



Council Minutes

www.tbrpc.org

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November 4, 2013
10:00 a.m.

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Mayor Bob Minning, City of Treasure Island, Chair
Commissioner Larry Bustle, Manatee County, Past Chair
Commissioner Nina Bandoni, City of Safety Harbor
Commissioner Ron Barnette, City of Dunedin
Council Member Bob Boss, City of Temple Terrace
Councilman Gene Brown, City of Bradenton
Vice Mayor Woody Brown, City of Largo
Commissioner Bill Dodson, City of Plant City
Council Member Michael Fridovich, City of Gulfport
Councilor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole
Vice Mayor Gail Neidinger, City of South Pasadena
Mr. Tim Schock, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Brian Armstrong, Ex-officio, FDEP
Mr. Waddah Farah, Alt., Ex-officio, FDOT

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Mayor David Archie, City of Tarpon Springs
Commissioner Scott Black, City of Dade City
Commissioner Victor Crist, Hillsborough County, Sec./Treasurer
Councilman Chopper Davis, City of New Port Richey
Commissioner Jonathan Davis, City of Palmetto
Council Member Doreen DiPolito
Vice Mayor Lorraine Huhn, City of St. Pete Beach
Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Janet Long, Pinellas County
Commissioner Jack Mariano, Pasco County
Vice Mayor Janice Miller, City of Oldsmar
Councilwoman Mary Mulhern, City of Tampa
Councilman Wengay Newton, City of St. Petersburg
Mr. Andy Nunez, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee, Vice Chair
Councilman Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park
Councilwoman Jodi Wilkeson, City of Zephyrhills
Mr. Todd Pressman, Ex-officio, SWFWMD

OTHERS PRESENT

Melissa Dickens, Staff Planner, SWFWMD
Will Augustine, Sr. Planner, Hillsborough County Planning Commission
Ron Brunk, Env. Supe, CF
Eric Johnson, Hillsborough County

STAFF PRESENT

Manny Pumariaga, Executive Director
Don Conn, Legal Counsel
Suzanne Cooper, Principal Planner

Lori Denman, Recording Secretary
Marshall Flynn, IT Director
John Jacobsen, Accounting Manager
Betti Johnson, Principal Planner
Wren Krahl, Director of Administration/Public Information
John Meyer, Principal Planner
Patrick O'Neil, Senior Planner
Brady Smith, Senior Planner
Avera Wynne, Planning Director

Call to Order – Chair Minning

The November 4, 2013 regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) was called to order at 10:03 a.m. A quorum was not present.

The invocation was given by Mr. Tim Schock, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comments - None

Announcements:

- Councilor Bob Matthews was thanked for providing refreshments.
- **22nd Annual Future of the Region Awards:**
The 22nd Annual Future of the Region Awards Program Call for Entries is now available on our website. Deadline for entries will be Friday, January 10, 2014. Please start spreading the word about this opportunity to be recognized for your programs and projects within each of your communities. The luncheon will be the last Friday in March at the Hilton Carillon Park. If you have any questions, please contact Wren.
- **Brief Reminder:**
A Council Meeting Recap will be sent to you via email following the meeting for your convenience in reporting back to your respective Councils and Commissions. Thank you for keeping them updated on Council activities.
- **Council Member photos:**
Staff is getting ready to put together the 2013 Annual Report in which we include Council Member photos. Patrick O'Neil is available after the Council meeting to take a photo of you if you would like to do so. Patrick please stand. You may also email a current photo to Wren by this coming Friday otherwise we will use the one we have on file.

Taken out of Order:

5. Review Item(s) or Any Other Item(s) for Discussion – Chair Minning

Before calling upon Avera to present the findings of our 2013 Strategic Planning Session, Chair Minning thanked Council members who spent the afternoon providing input into the future direction of the Council. It was a great opportunity to assess our accomplishments and the future goals we can set going forward as a regional body.

We decided to once again provide you with a listing of the projects and programs that the Council has undertaken since the previous Initiatives Plan was completed. We provided this during the session but for those of you who were unable to participate, I think if you take a moment to look

through this you will be as impressed as I was at what all the Council and staff has accomplished since 2007.

During the session we gathered a lot of great new ideas and decided which projects and programs we needed to continue to implement into the future. These have been incorporated into the Draft Initiatives Plan which you received in the Council mail-out. We do have a few copies on your tables located in the agenda packets. Please share with your neighbor if you do not have a copy with you today.

Some of the highlights of the session are:

- To continue our Economic Development Initiatives;
- Become an advocate for One Regional Transportation Plan for the region. If you read the paper over the weekend you saw that contrary to what we were originally told, it looks like District 7 FDOT for the Howard Franklin Bridge is going to include light rail. That is a giant step forward and if that could be coupled with a successful Green Light program in Pinellas County then perhaps there will be more focus on the other side of the bay and maybe we can get things tied up in a nice package. With incoming Chair Mr. Nunez's transportation experience we can perhaps do some good things with an opportunity to make a significant contribution.
- Expand council conversations both at our meetings and into our communities;
- Promote public private partnerships as problem solvers;
- Take ownership of trending, and sometimes even risky issues;
- And, work to bring local governments to the regional table.

Most importantly is how we go about reaching the above goals....By continuing to be the Convener of the Region. This is what makes us unique. This is our niche. As Commissioner Black stated in our session..."*We are like a little Switzerland*" or as Commissioner Crist stated..."*A Senate for the Bay.*"

As the Convener of the Region, we provide a neutral arena that includes a voice for each of our local governments. I think if we continue, and expand on our reputation as the convener for the region, we may come up with one united voice on the important issues of the day that affect our citizens and communities.

With that said, thanks again for all of your input into the 2013 Initiatives Plan.

- 6. TBRPC 2013 Initiatives Plan** – Mr. Avera Wynne, Planning Director
Staff presented the Initiatives Plan that reflects the input from the strategic planning session held last month. Council input was analyzed and issues were prioritized and grouped into priority tiers. The top three issue areas were Convener of the Region, Economic Development, and Transportation Planning. Council leadership intends to hold a series of specialized Council meetings in the first half of 2014 to address these issues in more detail.

The Initiatives Plan is an action plan for the Council. It is the Council's version of a strategic plan which will serve several purposes:

- Identify several priority initiatives that the Council wishes to engage during the next 12 to 24 months;
- Identify the ongoing initiatives and programs that the Council has traditionally chosen to participate in and wishes to maintain;
- Outline the Council's mandated programs and activities.

Around 1994 the first retreat was held and at that time they developed the Mission Statement: *To serve our citizens and member governments by providing a forum to foster communication, coordination, and collaboration in identifying and addressing issues and needs regionally.*

Staff provided an overview of Council activities (the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, the Local Government Comprehensive Reviews, Intergovernmental Coordination Review, and emergency preparedness functions, which are mandated as well as the Local Emergency Planning Committee). Mandated programs and activities are those programs that are mandated by Federal or State regulations. Ongoing activities are those activities that the Council has traditionally conducted, but are not mandated by Federal or State regulations. Hurricane Preparedness planning is a good example. With that base we layered trending issues or the priority issues that the Council wants to be involved with.

The Regional Collaboration Committee issue areas became a priority. Some of those were analyzed in the process to see if they should become on-going priority initiatives for the next 2 to 3 years. Following discussion we went into the open discussion and talked about elevating the Council's presence and how to make a name and increase our level of respect for being the collaborative entity that people can come to for problem solving, or at a minimum if the Council is advocating for something that is elevated to the level of respect that our voice carries. There was discussion on ways we might be able to do that.

We then went to our polling exercise with the different issues. Chair Minning mentioned the top tier issues of convener of the region, economic development, transportation planning and five other things that we need to be engaged in – emergency preparedness planning, natural resources, technical assistance, One Bay regional visioning effort and area branding. When we conducted the exercise we asked folks if the issue was something that the Council needs to continue to be engaged in. If the answer was yes, then is it one that the Council would have value in? And then balance the issues; they all can't be a "10." On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest of importance, there were five different group areas – 38 all together: Ongoing, new Ongoing, Priority Initiatives, Regional Collaboration Committee issues and issues that come out during the strategic planning discussion.

The results:

Ongoing (Traditional) Activities: Economic Development scored an 8.6 and Hurricane Preparedness Planning scored an 8.25.

Ongoing – Newer Since Last Plan: Regional Transportation Planning scored highest out of this grouping. Oddly, the RESTORE Act scored low at 4.96.

Priority Initiatives from 2007: These are the initiatives that were identified during the session and written into the plan. Affordable Housing dropped to a score of 5.2, and that was one of the top initiatives in 2007. Convener of the Region scored an 8.5.

Regional Collaboration Committee Issue Areas: Area Branding is still trending and scored just above 7, but it's at the lower end with the priority issues areas. Health Insurance scored low even though it is an important issue. Out of those issues, transportation planning scored the highest at 7.53. Interestingly, the highest score was Expand Council Conversations. It resonated to have more dialogue at the Council amongst Council members and get into issues across the region. That would also help identify "to do" items under the top tier priority issue areas and where the Council can have value.

We sorted by rank and issues. Economic Development had the highest score all together. Convener of the Region had the second highest score. Transportation Planning had the third highest score and are ranked at the top tier. Emergency Preparedness Planning, Natural

Resources, Technical Assistance, One Bay Regional Visioning and Area Branding are ranked for the second tier. Those are the top eight. The three top tiers have a lot involved with them.

Convener of the Region:

- Expand Council Conversations
- Promote Public Private Partnerships (P3) – as problem solvers. Example: Someone attended a transportation summit with a lot of private sector folks and not many public sector folks, or legislators, or local elected officials. The Council could bring the public to the table with P3 Partnerships with issues. One community may have an issue and not realize everyone else is experiencing the same issue unless we talk about it at the Council.
- Promote Regional Leadership/Stewardship. Try to get Council members to act as Ambassadors for the Council. Mayor Minning mentioned sharing the Recap with your Council members, business contacts, etc. Keep reminding people what the Council does.
- Take Ownership of Trending Issues (even risky). You have to pick and choose and the Council can't add value everywhere, but there will be certain issues that trend that the Council wants to take ownership of.
- Garner short term victories (i.e. Unified Regional Taxi/Limo permits). There are 42 local governments and 4 counties with permitting and it's frustrating on the consumer as well as the providers of the service. That may be an issue the Council wants to be involved with.
- Bring Governments to the Table and identify issues affecting them.

Economic Development:

- Economic Development District. Council has been the EDD since 2003. There is an economic development plan which is required by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The federal money that comes to the region has to be consistent with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan. In the case of a catastrophic event and they come in to rebuild our ports or infrastructure, they need to be consistent with the CEDS Plan. That is an important document both from an economic adjustment perspective and from an ongoing economic development perspective on funding projects.
- Economic Resiliency
- Energy Planning. We currently have a grant in-house to work on rooftop solar in the region. We are looking at that from the perspective of job creation and diversification of energy and try to determine if there are impediments at the regulatory level. We are finding that the biggest differences are in local government permitting procedures so we may work on coming up with a unified process for permitting.
- Six Pillars: Align CEDS with Six Pillars, Assist in Community Designations. We had a presentation from Tony Carvajal a couple of months ago about the eleven RPCs aligning their CEDS Plan with the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars framework. Council can provide technical assistance for local governments to be designated as Six Pillars communities.

Transportation Planning:

- Advocate for One Regional Transportation Plan. That comes from the Collaboration Committee. DOT in Tallahassee keeps telling us that, FHA in Washington DC and others say everyone needs to be on the same page. When folks go to Washington they need to be advocating for the same improvements. We never seem to get there as a region. It seems like once we get one list made we begin another list. We need something that we can continue to support and stay behind.
- Seek improved coordination between communities - light rail between counties. Our counties have never been on the same page with mass transit. They have different technologies, different concepts, and different corridors. The TBARTA Master Plan is a good start and trying to make that work with the Long Range Transportation Plans of the MPOs and the CCC. We still don't have that one unified voice that we need.

- Regional Transportation (TBARTA, OBWG, Transit Discussions). In early 2000 the Council held a Transit Roundtable with attendees that included folks from Sarasota and Polk Counties. Polk County did not end up being a part of TBARTA and they are now doing their own thing from a transit standpoint. A lot of the discussion started from Council conversations. There were legislative folks behind it and helped to move it forward.

At the December Council meeting we will review the core functions of the Council such as mandated activities and traditional activities. We will dedicate three meetings in the early part of next year to Convener of the Region, Economic Development, and Regional Transportation. In March and May we will have an open conversation and expand the Council Comments section of the agenda. If an issue comes before a local government, we would like that topic to be brought up at the Council meeting.

Questions & Comments:

Commissioner Barnette:

I really would like to emphasize the integration of some of these, in particular as we look at transportation planning, light rail and various things the economic development component of that is so critical and that needs to be pulled into those discussions if we can, instead of separating that out. Recently several of the communities in Pinellas County are dealing with how that integrated county-wide rail would have an economic development impact throughout the community. That's been a central focus, independent of people getting on buses or trains going from point A to point B. There's a longer goal with a greater impact on economic development. It's also a great sales pitch.

Mr. Wynne:

As a hypothetical situation, if the Council was endorsing Greenlight Pinellas, we could do an economic analysis and paint the economic development picture. People who aren't going to use transit don't vote for it. For every tax dollar invested in transit will have a return on investment of \$5.00, for example. That's a way that the Council can lend resources to an issue like that.

Commissioner Barnette:

It elevates the discussion in a broader way, and it impacts citizens. If it has an economic development impact, that's a critical message.

Chair Minning:

I would like to thank staff for the great job of putting this together, and I would like to thank Council members who attended the planning session. I think it was a good consensus and a start, let's continue with those types of open dialogues and see if we can't get some specific topics to address.

Ms. Todd:

I'm wondering if there isn't some way that some of these topics, particularly those that are high priority, could be focused on a little more with the Chair appointing a Task Force. If some of us were focusing on these priorities and brought them back to the Council for further discussion, and receive input, it would make the most of our time and we would really be doing something. It's one thing to say it's your priority and quite another to make it happen.

Chair Minning:

We got started on that. Commissioner Bustle started the Collaboration Committee, which could be expanded on. We have some pretty good minds here in the room on transportation issues. To have them form a committee, receive input from the

Council, they meet and mull over and come back to the full Council.

Ms. Todd: Have them come back and let the Council discuss it further with an action plan.

Chair Minning: That sounds reasonable and we can move forward in that direction.

Mr. Pumariega: We could use the Clearinghouse Review Committee, which doesn't meet very often. The committee is charged with intergovernmental coordination responsibility to deal with these type of issues.

Mr. Schock: Obviously the Collaboration Committee had some real benefits to it. We reached out to the local sports folks, the airport authorities, and so on and let them know that we have an ability to go and meet with various government officials. We have gubernatorial appointees that have backgrounds and experience and are currently working in some of these fields. One thing that the Council does, and I heard this when I first joined the Council from folks at the seaports, the power lies in that we have representatives from all of the local governments. By itself it doesn't necessarily have a stick that says "seaport you are going to do this." We don't have that ability. But we do have the ability to provide political cover for those folks. Whether that's through the Collaboration Committee in identifying these things, or going in from a Regional Planning Council perspective and saying, the elected officials of this Council are going to leverage that position on their own, whether it be with their city council or commission. I have a question – it seems that we have a lot of vacancies from a gubernatorial appointee standpoint. Is that an ongoing issue that we are either not getting appointees or is it an issue where no one is being confirmed?

Mr. Pumariega: I spoke to the Gubernatorial Appointment office about two weeks ago and they have several names from our four counties for consideration. That's a step forward.

Mr. Schock: That will certainly help, but getting back to Ms. Todd's point as far as putting forth a subcommittee that has experience in with the transportation perspective, these are things that are going to work and then as a Council, we get behind those and take those back to our own city councils, commissions, and the governor's office and say this is where this will have an impact. This is how we think we can move things forward and whether it's FDOT or TBARTA or PSTA or whichever transportation organization – we pull them together and move things forward. Right now, while FDOT is set up to build a new infrastructure that's a great foundation but nothing is going to get done unless both sides of the bay agree to actually put a station on one side or the other. That's the very least that we need, let alone where the tracks go. That's always been an issue from a transportation perspective with rail. Rail is wonderful; it works great in some cities. If we can't agree where the tracks go then it becomes a failed effort with a great foundation lying on the Howard Franklin bridge but no actual train to use it.

Chair Minning: Mr. Pumariega made a good suggestion that we send around an email poll for all of our Council members saying, here are the issues that we have identified and would like to deal with, and

either I'm interested in serving on a committee or I have expertise, or I have both. Just like they do with Committee Assignments, do that with this committee. People who are interested and willing, people with experience, and let's get moving on this.

- Ms. Todd: There are seven seats available for gubernatorial appointees that need to be filled and we are worried about having a quorum. Is it possible that we can adjust for those vacancies?
- Mr. Conn: They are not being counted now. We take all of the filled seats and need a quorum based on those seats.
- Commissioner Dodson: Is this going around the state with the governor not making appointments with the other RPCs?
- Mr. Pumariega: Yes, as well as other agencies.
- Mr. Wynne: He has made appointments recently to Northeast RPC and Southwest RPC.

Taken out of order:

9. Other Council Reports

Nominating Committee – Councilor Bob Matthews, Chair

The Nominating Committee met prior to the Council meeting to discuss the 2014 Slate of Officers. Once again the committee was challenged because there were three fine candidates that offered to serve in the role of Secretary/Treasurer. It was a difficult decision because all three candidates would represent TBRPC in an outstanding fashion we and thank each one of them for offering their time and talents to the Board.

We are pleased to announce the 2014 Slate of Officers:

Secretary/Treasurer, Vice Mayor Woody Brown
Vice Chair, Commissioner Victor Crist
Chair, Mr. Andy Nunez

Each of these candidates has served the Council long and well.

Chair Minning: We will vote on the 2014 Slate of Officers at the December meeting.

6. No Guest Speaker

7. Council Members' Comments - None

8. Program Reports

A. Agency on Bay Management (ABM) - Mayor Bob Minning, Chair

The ABM will have a meeting on December 12th with a tribute to Suzanne Cooper. An announcement will be sent out. Ms. Cooper has been with the Council for 29 years.

B. Clearinghouse Review Committee (CRC) - Chair, Mr. Andy Nunez - No Report

Staff contact: Avera Wynne, ext. 30

C. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) - No Report

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

D. Emergency Management - No Report

Staff contact: Betti Johnson, ext. 39

E. Legislative Committee - Chair, Commissioner Scott Black

Commissioner Black was unable to attend today's meeting, however, he wants to hold a Legislative Committee meeting on December 9th at 8:45 a.m., before the Council meeting. A notice will be sent out to the committee members. The topic is the TBRPC Legislative platform which will be voted on at the February Council meeting.

F. One Bay Livable Communities Working Group - No Report

Staff contact: Avera Wynne, ext. 30

G. Economic Development - No Report

Staff contact: Patrick O'Neil, ext. 31

H. Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) – No Report

Staff contact: Betti Johnson, ext. 39

10. Executive/Budget Committee Report - Chair Minning – No Report

11. Chair's Report

One of the topics that the Regional Collaboration Committee explored was the idea of forming a Healthcare Coalition among interested member governments to potentially form a bigger buying pool for employee's health insurance programs.

Staff designed and performed a survey which was sent to each of the member governments on the Council and we received a total of 14 responses out of our 25 members.

The survey questions were designed to garner information on what types of plans local governments are using, the costs and benefits associated with those plans, and what local governments were doing to help contain costs. We also asked the question if their local government would be interested in a healthcare coalition as a potential method of containing cost. We did have interest expressed by quite a few of our member governments.

Some of you may recall that in Sept. 2012 we invited David Robertson, the former Executive Director, of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to speak to Council about their Healthcare Coalition.

His presentation is still on our website, but one of the things Mr. Robertson conveyed to us was that the Affordable Health Care Act would be the most significant change to healthcare services and delivery that we've had for many years in our country.

With all of the new changes due to the implementation of the Affordable Health Care Act and the Healthcare Market Place, also considering that 2014 will see even more changes and implications due to the legislation.

I think it would be prudent on our part to see how this is all going to work before using more resources to move forward on a Healthcare Coalition. With that said, I would like to see if there is a consensus among the Council to defer further action on potentially forming a Healthcare Coalition until we have a real understanding of the pros and cons of the newly formed healthcare exchanges.

12. Executive Director's Report – Mr. Manny Pumariega

I would like to reiterate the comments from Mayor Minning about the comments we received last month that resulted in the Initiatives Plan. The staff appreciates the input and with your support we can move forward with the Initiatives Plan.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 9, 2013 at 10:56 a.m.

Adjournment: 10:29 a.m.



Bob Minning, Chair



Lori Denman, Recording Secretary