

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
PINELLAS PLANNING COUNCIL
March 13, 2013

The Pinellas Planning Council (PPC) met in regular session in the County Commission Assembly Room, Pinellas County Courthouse, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida, at 3:05 P.M. with the following members present:

Jim Kennedy, Chairman, City of St. Petersburg Councilmember
David O. Archie, Vice-Chairman, City of Tarpon Springs Mayor
John Morroni, Treasurer, County Commissioner
Joe Ayoub, City of Safety Harbor Mayor
Harriet K. Crozier, City of Largo Commissioner
Dave Eggers, City of Dunedin Mayor
Doreen Hock-DiPolito, City of Clearwater Councilmember
Joanne “Cookie” Kennedy, City of Indian Rocks Beach Commissioner
Jerry Mullins, City of Pinellas Park Councilmember
Peggy O’Shea, Pinellas County School Board Member
Jim Ronecker, City of Oldsmar Mayor

Not Present:

Samuel Henderson, Secretary, City of Gulfport Vice-Mayor
Marvin Shavlan, City of St. Pete Beach Vice-Mayor

Also Present:

Michael C. Crawford, Interim Executive Director, PPC
Christopher Mettler, PPC Staff
Carolyn Shoemaker, PPC Staff
Jewel White, Managing Assistant County Attorney
Other interested individuals
Arlene Smitke, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk
(Minutes by Helen Groves, Senior Board Reporter)

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - A. Invocation and Pledge
 - B. Identification of Members Present
 - C. Recognition of Outgoing Member

- II. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Minutes of February 13, 2013 Meeting
 - B. Financial Statement for February 2013

- C. CPA Actions
 - D. Annexation Report – February 2013
 - E. Preliminary April 2013 Agenda
 - F. Correspondence
- III. PUBLIC HEARING - To begin at 3:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as agenda permits
- A. Public Hearing Format Announcement and Oath
 - B. Amendments to the Countywide Future Land Use Plan:
 - Subthreshold Amendments
None
 - Regular Amendments
None
- IV. REPORTS/OTHER ACTION
- A. Countywide Plan Update (Verbal)
 - B. Annual Countywide Plan Map Assessment – Status Report for 2012
- V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ITEMS
- A. PPC/MPO Unification Update – Joint MPO/PPC Executive Committee Membership
 - B. Preliminary Budget Discussion for FY 14
 - C. Verbal Reports
- VI. OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS
- A. Chairman/Member Items
- VII ADJOURNMENT

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kennedy called the meeting to order at 3:05 P.M. and welcomed those in attendance.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

The Invocation was given by Mayor Eggers, following which he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

IDENTIFICATION OF MEMBERS PRESENT

A roll call was taken in which the members introduced themselves.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING MEMBER

Chairman Kennedy recognized Oldsmar Mayor Jim Ronecker for his selfless service to the PPC and the City of Oldsmar from 2007 to 2013, noting that during that time he served as Secretary, Vice-Chairman, and Chairman of the Council and served on various other councils, boards, and agencies throughout the community. Mayor Ronecker expressed his appreciation to the PPC staff for their assistance, especially that provided by Ms. Shoemaker during the year he served as Chairman; whereupon, Chairman Kennedy presented Mayor Ronecker with a plaque in appreciation of his outstanding service. Later in the meeting, Commissioner Morroni and Mayors Archie and Eggers expressed their appreciation for Mayor Ronecker and extended best wishes and hope for his continued community involvement.

CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED

Chairman Kennedy presented the Consent Agenda items, as follows:

- A. Minutes of February 13, 2013 Meeting
- B. Financial Statement for February 2013
- C. CPA Actions
- D. Annexation Report – February 2013
- E. Preliminary April 2013 Agenda
- F. Correspondence

Mayor Eggers moved, seconded by Mayor Archie and carried, that Consent Agenda Items A through F be approved (Vote 11–0).

PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

REPORTS AND OTHER ACTION

- A. Countywide Plan Update – Received

Mr. Crawford reported that Phase II of the update of the Countywide Plan is solidly underway; that work on the transportation corridors and activity centers and how they relate to land use is ongoing; and that the meeting with the Transportation/Land Use Working Group will be held later this month with the help of Tindale-Oliver & Healey Consulting Services. He related that staff has been reviewing the local planning efforts of the various

municipalities, including the City of Clearwater U.S. Highway 19 Study, the City of St. Petersburg Central Avenue Redevelopment Plan, and the Largo Mall Activity Center; and that the efforts will be recognized on the future vision map so as to give them a head start on any future process. He indicated that the timeline called for the update of the Plan to be adopted in October, but the adoption will probably be delayed.

B. Annual Countywide Plan Map Assessment – Status Report for 2012 – Received/Discussed

Mr. Mettler indicated that the annual status report is a summary review of the Countywide Plan Map amendments approved in 2012, a review of the intensity standard adjustments that exceeded the Countywide Rules standards that were approved by local governments, and a review of how the local governments addressed the conditions and supplemental recommendations associated with Council recommendations.

Mr. Mettler reported that there were 17 applications for map amendments, one of which was withdrawn; that the Council recommended approval on 15 of the 16 applications; and that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), acting as the Countywide Planning Authority (CPA), approved all 16 applications, five of which were Subthreshold Amendments. Noting that the Council has indicated concern about the retention of industrial land in the county, he reported that while approximately 11 acres was lost in 2012, there has been a net gain of 80 acres of industrial-designated land in the last six years.

Pointing out that the Countywide Rules were amended in 2000 to replace the reporting requirement with a notification provision when the standards are exceeded, Mr. Mettler related that feedback from local governments indicate that no adjustments or variances from the floor area ratio and impervious surface ratio standards were granted this year, noting that this indicates to the PPC staff that the Countywide Rule Standards are adequate to accommodate development proposals in the county.

Mr. Mettler discussed the conditions and/or supplemental recommendations the Council attached to three of the 16 applications for Map amendments in 2012 and those which have not been resolved previously, as summarized in Support Document 1 to the agenda packet, which has been filed and made a part of the record. He related that staff has concluded that the challenging economic conditions prevented some of the cases from being resolved; and that staff will be using the responses from the local governments to ensure the conditions and supplemental recommendations are implemented.

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In response to query by Mayor Eggers as to whether a PPC staff member could attend an upcoming workshop in the City of Dunedin about the former Nielsen property, which consists of approximately 25 acres of industrial land, Mr. Crawford indicated that a member of the PPC staff would be happy to attend the meeting and agreed to work with Dunedin Planning and Development Director Greg Rice, noting that he has a very good working relationship with Mr. Rice; whereupon, Commissioner “Cookie” Kennedy related that Mr. Crawford and Linda Fisher had attended a Barrier Islands Governmental Council (BIG-C) meeting to update the beach communities about the Countywide Plan update; that the members found the meeting very informative; and suggested that the Dunedin City Commission might find an update by the PPC staff to be quite helpful.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ITEMS

A. PPC/MPO Unification Update – Joint MPO/PPC Executive Committee Membership Received/Discussed/Provided Direction

1. Advisory Committee on Pinellas Transportation (ACPT)

Mr. Crawford indicated that the ACPT is meeting twice a month, noting that a lot of work needs to be done if the transportation referendum is to be on the ballot in November 2014; that the next meeting of the ACPT will be March 19 at the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) office; and that the group will be discussing consolidating the transportation plans, branding them, and determining how to get the word out to the public. He discussed the make-up of the ACPT executive staff, indicating that it consists of Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Interim Director Sarah Ward, PSTA Chief Executive Officer Brad Miller, Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) Executive Officer Bob Clifford, and himself, noting that he is becoming more involved so that he can better assist the PPC Council members that serve on the Committee. He indicated that in order to move the discussion forward, the committee has accepted baseline financial assumptions relative to the general parameters of the cost of the transportation plan and how the penny tax money will be divided up; that the PSTA has approved the financial assumptions; and that they were discussed at the MPO meeting today and will be on next month’s agenda for possible endorsement.

2. Recertification of MPO

Mr. Crawford provided an update on the recertification, or re-designation, process for the MPO, relating that a meeting with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will be held April 4 at 1:30 P.M. to discuss whether there will be a single Pinellas County MPO or a regional MPO consisting of Pinellas, Pasco, and Hillsborough Counties and how to respond to the FDOT letter on the re-designation process, noting that the outcome of the re-designation will affect the unification of the PPC and the MPO and the Special Act, as unification depends on there being a single MPO.

3. Joint MPO/PPC Executive Committee Membership

Mr. Crawford reported that County Commissioner Karen Seel has asked that the Joint MPO/PPC Executive Committee convene in April. He pointed out that the last meeting of the Executive Committee was in April of 2012; that there has been a change in membership of the PPC since the last meeting; and that three of the former members of the Executive Committee will not be members of the PPC in April and will need to be replaced, noting that Commissioner Cookie Kennedy remains the ex officio member. He indicated that, historically, when the PPC sets up separate committees, it has selected its officers, but that the members of the MPO/PPC Executive Committee served according to their involvement or interest.

Upon Chairman Kennedy's call for a nomination, Mayor Ronecker moved, seconded by Councilmember Mullins, that Chairman Kennedy be selected to serve as a PPC Representative on the Joint MPO/PPC Executive Committee; and further moved, seconded by Councilmember Mullins, that Mayors Archie and Henderson also be selected to serve; whereupon, Commissioner Morroni expressed concern that should the motion carry, it would result in five municipal members and only one County Commissioner serving on the Executive Committee.

Thereupon, Mayor Ronecker changed his nomination to the PPC officers, Chairman Kennedy, Vice-Chairman Archie, and Treasurer Morroni, and the seconder concurred.

Councilmember Mullins related that at today's MPO meeting, Commissioner Seel had said that she did not think the regionalization would occur this year, but it might go through in later years; and that she seemed to think it was inevitable that there would be a regional MPO. He expressed concerns as to the advisability of combining the PPC with the MPO at this time, stating that a tri-county MPO would have nothing to do with the work that the PPC does. Chairman Kennedy explained that the reason for regionalization is so the members of both groups can serve on one board; and that the PPC will continue to exist because it is a creation of

State legislation and the MPO will continue to exist because it is a creation of Federal legislation, and that there will be two different organizations within the same Board; whereupon, Mr. Crawford noted that there will be other chances to keep the MPO singular; and that he thought Commissioner Seel had been expressing her support for more regionalization and coordination in general.

Upon call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously (Vote 11-0).

B. Preliminary Budget Discussion for Fiscal Year 2014 Received/Discussed/Provided Direction

Mr. Crawford discussed the general parameters of the budget, noting that the budget presentation to the County comes in April this year rather than March. He provided background information about the budget, noting that it had first appeared that the tax values were going to drop again for the upcoming fiscal year, but, instead, a Countywide 2.5 percent increase in values is expected for both 2014 and 2015. He discussed ways the PPC has been able to save money for the past few years, the tax revenue deductions, and the reserves, and stated that staff is looking for ways to reduce the budget this year and next year in order to avoid a millage increase, but that it would be more difficult as time goes on. He indicated that a meeting is scheduled with the Office of Management and Budget and others to discuss how to fund the ten percent local match requirement for the MPO, and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Morroni suggested that if a millage increase is inevitable, that it would be better for the request to be made this year. During discussion, Councilmember Kennedy pointed out that if the economy improves, the PPC would be hearing more cases and would need to have staff equipped to handle the increased workload; whereupon, Mr. Crawford indicated that he would bring a set of budget options for the Council to consider.

C. Verbal Reports

Mr. Crawford discussed a case in Safety Harbor that will be on the April agenda, and advised that it would probably be a long meeting, and discussion ensued regarding that case and one in the City of Largo.

Mr. Crawford thanked Mayor Ronecker for his service to the Pinellas Planning Council and wished him luck; and congratulated Mayor-elect Sam Henderson.

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OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS

The Council members extended congratulations to Mayor-elect Sam Henderson in Gulfport and to Councilmember Jerry Mullins who will now serve as Vice-Mayor of the City of Pinellas Park.

The Members discussed the Tides Golf Course correspondence, and Commissioner Morroni reported that no application has been submitted to the BCC as of this time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:59 P.M.

Chairman