NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL
MINUTES
January 25, 2007
7:30 p.m.

Tucker’s Steak and Seafood Restaurant
Blanche Hotel
Lake City, Florida

MEMBERS PRESENT

Louie Davis, City of Waldo
David Dodge, Bradford County
Dixie Donovan, Columbia County
Jack Donovan, City of Gainesville
Roy Ellis, Madison County
Sandra Haas, Suwannee County
Donnie Hamlin, Lafayette County
Randy Hatch, Suwannee County
Eddie Martin, Alachua County
Jeanna Mastrodicasa, City of Gainesville
Charles Maultsby, Taylor County
Heather Neill, Lafayette County
Garth Nobles, Jr., City of Live Oak
Gerald O’Neil, Alachua County
James Painter, Alachua County
Tracy Reeves, Madison County
Andrew Smith, Union County
Carolyn Spooner, City of Starke
Frank Urban, Alachua County
Myra Valentine, City of Madison
Lewis Vaughn, Hamilton County
Stephen Witt, City of Lake City

MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Alcantar, City of Archer
Stephen Bailey, Columbia County
Ed Braddy, City of Gainesville
Rick Bryant, City of Gainesville
Martha Butler, Hamilton County
Mike Byerly, Alachua County
Cynthia Chestnut, Alachua County
Melaine Clyatt, Union County
Gib Coerper, City of Alachua
Paula DeLaney, Alachua County
Kirk Eppenstein, City of High Springs
John Glanzer, City of Newberry
Matthew Hawkins, City of Jasper
Scherwin Henry, City of Gainesville
John Hersey, Bradford County
Emily Weed Ketringer, City of Perry
Buddy Lamb, Dixie County
John Martin, City of Hawthorne
Rudolph Parker, Taylor County
Lee Pinkoson, Alachua County
Lorene Thomas, Dixie County
Ronald Williams, Columbia County

GUESTS PRESENT

Jeanne Bass, Madison County
Allen Cherry, Madison County
Diana Davis
Rita Dopp
James Montgomery
Sherilyn Pickles, Madison County
Susan Pomin, FL Dept. of Community Affairs
Ana Richmond, FL Dept. of Community Affairs
Jon Wershow

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Jordan Green, FL Dept. of Transportation

STAFF PRESENT

Steve Dopp
Scott Koons
Carol Laine
Dwayne Mundy

Board Members names are bolded
I. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS

In the absence of Chair Thomas, Vice-Chair Ellis, acting as Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with an invocation given by Commissioner Jack Donovan, and a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Vice-Chair Ellis stated that there was a quorum of the Board of Directors and he announced that, due to the changes made to the organization policies, all Council members were able to vote.

Vice-Chair Ellis introduced and welcomed Ms. Susan Poplin and Ms. Ana Richmond from the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Mr. Allen Cherry, Madison County Coordinator and Madison County staff, Ms. Jeanne Bass and Ms. Sherilyn Pickles. Vice-Chair Ellis also introduced and welcomed Mr. James Montgomery, past chairman and Ms. Rita Dopp, wife of Steve Dopp.

Vice-Chair Ellis stated that a revision of Item III.B. - Florida’s Transportation Disadvantaged Program Transportation Disadvantaged Board Membership Certification was handed out prior to the meeting listing the new chairperson appointed to the Dixie County Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.

Vice-Chair Ellis also stated that there was an addition to Item VI.B - Clearinghouse Committee Report as noted below and asked that it be added to the agenda.

Item #39 - Town of Brooker Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 07-1)

ACTION: Commissioner Vaughn made the motion, with a second by Mr. Smith, to add Item #39 - Town of Brooker Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 07-1) to VI.B. - Clearinghouse Committee Report. The motion carried unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 7, 2006

Vice-Chair Ellis asked that the minutes of the December 7, 2006 meeting be approved as written.

ACTION: Mr. Martin made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2006, meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.
III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Contract with Northeast Florida Regional Council Concerning Regional Evacuation Study

B. Transportation Disadvantaged Board Membership Certifications - Dixie and Gilchrist Counties

Vice-Chair Ellis asked if there were questions regarding the items on the Consent Agenda and requested that these items be approved.

ACTION: Mr. Martin made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

A. Resolution of Appreciation - Malcolm Page

Vice-Chair Ellis asked that a Resolution of Appreciation for past services to the Council be approved for Commissioner Malcolm Page, representing Taylor County.

ACTION: Mr. Martin made the motion, with a second by Mayor Davis, to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Commissioner Page. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Introduction of New Members

Vice-Chair Ellis introduced and welcomed Commissioner Jeanna Mastrodicasa, representing the City of Gainesville and Mayor Carolyn Spooner, representing the City of Starke.

C. Appointment to Clearinghouse Committee - Stephen Witt

Vice-Chair Ellis asked that the appointment of Stephen Witt as a member of the Clearinghouse Committee be approved as recommended by the Chair.

ACTION: Mayor Davis made the motion, with a second by Ms. Donovan, to approve the appointment of Stephen Witt as a member of the Clearinghouse Committee, as recommended by the Chair. The motion carried unanimously.
D. Appointments to the Program Committee

1. Donnie Hamlin
2. Buddy Lamb

Vice-Chair Ellis asked that the appointments of Donnie Hamlin and Buddy Lamb as members of the Program Committee be approved as recommended by the Chair.

ACTION: Mayor Nobles made the motion, with a second by Mr. Martin, to approve the appointments of Donnie Hamlin and Buddy Lamb as members of the Program Committee, as recommended by the Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Certificates of Service for Council Employees

1. Steve Dopp - 20 Years
2. Dwayne Mundy - 20 Years

Scott Koons, Executive Director, introduced Mr. Steve Dopp, Senior Planner in the Council’s Regional and Local Programs Division and Mr. Dwayne Mundy, Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance Program Director. Mr. Mundy joined the Council staff on October 22, 1984 and Mr. Dopp joined the Council staff on January 2, 1985. Vice-Chair Ellis presented 20-year Certificates of Service and 20-year service pins to these employees. Mr. Koons and Vice-Chair Ellis thanked them for their many years of dedicated service to the Council.

V. PRESENTATION CONCERNING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY PLANNING - DWAYNE MUNDY

Vice-Chair Ellis introduced Mr. Dwayne Mundy, Director of Public Safety and Regulatory Compliance for the Council. Mr. Mundy presented a Power Point slide show on Increasing Chemical Safety in Our Communities. Mr. Mundy reminded the Council that the week of January 21-27, 2007 had been proclaimed by the Council as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week throughout the north central Florida region. He reviewed the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and how the Local Emergency Planning Committee performs hazardous materials planning based on local needs and resources. Mr. Mundy identified the various assistance the Local Emergency Planning Committee provides through hazardous materials training and exercises, compliance assistance, emergency planning and public education.
Vice-Chair Ellis thanked Mr. Mundy for his presentation.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee - Removal of Surplus Property from List of Capital Assets

Scott Koons, Executive Director, reported that the items listed below are computer hardware of out-dated technology, with related equipment and software. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that this hardware be declared surplus property and that approval be given to dispose of this equipment in accordance with Council policy, which will result in having it removed by the Council’s refuse disposal service.

Inventory #3068   Dell 3500 Laptop Computer, Serial #FT63K
Inventory #3075   Dell Dimension Computer, Serial #8JKNU
Inventory #3079   Dell 7500 Laptop Computer, Serial #VY7D7
Inventory #3084   Dell Dimension Computer, Serial #DMX8801
Inventory #3085   Sony Laptop Computer, Serial #32000753
Inventory #3088   Dell Dimension Computer, Serial #4HW2V01

**ACTION:** Mr. Maultsby made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Valentine, to declare the above listed computer hardware as surplus property and to approve the disposal of this equipment in accordance with Council policy. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Clearinghouse Committee

Ms. Sandra Haas, Clearinghouse Committee Chair, reported that the Clearinghouse Committee met with a quorum on January 10, 2007 and reviewed six items on behalf of the Council as per Clearinghouse Committee procedures for local government comprehensive plan amendments with response deadlines prior to the next regularly-scheduled Council meeting. The reviewed items were:

#18 - Lafayette County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 07-1)
#19 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 07-1)
#27 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 07RAEC1)
#28 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 07RAEC2)
#29 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 07-1)
#30 - Taylor County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 07-1)

She reported that a copy of the Committee reports for these items were included in the packet mailed to each Council member.
Clearinghouse Committee Chair Sandra Haas, reported that the Clearinghouse Committee members met earlier in the evening without a quorum and reviewed seven Committee-level items which require Council action. She stated that the recommendations being put forth are unofficial recommendations of the Committee members present. The reviewed items were:

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments

#17 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments (DCA No. 06-1ER)

#26 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DCA No. 06-1)

#31 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment (DCA No. 06-1ER)

#35 - City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 07-1)

#36 - Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments (DCA No. 07-1)

#37 - Town of Fort White Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 06-CIE1)

#39 - Town of Brooker Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment (DCA No. 07-1)

(Item added to agenda)

Ms. Haas stated that, with regard to Items #17 - Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendments, Item #26 - Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment and Item #31 - Dixie County Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment, the Committee members present found that the comprehensive plans, as amended, remain consistent with the regional plan. She stated that the Committee members present recommended forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

**ACTION:** Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Mr. Painter, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee members recommendation concerning Item #17, Item #26 and Item #31. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Haas stated that the Committee members present reviewed Item #37 - Town of Fort White Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment and Item #39 - Town of Brooker Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendment. She reported that the Committee members present found no adverse impacts to regional facilities, Natural Resources of Regional Significance, or adjoining local governments and that the Committee members present had no Objections, Recommendations, or Comments. Furthermore, the Committee members present found the Comprehensive Plans, if amended as proposed, would remain consistent with the regional plan. She stated that the Committee members present recommended forwarding these findings to the respective local governments and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.
 ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Ms. Donovan, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee members recommendations concerning Item #37 and Item #39. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Haas reported that the Committee members present also reviewed Item #35, City of Starke Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments. She stated that the Committee members present found that the proposed amendments would not adversely affect Natural Resources of Regional Significance or adjoining local governments. However, significant adverse impacts may occur to U.S. Highway 301 and State Road 100, which are part of the regional road network, as a result of City item R0606023. She stated that the Committee members present therefore recommended forwarding one Objection and Recommendation regarding potential adverse impacts to U.S. Highway 301 and State Road 100 as a result of this item and recommends the preparation of an Objections, Recommendations, and Comments report to address this concern. Ms. Haas stated that the Committee members present recommended forwarding these findings to the City of Starke and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.

 ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Ms. Donovan, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee members recommendations concerning Item #35. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Haas reported that the last item reviewed by the Committee members present was Item #36 -Columbia County Comprehensive Plan Draft Amendments. She reported that the Committee members present found that the proposed amendments would not adversely affect Natural Resources of Regional Significance. However, the Committee members present found that County Item CPA 0146 may adversely impact the City of Lake City, and that significant adverse impacts may occur to U.S. Highway 90, which is part of the regional road network, as a result of County Items CPA 0146 and CPA 0161. She reported that the Committee members present therefore recommended forwarding two Objections and Recommendations regarding potential adverse impacts to U.S. Highway 90 as a result of these items.

Ms. Haas added that the Committee members present also recommended forwarding two Comments regarding updating regional road segments contained in the County Comprehensive Plan to reflect recent changes to road segment numbers and road segment beginning and ending points made by the Florida Department of Transportation, as well as updating the County Comprehensive Plan 5-year schedule of capital improvements to reflect recent changes made to the Florida Department of Transportation 5-year work program. Finally, Ms. Haas stated that the Committee members present recommended the preparation of an Objections, Recommendations, and Comments report to address the Objections and Recommendations. Ms. Haas stated that the Committee members present recommended forwarding these findings to Columbia County and the Florida Department of Community Affairs as regional comment.
ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Ms. Donovan, to approve the Clearinghouse Committee members recommendations concerning Item #36. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Finance Committee

1. Accept FY 2005-2006 Audit Report

2. Authorize Payment of Auditor

Commissioner Randy Hatch, Secretary-Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that the Finance Committee met earlier in the evening and reviewed the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Annual Audit as prepared by Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants. He stated that the audit conforms with both federal regulations and the rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida and the new Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 34 requirements and that there were no issues or concerns documented. Commissioner Hatch stated that the Finance Committee recommended acceptance and approval of the FY 2005-2006 Audit and recommended final payment be made to the auditors.

ACTION: Commissioner Hatch made the motion, with a second by Dr. O’Neil to accept and approve the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Annual Audit and to make final payment to the auditor, Powell and Jones, Certified Public Accountants. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

A. Legislative Update

Mr. Koons reported that the regular session of the legislature will start in March 2007. He stated that there are several issues concerning regional planning councils that may be considered by the Legislature during the upcoming session. South Florida Regional Planning Council is requesting that the time period for regional planning councils to review local government comprehensive plans and comprehensive plan amendments be increased from 30 to 60 days to allow more time for staff to coordinate with affected local governments and appropriate regional review agencies to develop a recommendation and submit its recommendation to the Clearinghouse Committee and the Council for review.
Mr. Koons reported that the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is proposing the establishment of an employer-assisted housing program to be administered by the 11 regional planning councils. The regional planning councils would conduct workshops and meet with employers to provide technical assistance in designing employer-assisted housing opportunities. Funding would be provided by the State Affordable Housing Assistance Trust Fund.

Finally, Representative Mike Davis, Chairman of the House Community Affairs Committee, is considering a proposal concerning regionalism. Mr. Koons added that the proposal may include the development of regional visions, new strategic regional policy plans, a new State plan, targeting State funding based on the regional visions and plans and means to measure progress towards achieving the regional visions.

B. Buy-Out Proposal from Florida First Capital Finance Corporation

Mr. Koons reported that three years ago the North Central Florida Areawide Development Company sold its small business portfolio to the Florida First Capital Finance Corporation. The agreement selling the portfolio provided that one-half of the servicing fees on the balance of outstanding loans be remitted to the Council. He reported that to date, the Council has received approximately $79,000 in servicing fees. He added that he was contacted last month by the President of the Florida First Capital Finance Corporation to find out if the Council was interested in a lump sum purchase of the portfolio. Mr. Koons stated that he will bring any buy-out proposals received from Florida First Capital Finance Corporation before the Council at a future meeting for consideration.

Mr. Koons reported that applications are being accepted for the Director of Regional and Local Government Programs position and a Senior Planner position vacated last month by Ms. Enid Ehrbar. He further reported that Mr. Brian Waterman, Senior Planner in the Transportation Planning Division has accepted a position as Planning Director for Johnson County, Indiana and Ms. Rachael Swaysland, Associate Planner for Regional and Local Government Programs has accepted a position in the private sector.

Ms. Susan Poplin from the Florida Department of Community Affairs thanked the Council for the warm reception received at the meeting. She introduced Ms. Ana Richmond, Department staff reviewer for the north central Florida region and invited Council members to call the Department with any questions or concerns.

Vice-Chair Ellis stated that the next Council meeting would be held at Tucker's Steaks & Seafood Restaurant in Lake City on February 22, 2007. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Chair

Date