



Central Florida Regional Planning Council

February 11, 2015

DeSoto County Commission Chambers

201 East Oak Street

Arcadia, FL 34266

9:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Chairman Buddy Mansfield called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Norman White led the Council in prayer. The Council Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

Council Attorney Norman White administered the new member Oath of Office to Councilman Joseph Fink, City of Arcadia; Mike Thompson, Hardee County Commission; Don Elwell, Highlands County Commission; and Mike O'Connor, City of Okeechobee.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

CFRPC Chairman Commissioner Buddy Mansfield, DeSoto County
CFRPC Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Edie Yates, City of Lakeland
City Councilman Joeeph Fink, City of Arcadia
Jackie Tucker, DeSoto County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Mike Thompson, Hardee County
City Councilwoman Neda Cobb, City of Wauchula
Commissioner Don Elwell, Highlands County
Commissioner Bryant Culpepper, Okeechobee County
City Commissioner, Mike O'Connor, City of Okeechobee
Dr. Marshall Goodman, Polk County Gubernatorial Appointee
Tom Cookingham, DeSoto County Planning Director, Ex-officio
Todd Miller, Hardee County Planning Director, Ex-officio

Members absent:

Chet Huddleston, Hardee County Gubernatorial Appointee
City Councilman Bud Whitlock, Sebring
Commissioner Melony Bell, Polk County
City Commissioner Pat Huff, City of Bartow and Ridge League of Cities
City Commissioner, J.P. Powell, Winter Haven
Mark Hill, Highlands County Development Services Director, Ex-officio
Bill Royce, Okeechobee County Planning Director, Ex-officio
Tom Deardorff, Polk County Director of Growth Management, Ex-officio
Jennifer Stults, Florida Department of Transportation, Ex-officio



Gina Reynolds, Florida's Heartland Regional Economic Development Initiative, Ex-officio
William Graf, South Florida Water Management District, Ex-officio
Jim Golden, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Ex-officio
Mary Yeargan, Department of Environmental Protection

Announcements

Pat Steed thanked DeSoto County Commissioner Buddy Mansfield for hosting the February Council Meeting, and thanked Council member Jackie Tucker for providing refreshments.

Ms. Steed stated that the State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials recognized a Council staff member, Kathy Hall, with a Certificate of Appreciation for her years of assistance with the Local Emergency Planning Committee program in Central Florida.

AGENDA ITEM #1 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Mansfield opened the public comment period. The public comment period closed with no comments.

AGENDA ITEM #2 COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

A. December 10, 2014 Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman Mansfield asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the Council Meeting Minutes.

MOTION

There being none, Jackie Tucker moved to approve the Council Meeting Minutes as submitted. Edie Yates seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. January Financial Report

Kristen Guy, Finance Director, reviewed the Statement of Activities and Statement of Net Assets for the month ended January 31, 2015.

MOTION

Edie Yates moved to approve the January 2015 Financial Report as presented. Jackie Tucker seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #3 REPORT FROM DESOTO COUNTY

County Administrator Mandy Hines updated the Council on current economic and transportation projects in DeSoto County. Ms. Hines presented slides of the first phase of the downtown pedestrian and bicycle master plan which was currently under construction in Downtown Arcadia. She also discussed the former G. Pierce Woods state facility acreage, saying that DeSoto County is working toward turning it into a nonprofit historical museum. DeSoto County is trying to preserve the historical nature of the site. Ms. Hines added that a paved track and a dirt track rally course for recreational vehicles are also being proposed for the property. Discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEM #4 TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES

Staff updated the Council on the following transportation activities.

A. Transit Grants

Pat Steed distributed a chart showing the status of the current and proposed Transportation Disadvantaged and Public Transportation Programs and grants for the region over the next year.

B. Status of Transportation Disadvantaged Request for Proposals (RFP)

Marcia Staszko, Transportation Disadvantaged Director, reported that there was an error in the RFP advertisement that required staff to start the process over. She distributed a new schedule for the RFP process. Discussion followed.

C. Status of the Heartland Regional Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) Formation

Pat Steed reported that all eight of the HRTPO designated local governments are scheduled to appoint their members to serve on the board, and have their interlocal agreements approved. The first preliminary meeting of the HRTPO could occur as early as March 2015. She added that there also are only 13 months until the federal deadline to develop a Long Range Transportation Plan for the Heartland. The Council approved a Joint Participation Agreement (JPA) with Florida Department of Transportation, in order to provide planning funding. A Long Range Transportation Plan normally takes about thirty months to develop, so time is critical for the work to be done.

D. Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) and Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Plan

Pat Steed reported that the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP), which is a 50-year transportation vision plan for Florida, and the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Plan, which is the shortened plan for all major roads, airports, etc., are being updated. Ms. Steed is serving on the Statewide Steering Committee representing the Florida Regional Planning Councils Association (FRCA). Five public meetings have been held to date, for interested citizens to present their ideas, including one held in Sebring.

AGENDA ITEM #5 AUTHORIZE COPY MACHINE REQUEST FOR BIDS

Pat Steed requested authorization for staff to begin the process of soliciting bids for two multi-function copy machine leases, to include maintenance services. The current copy machine five-year lease, with Ricoh USA, is set to expire on May 11, 2015. Although the State Contract allows the selection of a copy machine company, it would be more efficient and effective to structure a bid listing exactly what copy machine functions are needed, and review proposals that are received. Ms. Steed added that she was hoping to be able to use a local copy machine company. A recommended bid will be brought back to the Council at their April 8, 2015, Council Meeting. Discussion followed.

MOTION

Bryant Culpepper moved to authorize staff to begin the Request for Bids process for new copy machine(s) lease. Edie Yates seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #6 ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Pat Steed reviewed the current economic conditions and forecasts for the State of Florida, to include regional economic indicators. She stated that the PowerPoint presentation was previously shown at the Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board meeting, by Amy Baker, Office of Economic and Demographic Research.

Shannon Brett, Program Director, stated that the CFRPC has been designated as an Economic Development District (EDD) by the US Economic Development Administration, for over 30 years. As an EDD, the CFRPC provides technical assistance to its counties and municipalities as they apply for Economic Development assistance. The other major responsibility as an EDD is to produce and maintain a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document, which requires Council approval at each update. Ms. Brett presented a summary of the information that was included in the last update. Showing a PowerPoint presentation she reviewed economic indicators for the Central Florida Region, including current employment performance measures by industry; unemployment rates over the last ten years; high school graduation rates; and per capita income. She also included the CEDS Key Projects, and Industry Cluster Activity.

Bryant Culpepper announced that Okeechobee County was recently selected among several counties for the new \$1.2 million regional Florida Power and Light Electrical Generation Facility. A natural gas line will come through Okeechobee County to power the facility, which will also bring jobs. Discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEM #7 APPOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2015

Chairman Mansfield appointed the following members to serve on the Council's Executive Committee: Vice Chairman Edie Yates, Jackie Tucker, Mike Thompson, Don Elwell, Mike O'Connor, Melony Bell, Neda Cobb and Buddy Mansfield.

Chairman Mansfield thanked the newly appointed Executive Committee and stated that they traditionally only meet in the event there is no quorum at a regular Council Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #8 GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE PRESENTATION BY NORMAN WHITE, COUNCIL ATTORNEY

Norman White referred to a paper he had written, which was mailed to each Council Member, providing information regarding Government in the Sunshine Laws, Rules and Regulations that govern Council Members and their communications. Discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEM #9 DEVELOPMENTS OF REGIONAL IMPACT (DRI) MEMBER ORIENTATION

Norman White instructed the Council Members regarding the Florida Sunshine Laws and their role and responsibilities in the upcoming DRI Public Hearing. A summary of information detailing those responsibilities was distributed to each Council member.

Pat Steed stated that the Ridgewood Lakes DRI is scheduled to take place at the April 8, 2015 Council Meeting, which will be held in Polk County at the Winter Haven Chain of Lakes Complex. The DRI Staff Report will be mailed to each member prior to the Council Meeting. She asked Council members to direct their individual questions to staff. Ms. Steed explained the List of Dense Urban Land Areas (DULAs) in the Region, saying they are exempt from the DRI process for new development.

AGENDA ITEM #10 REPORT ON FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION (FRCA) JANUARY MEETING

Pat Steed stated that the FRCA Policy Board met in January in Tallahassee to discuss statewide issues and legislative issues. Members attending the meeting were Chairman Buddy Mansfield, FRCA President and Policy Board Member Pat Huff, and Council Member Jackie Tucker. She referred to the FRCA Monthly Activity Report for January 2015, which was included in the Council meeting materials.

Jackie Tucker stated that Ron Book, FRCA Lobbyist, provides good information not only on Florida issues, but on national issues as well.

AGENDA ITEM #11 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Pat Steed reported on the following current work activities:

A. Legislative Update

Ms. Steed distributed the American Planning Association (APA) Florida Bill Tracking Report, dated February 2, 2015. She referred to SB 0484, which related to Regional Planning Councils, and stated that if approved, it would do away with Regional Planning Councils, and give their responsibilities to other governmental agencies. FRCA is working with Senator Simpson, to discuss his issues and to craft amendments to improve legislation and to achieve his goals while not impeding the work that RPCs are doing. She will keep the Council up to date on that issue.

Mike Thompson stated that the County Commissioners would be in Tallahassee in a few weeks for Florida Association of Counties Legislative Days, and asked if the list of Bills could be condensed down to the top two or three Bill of concern.

Ms. Steed stated that staff would prepare that list and email it to the Council.

B. Grants Update

Pat Steed reported that staff has several grants underway including continued work on four local governments' Technical Assistance Grants from DEO. Those grants will be complete in May.

Ms. Steed stated that staff would be preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for training related to the Emergency Management program. The RFP will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #12 OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting was scheduled for April 8, 2015, in Winter Haven at the Winter Haven Chain of Lakes Complex at 9:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Commissioner Buddy Mansfield, Chairman
February 11, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes