair Geller recognized Mr. Goren to deliver a report regarding the Dawson foreclosure case. He stated the judge dismissed all the counterclaims against the Council. The only pending matter before the court is the Council's complaint for foreclosure and to collect on the note. Goren, Cherof, Doody & Ezrol P.A.,

recommended that the Council engage the firm Johnson, Anselmo, Murdoch, Burke, Piper & Hochman, P.A. to assist in litigation following the resignation of Heather Needleman who was the attorney at Goren, Cherof, Doody & Ezrol P.A. working on the Council's case. Johnson, Anselmo is a Florida League of Cities appointed defense firm. After consulting with Chair Geller and receiving approval, the Council engaged Johnson, Anselmo, Murdoch, Burke, Piper & Hochman, P.A. to assist in litigation on September 13, 2024 subject to Council approval.

Chair Geller motioned to approve hiring outside counsel regarding the Dawson foreclosure case. Councilmember Horland moved the motion and Councilmember Lincoln seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

Chair Geller moved on to consider the General Counsel Annual Review. He noted that Mr. Goren received the highest possible rating from all members of the Executive Committee who submitted evaluations and read their reviews, which all spoke highly of his performance. Mr. Goren stated that he was very grateful, honored, and privileged to serve as Legal Counsel and noted that he has been the Council's Legal Counsel for 42 years.

Chair Geller motioned to approve the contract renewal and the increase of the law partners' hourly rate. Councilmember Lincoln moved the motion and Councilmember Horland seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

IV. Executive Director Annual Review

Chair Geller noted that Mrs. Cosio Carballo received the highest possible rating from all members of the Executive Committee who submitted evaluations and read their reviews which all spoke highly of her performance.

Chair Geller motioned to approve the Executive Director's contract renewal. Councilmember Lincoln moved the motion and Councilmember Horland seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous vote.

Chair Geller motioned to add a three percent (3%) cost of living adjustment (COLA) and to review a merit increase at the regular council meeting following a review of the 2024-25 Proposed Operating Budget. Mrs. Cosio Carballo stated that she feels very blessed to work for the Council Board and with Council staff.

Chair Geller motioned for unanimous consent. There was no objection.

V. Executive Committee Planning Conversation

Chair Geller noted that there have been changes to the Council over the past four to five years. Prior to that time, the Legislature stripped most of the powers of the regional planning councils (RPCs) about ten years ago. Once this occurred Chair Geller believed the Council had little to do. Comprehensive plan amendments would still be reviewed. Chair Geller stated that he believed the Council has undertaken

great work over the last few years in regional planning through Joint Meetings with the TCRPC, SFRPC Regional Conferences, SFRPC / TCRPC Joint Conferences, and other special topic meetings. He stated that this success is rooted in its work relating to regional planning. He discussed the Council's recent successful conferences, CEDS work, and the partnership with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. Chair Geller stated there is no comparison between the work of the Council ten years ago and now. He noted that the current membership of the CEDS committee is much different from past years. The CEDS Committee and Council staff are now working on transit-oriented development.

He stated that the Council is an important and relevant force for regional planning once again, and that he had requested to serve as Chair through the end of this year to make sure a culture change would survive his chairmanship. He hopes that Councilmember Lincoln and other Councilmembers will continue the culture that has been created. He enumerated successful outcomes of the Council's work but noted the lack of sufficient follow-up after events due to staff constraints related to the current budget.

Councilmember Lincoln stated that Chair Geller has been relentless in having successful joint meetings and has done a good job. She believes there is a new culture and expects that culture to continue. She noted that during her service as Council Chair in 2025, she will become President-Elect of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) in July. Councilmember Lincoln stated that "Connecting Counties" will be the byline of her Presidency mirroring much of what the Council has been doing in connecting South Florida's counties with each other and counties northward in partnership with the TCRPC. She will continue enhancing the connection of counties as a central theme of her Presidency, and this goes well with the Council's work.

Mrs. Cosio Carballo observed that the Council is pleased to help create the environment for regional conversations and collaboration but at the end of the day it is up to the counties to decide whether and how to work together on regional issues. Council staff is currently working toward convening a follow-up Coral Reef meeting before the end of the year and following up on previous convenings on water, solid waste/recycling, affordable housing, and mental health/supportive services including housing, and sustainability among other regional issues.

Mrs. Cosio Carballo noted that staff prepared meeting proceedings following the Mental Health Conference on May 31, 2024, which were shared with the conference panelists for their review and comment. Mrs. Cosio Carballo thanked Eralda Agolli, Community & Economic Development Program Manager, and Randy Deshazo, Deputy Director & Director of Economic Development and Research, for their assistance. She also thanked Alexander Santana, Administrative Coordinator, and Hailey Lazzaroni, Regional Planner, for preparing the conference minutes. A follow-up call was held on August 28th with some key speakers to come up with recommendations. The Council is working to schedule a follow-up conversation with Councilmember Garcia. She noted that there is a grant opportunity for waste management recycling. Councilmember Garcia thanked everyone for their work on the conference.

Councilmember Horland noted there is a renewed focus on homelessness and looks forward to following up. She also congratulated Councilmember Lincoln on being the next Chair of the Council and President-Elect of FAC.

Mrs. Cosio Carballo noted that the Joint Conference will now be held on November 15, 2024. She stated that the October 21, 2024 Council meeting could focus on a planning workshop for Council Members by limiting the number of agenda items.

VI. Public Comment

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

VII. Adjournment

Chair Geller adjourned the meeting at 10:33 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 September 30, 2024, Executive Committee meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted on the 18th day of November 2024.

Denise Horland, Secretary
Councilmember, City of Plantation

Date