

MINUTES OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 23, 2007

MPO/VCOG/WAV CONFERENCE ROOM
2570 W. INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY BLVD., SUITE 120
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Greg Northrup
Mayor George Coleman
Mayor Robert F. Apgar
Mayor Mike Thomas
Mayor Roland Via
Mayor Mark Shuttleworth
Mayor James Vandergriff
Mayor Albert Erwin
Mayor Fredrick Costello
Mayor James Sowell
Mayor Nancy Epps
Mayor Allen Green
Council-member Art Giles
Candace Lankford

REPRESENTING

Daytona Beach Shores
DeBary
DeLand
Edgewater
Holly Hill
Lake Helen
New Smyrna Beach
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Pierson
Ponce Inlet
Port Orange
Volusia County
Volusia County School Board

Members Absent: Commissioner Reynolds, Daytona Beach; Mayor Mulder, Deltona; Mayor Thompson, Oak Hill; Mayor O'Neal, South Daytona

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Mellon, Emergency Medical Foundation/EVAC

OTHERS PRESENT

Fred Miller
Jessie Clark
Pat Drago
Sara Truhlar
Andy Kelly
Joni Hunt
Betty Holness
Eric Witt

REPRESENTING

Volusia County Schools
Volusia County Schools
Volusia County Schools
F.A.I.T.H. Workforce Housing
Volusia County Council
ERAU
Volusia County
Citizen

VCOG STAFF PRESENT

Mary Swiderski, VCOG Executive Director
Mary Curran, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

At approximately 5:00 p.m., Chairman Vandergriff called the April 23, 2007, regular meeting of the VCOG Governing Board to order.

The Roll was called and a quorum was declared present. Chairman Vandergriff then led the Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PARTICIPATION

No comments were expressed.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/RECOGNITION

None at this time.

VCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING

Mary Swiderski gave highlights from her written report that was distributed:

- Florida Legislature Proposed Plans for Property Tax Reform – information of Property Tax Conference Committee (House & Senate) members, phone numbers and e-mail addresses.
 - Also information from Florida Chamber of Commerce of Property Tax Relief Proposals.
- Relating to the Smart Growth Summit, a sample flyer was distributed; Mary Swiderski was recommending a couple of changes. Also she requested Board members' input regarding the "name" of the summit.
 - Recommendation of the Smart Growth Committee to call the summit "How Shall We Live In Volusia?"
 - On the draft flyer, prepared by the County, Mary Swiderski recommended eliminating the words "grow" and "county"; she also felt there should be an urban picture on the flyer.
 - Mayor Via suggested colors on the flyer be switched (background should be white and lettering should be green; also the wording "How shall we live in Volusia?" should all be in **bold** lettering and in all caps.

Mary Swiderski made the following announcements:

- The Florida League of Cities has a conference call Tuesday (4/24/07), at 8 AM, of current updates on legislation.
- Reminder of a local legislative discussion at 4 PM, Tuesday, at VCOG; also having conference call availability for those who cannot attend in person.
- She has taken on a second job to supplement her family income; the Board was given assurance that it does not conflict with the work or schedule of VCOG or the VLC.

Trips to Tallahassee have been cancelled until the Property Tax Conference Committee has put together a final proposal for the legislature.

CONSENT AGENDA**APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 26, 2007**

Minutes of the March 26, 2007, regular meeting of the VCOG Board had been mailed with Board members' agenda packets.

APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT – MONTH ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

Treasurer's report covering the period of March 1, 2007 to March 31, 2007, had been mailed with Board members' agenda packets. *Note: Revenues and Expenditures were within the budget for the month.*

MOTION by Mayor Apgar and **SECOND** by Mayor Erwin for approval of all Consent Agenda items, as presented; motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS**SMART GROWTH COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Mayor Northrup reported that the April 23rd Committee meeting was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. He indicated that the Committee is making good progress. County staff has worked with all the municipalities on Map A and it should be ready for approval at the next meeting. The next VCOG Smart Growth Committee meeting is May 7th [11:30 AM, MPO/VCOG/WAV Conference Room]; there will be a discussion on Transfer Development Rights.

Mayor Erwin announced as he's unable to attend that meeting, the alternate Mayor Roland Via will represent him.

Ms. Lankford inquired if Daytona Beach had come to agreement on Map A. Mayor Northrup's response was of his understanding that Daytona Beach and Deltona were now okay with Map A but he hadn't gotten any formal notice. Mary Swiderski announced that the County is putting together the page by page maps; based on having agreements from Daytona Beach and Deltona.

"HOW SHALL WE GROW" UPDATE

Mayor Via reported that the Central Florida Council of Mayors received information at their last

meeting, which other officials are also supposed to be receiving soon:

- The Central Florida Regional Growth Vision, Proposed Regional Growth Compact [it's what the group is proposing; local officials need to review the agreement language];
- The Proposed Regional Policy Framework and Action draft document [local officials are supposed to mark items and mail document back to myregion.org]
- An overlay sheet on which local officials can mark whatever size their city is on the sheet.

Mayor Via announced they [myregion.org] will be participating in the Volusia Smart Growth Summit in June. Mayor Via reminded the Board he is their mayoral representative. He repeated that local officials need to review, complete and return the documents to myregion.org so the group can assimilate final language; the final document is due out in August.

PROPERTY TAX REFORM DISCUSSION

Board members' discussions on the property tax issue, included:

- Hospital districts and funding of indigent care;
- The Florida League of Cities and Florida Association of Counties should have disseminated more information of all the cost shifts from the State to local governments; and
- Municipalities, the County and the School Board got very little public input at their budgetary meetings.

Mary Swiderski reported receiving a list of unfunded mandates from Ormond Beach; she suggested other jurisdictions submit a similar list so she can compile them into a comprehensive layout of what it is costing local governments to operate.

REQUEST by Mayor Costello that the School Board send information to VCOG and that the County put together some numbers on transportation with Karl Welzenbach's assistance.

SUGGESTED by Candace Lankford to show - on the expense side - how the CPI does not affect the majority of what jurisdictions need to spend (salaries, health care benefits, transportation, etc.); have a chart showing the CPI is not really relevant to what jurisdictions do.

SUGGESTED by Mayor Epps to include the percent local governments' pay into public safety pensions.

Mayor Via spoke of two issues that are beginning to get attention:

1) Tax shift - if the state collects 2½ cent sales tax and local governments are not collecting property tax, it equates as the state collecting property tax. Mayor Via stressed that message of tax shift has to be loud and clear.

2) An insurance issue "fixed" in a special session - there were just as many cancellations as before but insurance rates have not dropped; if anything they have gone up. Mayor Via emphasized that local officials must send a strong message to the legislature not to make a two week rush to judgement on property tax.

NEW BUSINESS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING - SARA TRUHLAR, F.A.I.T.H. WORKFORCE HOUSING CO-CHAIR

[F.A.I.T.H. - FIGHTING AGAINST INJUSTICE TOWARDS HARMONY]

Ms. Truhlar gave background information of herself and the organization. She announced that the organization focuses on an issue each year; in 2005 it was affordable housing but that is a continuing concern and overwhelming issue.

She ran a PowerPoint presentation showing:

- Statistics:
 - over past 5 years wages have increased only 10% while housing costs have increased a staggering 132%
 - of the 365 different occupations in Daytona Beach only 7% are the median wage sufficient to afford a median priced home

- Things that are affected when people cannot afford housing:
 - kids, schools, transportation & traffic, economy & jobs, health care & health
- Need involvement of:
 - public sector - elected officials, planning
 - private sector – developers; employers
 - non-profits, community groups and citizens
- Strategies to consider [see list on PowerPoint slide]

REQUEST by Mayor Costello that Ms. Truhlar come up with information of best practices relative to what public sector can do; find out what worked in Brevard, Palm Beach counties, etc. and send [Volusia] local governments a copy so officials can get with respective planners. He also wanted pictures that he can show of what affordable housing looks like in other places.

Ms. Truhlar indicated she would get a list of Board members from Mary Swiderski and she would send them information. She promised officials that they would have the [F.A.I.T.H.] group for officials at their city council/commission meetings.

RECOMMENDATION by Mayor Via that F.A.I.T.H. also make efforts to build pride in those people that want a hand-up, not a hand-out; that they take pride in their community and act as responsible citizens. Ms. Truhlar replied that the people in question are people who qualify for mortgages.

Concluding, Ms. Truhlar made a point regarding inclusionary zoning, that it integrates people of different socioeconomic levels. She also mentioned linkage fees, that in Winter Park the linkage fee they charge goes into a housing trust fund.

SUGGESTION by Mayor Epps that Ms. Truhlar consider attending Volusia Smart Growth Seminar. Ms. Truhlar thanked her and to Mayor Costello for providing a copy of the announcement flyer.

County Council-member Giles expressed appreciation to Ms. Truhlar for all her efforts. He commented of there being things local governments can do that don't cost a lot of money like expedited reviews; things officials can do through their staffs and through regulations.

Ms. Truhlar thanked the Board for giving her the opportunity to speak before them; she said Mary Swiderski has her contact information; she promised to send Board members all the information regarding ordinances, etc.

REQUEST by Mayor Via emphasizing the VCOG Board wants information from Ms. Truhlar on some of the strategies [listed on PowerPoint slide].

UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHOOL CONCURRENCY – CLAY HENDERSON, PAT DRAGO, SARALEE MORRISSEY

Mrs. Drago introduced people attending with her - Clay Henderson, Fred Miller, and Jessie Clark. She indicated they were giving the VCOG Board an abbreviated presentation of the School District's staff recommendations.

Mr. Henderson announced that the agreed upon plan discussed in January is going to be adopted in approximately 30 days. He pointed out that it is up to the elected representatives of cities to know about the approval process and when to get involved. The County Council will be initiating its comp plan amendment on implementing the Charter Amendment on May 3. The State mandates [February 2008] that local governments (i.e. Volusia School Board, the County Council, and each of the 16 cities) must agree on what is Level of Service (LOS); LOS is measured based on Concurrency Service Area. Volusia governments are required to do this earlier because of the County Charter Amendment that takes effect September 30, 2007.

Ms. Drago talked about the four working committees – Technical Committee, Executive Committee, Stakeholders Committee, and the Legislative Committee [that's VCOG]. The same topics have been discussed with each committee:

- Concurrency Service Areas - have been more easily resolved than LOS;
- Level of Service [LOS];
- Financial Feasibility - it all hinges on this; and
- Proportionate Share Mitigation - implements it.

Ms. Drago reported that TMH Consulting presented its recommendation regarding LOS to the Stakeholders Committee and the Technical Committee. She gave an overview of the School Concurrency Areas maps; everyone on the Technical Committee and Stakeholders Committee agreed on the Concurrency Service Areas [maps]. Ms. Drago made comments of the Technical Committee's and the Stakeholders Committee's LOS recommendations; also the District staff's recommendation and the conditions.

Members' discussions followed regarding: School Board authorized to levy up to 2 mills; and beachside condos do not have same number of children per unit as other concurrency areas.

Ms. Drago thanked the VCOG Board for the opportunity to speak with them.

WORKING WATERFRONTS AND BEACH PRESERVATION

Mayor Epps read information from a document, as distributed to Board members, regarding the marine industry:

- The recreational boaters and megayacht industry yielded nearly \$20 billion in revenue in 2005;
- In Volusia and Flagler counties, the annual economic impact has been calculated to be \$180 million;
- Due to a combination of current taxing structure of "highest and best use" along with soaring property values of waterfront lands, many private boatyards and marinas have been sold to developers;
- The elimination of marinas displaces boat owners; and so goes much of the \$180 million of marine-related jobs in Volusia and Flagler counties;
- There are four boatyards and marinas in Volusia County; if this area were to lose these properties, the private, commercial and federal entities that depend on having a boatyard would have to travel to St. Augustine or Cocoa Beach;
- The Town of Ponce Inlet has committed to protect and preserve the Working Waterfront;
 - Town recently authorized a tax deferral for working boatyards and marinas until the renewal date (10 years) or a change in the use of the property, at which time the deferred taxes would be due;
 - Town has encouraged the State Legislature to consider taxation of the properties at current use rather than highest and best use;
- The Manatee Protection Plan (MPP) is limiting the number of slips (2) per 100 feet on shoreline;
- The Town believes that partnerships with the County, the Port District, educational institutions (e.g. DBCC), and/or other municipalities may need to be considered working with boatyards to continue to make it viable to operate these businesses.

Mayor Epps emphasized that the Town of Ponce Inlet needs support of other jurisdictions.

Members' general discussions ensued of: some potential option of marine center; big push to put in more dry-stack houses; and the need to closely monitor what's happening in legislature re issue.

Mayor Epps reported on having attended the January 2007 beach preservation conference in Ft. Lauderdale. The economic impact of restored compared to non restored beaches was significant. Assessments of restored properties were up 30-50% for single-family homes; 15-38% for condos. Assessments of non-restored properties were up 15-35% for single-family and minus 2% to plus 5% for condos. Mayor Epps discussed coastal armoring, gap provisions, and material options to seawalls (geotextile sand bag system, vinyl walls, and bag system with sand cover); she passed around some examples of the materials. Mayor Epps made comments that the conference was very interesting. She encouraged other officials to consider attending one of those conferences.

UPDATE OF WAV

Mayor Apgar reported at the VCOG Executive Committee meeting was discussion whether VCOG should consider having contractual relationship with WAV. At the WAV Board meeting, they voted to terminate the WAV Executive Director and they conceptually approved a managers' proposed budget that included a contract arrangement for services by VCOG to WAV. He mentioned some other options. The amount in the proposed budget is \$53,000. On April 24th the Ad hoc Managers Committee and WAV Executive Committee are meeting to further refine budgetary numbers. Mayor Apgar asked if any VCOG Board member has objections to some type of contractual relationship [terms to be determined] between WAV and VCOG; if none, then let the Executive Committee have further discussions on this concept.

Mayor Northrup initiated discussions regarding staffing. Mayor Apgar explained that under the

current proposal, $\frac{3}{4}$ of Ruth Reich's salary would be in the WAV budget and $\frac{1}{4}$ would be in the VCOG budget; based on conversations between Mary Swiderski, Joe Yarbrough and Joe Forte. In the current proposal, Deborah Green would remain a WAV employee or contract for services.

Mary Swiderski reported that the managers had approached VCOG with the contractual relationship proposal.

Discussions ensued on salary expense to VCOG. Mayor Northrup and Mayor Costello expressed concerns there be no additional expense to VCOG.

Mayor Northrup and Mayor Costello stated willingness to consider the proposal of a contractual relationship between WAV and VCOG, if there is no additional expense to VCOG.

Mayor Apgar repeated request to also empower the Executive Committee to work out details for a final proposal. No objections were expressed. Mayor Apgar commented that VCOG's concerns will be shared at the Ad hoc Committee meeting.

There was general discussion regarding the WAV membership and it having a viable future.

Chairman Vandergriff determined the Board's consensus is to proceed working on the proposal as long as there's no additional cost to VCOG.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Board members had no additional comments.

ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business to come before the VCOG Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 P.M.

AS SUBMITTED, THE FOREGOING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD WERE APPROVED IN AN OPEN MEETING HELD ON MAY 21, 2007, IN THE MPO/VCOG/WAV CONFERENCE ROOM AT 2570 W. INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 120, DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA.

VCOG, INC.


Chair

ATTEST:


Recording Secretary