



Council Minutes

November 13, 2006
10:00 a.m.

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Chair, Mr. Robert Kersteen, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County
Vice Chair, Ms. Jill Collins, Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County
Secretary/Treasurer, Commissioner Scott Black, City of Dade City
Past Chair, Commissioner Jane von Hahmann, Manatee County
Councilwoman Mary Alvarez, City of Tampa
Commissioner Gigi Arntzen, City of Largo
Mayor Larry Bustle, City of Palmetto
Commissioner Phil Collins, City of Treasure Island
Vice Mayor Larry Crowley, City of South Pasadena
Commissioner Bill Dodson, City of Plant City
Mayor Ward Friszolowski, City of St. Pete Beach
Dr. Lois Gerber, Gubernatorial Appointee, Manatee County
Mr. Housh Ghovae, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County
Reverend James T. Golden, City of Bradenton
Mr. Michael Guju, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County
Mr. Kenneth Hoyt, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Vice Mayor Janice Miller, City of Oldsmar
Councilperson Carlen Petersen, City of Clearwater
Vice Mayor John Phillips, City of Gulfport
Commissioner Robin Saenger, City of Tarpon Springs
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County
Mr. Philip Waller, Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County
Commissioner Robert Stewart as alternate for Commissioner Kenneth Welch, Pinellas County
Councilman Earnest Williams, City of St. Petersburg
Mr. Bob Clifford, Ex-officio, Florida Department of Transportation
Mr. Todd Pressman, Ex-officio, SWFWMD
Ms. Brenda Williams as Alt., Ex-officio, Department of Environmental Protection

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Mr. Richard Albrecht, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pasco County
Councilor John Counts, City of Seminole
Mr. Julian Garcia, Jr., Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County
Commissioner Ken Halloway, City of Temple Terrace
Commissioner Deborah Kynes, City of Dunedin
Deputy Mayor Matthew McCaffery, City of New Port Richey
Commissioner James McCormick, City of Safety Harbor
Commissioner Mark Sharpe, Hillsborough County
Commissioner Steve Simon, Pasco County
Vice Mayor Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park
Ms. Kathleen Wolf, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pasco County
Ms. Michelle Miller, Ex-officio, Enterprise Florida

OTHERS PRESENT

Trisha Neasman, Planner, SWFWMD
Shawn College, Exec. Planner, Hillsborough Planning Commission
John Healey, Planner, Hillsborough County
Kevin Ashley, Principal Planner, EHA, Inc.
Ernest Gerloch, President, GECl
Louis Miller, Executive Director, Tampa Int'l Airport
Trudy Carson, Dep. Director Air Service, Tampa Int'l Airport
Nadine Jones, Director Planning/Env. Programs, Tampa Int'l Airport
Judy Los, Molly & Jos
Brian Smith, Planning Director, Pinellas County

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Manny Pumariaga, Executive Director
Mr. Roger Tucker, Legal Counsel
Mr. Avera Wynne, Planning Director
Ms. Wren Krahl, Manager of Admin./Public Information
Mr. John Jacobsen, Accounting Manager
Ms. Suzanne Cooper, Principal Planner
Ms. Lori Denman, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Bill Lofgren, Principal Planner
Mr. John Meyer, Principal Planner
Mr. Greg Miller, Senior Planner
Mr. Patrick O'Neil, Senior Planner
Mr. Brady Smith, Senior Planner
Mr. Mike Spina, Senior Planner
Ms. Jessica White, Senior Planner
Ms. Kim Williams, Communications/Graphics Coordinator

Call to Order - Chairman Kersteen

The regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council was called to order by Chairman Kersteen on November 13, 2006 at 10:09 a.m.

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Jane von Hahmann, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call - Recording Secretary

A quorum was present. One voting conflict was filed.

Chairman Kersteen welcomed the new Council member from the City of Treasure Island, Commissioner Phil Collins. Mayor Mary Maloof is scaling back on her many activities and decided to stop down from the Council. She has served the Council since 1997, and has fulfilled many roles. She has served on the Executive/Budget Committee, the Building Committee, Clearinghouse Review Committee, and has been the long-time Chair of the Agency on Bay Management. Because of her extensive involvement with the Council, over the years she has received plaques, prints, paper weights, key rings, and of course pens. In recognition of her dedication, Mayor Maloof was presented with two framed Edna Hibel fine art porcelain ornaments.

Mayor Maloof said serving on the Council was an opportunity of a lifetime and thanked Mr.

Pumariega, the Council members, and staff for their dedication to the Regional Planning Council and for their commitment, as well as friendship over the years.

1. **Approval of Minutes** - Secretary/Treasurer Black
The minutes from the October 9, 2006 meeting were approved. (Hoyt/Bustle)
2. **Budget Committee** - Secretary/Treasurer Black
The Financial Report for the period ending 09/30/06 was approved. (Collins/Todd)
3. **Consent Agenda** - Chairman Kersteen
The Consent Agenda was approved. (Alvarez/Friszolowski)
4. **Item(s) Removed from Consent Agenda and Addendum Item(s)** – None
5. **Review Item(s) or Any Other Item(s) for Discussion** – None
6. **Mr. Louis Miller, Executive Director, Hillsborough Aviation Authority**
Tampa International Airport recently unveiled plans for its Skyward 2025 master plan development which is needed to meet the economic and population growth of the Tampa Bay area. The total population in the Tampa Bay area is anticipated to increase by 19 percent between 2005 and 2020 – from 3,776,611 to 4,679,400. Total passenger traffic is projected to soar from 19 million passengers in 2005 to 38 million passengers by 2025. The airport also released its 2006 Strategic Business Plan which outlines the three design and construction phases to build the new north terminal complex which will replicate the existing terminal.

Mr. Miller provided an overview of the Master Plan and the entire presentation is available on our web site: <http://www.tbrpc.org/councilagendas/councilpresentations.htm>, November 2006.

Questions & Comments:

- Vice Mayor Phillips: I have traveled all over the world and I think the Tampa Airport can be used as a model, except at 4:00 a.m. this morning when I was leaving the airport - what is going on with the exit road? I ended up heading straight into Clearwater when I was trying to get to St. Petersburg.
- Mr. Miller: That just happened and it is amazing that happened to you this morning because that switch came about last night. Right now you wouldn't have that problem. There was a mix up in signage during the switch.
- Mr. Guju: How does the St. Pete/Clearwater airport fit into the scheme. I saw that the Tampa International Airport is the "regional" manager for a number of airports, but not the St. Pete/Clearwater airport.
- Mr. Miller: The airports we operate are only Hillsborough County. The St. Pete/Clearwater airport is operated by Pinellas County.
- Councilwoman Alvarez: Being a resident of Tampa, I am extremely proud of the airport and of you for taking it to where it is. Are you taking into consideration the new technology and the new planes that might be coming in the next 20-25 years?

Mr. Miller: Yes, we have actually planned for the new large aircraft (the new Airbus 8380) and we are watching the smaller jets and we plan for that. We plan the future based on all relative data. We have seen a change in the size of airplanes flying into Tampa. Unfortunately they are getting smaller and that clogs up the airspace, but we will see that shift around.

Ms. Todd: You referenced a Regional Transit Authority, are there any real plans to develop something like that where we could actually get people from the different airports and the areas commuting with each other?

Mr. Miller: I don't know, if I said Regional Transit Authority I meant to say Regional Transit Service that would serve the region. I know there are a lot of people, like the Tampa Bay Partnership, talking about creating a Regional Transit Authority. We would have nothing to do with that. For example, Washington National Airport, which probably all of you have flown in to, has 2 million passengers a year less than Tampa - they have 17-19 million. And 17-20 percent of their customers use the Metro. They have less than half the number of parking spaces than Tampa. So, if we can ever have a transportation system within the entire region - that's what we are talking about. We wouldn't take the lead on something like that, we rely on the community to do it and we want to make sure we are "rail ready" once the community starts to do it.

Mr. Hoyt: When I decided to set up my business in Tampa, and I knew I would be traveling around the world, people wondered why I chose a destination that was kind of a long way away from all the big hubs. In the end it has worked out for me. Wherever I went I always ended up mentally comparing that airport with this airport and this airport has consistently, since it was built, been in the top 2-5 airports in the world. When you think back on how the process was done you realize we had a little bit of luck along the way. One of the places we had luck is that there has only been 2 executive directors of this airport during its entire history. George Bean and Louis Miller, for the last ten years. That type of management, along with a small board of solid people representing both public and private sector, have guided it. It doesn't levy a tax. You do receive some government money for different things, but you don't levy a tax. This is a great case where government actually can take on major projects involving a lot of new technology and attract good people to do it. I congratulate you.

Reverend Golden: Was there coordination/collaboration in terms of increasing the number of passengers?

Mr. Miller: We reached out to the entire community and put an expert panel together about 3 years ago. Mr. Pumariega sat on this panel and we looked at 6 different scenarios for passenger demand, what makes people come to Tampa Bay, and what types of passengers.

Reverend Golden: Notwithstanding all the planning that you are doing, are you alluding to the fact that you wish we would build some sort of regional transit capabilities? It seems that once I get out of the airport it takes 55 minutes to get to I-275.

Mr. Miller: What FDOT is doing right now with this program, and when it is totally completed, it will be much better. We are in phase 1 and there are two more projects. The airport roads will be widened and we can build more parking, but you are right. At some point people will need alternative transportation. We can handle the airport for a long time but the congestion getting to and from the airport we have no control over.

Reverend Golden: I know, but you could help us by saying people are missing their planes because they can't get into the airport.

Mr. Miller: We are starting to say that and that's why we are studying this regional transit center.

Mr. Kersteen: Is there a paper copy of those numerous facts in your presentation? Also, would there be an entrance exit onto Hillsborough Avenue?

Mr. Miller: We will provide a paper copy for you, and no, there will not be an exit onto Hillsborough Avenue for at least the next 20 years. In the future, yes, probably 30-35 years from now.

Mr. Ghovae: My plane landed at the airport this morning at 8:45 a.m. and I was in this office by 9:30 a.m., and that included picking up baggage. That is commendable. When I was making the reservation I had confidence that I was not going to miss this meeting and that's really important.

Mr. Kersteen: Board members have been on many travels and visited many airports through the last several years and Tampa is absolutely the best and most friendly for passenger traffic.

Commissioner Stewart: Congratulations to Mr. Miller and his staff for the great job and leadership provided. One of the personal issues that I see as all this expansion takes place is curbside pick up. First of all, has the staging area with cell phones been a success? Has that taken some of the problem off? For a lot of folks that is the toughest issue of getting out of the airport.

Mr. Miller: On a busy day 1,000 cars are using cell phones. We also have the first hour of free parking in the garages to allow you to not have to go to curbside. More importantly, once we get all the taxicabs off the curbside and all the commercial vehicles and only have the curbside for arrivals of the public, that will make a big difference driving into the airport. That will help as well. We will always have curbside management. Those roads haven't changed since we opened in 1971, and we can't widen them anymore so we have to make it work.

Ms. Collins: One thing that has always impressed me about Tampa when I first moved here is how you offer that service so people can drive through and stop. A lot of airports don't have that. That's a really great service that I think we take for granted.

Commissioner Stewart: After 2016 when all of this planning is completed is there much land left for future development beyond?

Mr. Miller: In 2016 we are only going to have just a small part of this done, only 14 gates out of a possible 50 gate expansion.

Commissioner Stewart: One last comment, several years ago I wrote a letter to Louis Miller and to Roger Sweeney of PSTA and said *why could we not have bus service from Pinellas County to Tampa International?* And Mr. Miller, in his typical big region thinking said *I think we can do that*, from his perspective. From the PSTA perspective I got an answer that said *we can't do that*. That is so discouraging when we all would vote that we need to have regional transit service and let's get started. We can't even get bus service from Pinellas County to Tampa International Airport. I'm thinking the circulation and the 20,000 parking spaces that are mostly filled, we ought to be able to have that type of service. We need to stay focused on it. I thank you for your positive response to that letter. Our issue, in this case, is with Pinellas County.

Mr. Kersteen: When I served as a Councilman in St. Petersburg I wrote a letter to Mr. Miller and at that time it said "welcome to Tampa" on all the boards. I suggested that he welcome to Tampa/St. Pete/Clearwater. That happened within a month or two and it is still there. Thank you.

7. **Council Members' Comments** - Chairman Kersteen

Commissioner Black: Besides the City of Tampa I think we almost monopolized the Local Governments Events Calendar. I want to ask everyone to put the dates on their calendars for Dade City - we like to do Christmas.

Councilman Williams: I know there are going to be new appointments and to the people that will be leaving I want to say that I really appreciate all the comments and all of the work that they have brought to this Council. They will be missed. Their comments will be missed and I want to say thank you.

8. **Program Reports**

A. **Agency on Bay Management (ABM)**

The full agency met on November 9th and was provided a report from the Army Corps of Engineers on the Tampa Harbor Reevaluation Study. The study started in 2003 to review all of the federally funded projects in Tampa Harbor, including the ship channels, and to look to the future for the needs in the changes in the Port requirements. The study was revised last year to look at only traffic congestion relief and anchorages and the scope was revised from 33 scenarios to 6. The economic analyses is underway and we expect another report from the Corps in February 2007.

The agency received an update from staff of the Department of Environmental Protection on

Gypsum Stacks and on Piney Point, which is coming to a close. New rules adopted last year have increased the requirements for free storage for rainfall in the gypsum stacks which will make them a lot safer and the rules require a lot more specific planning and funding in case of an emergency closure such as what happened at Piney Point.

Piney Point has been sold to a private holding company and a representative from that company was at the meeting. They are looking for users of that facility while the closure activities continue through 2010. FDEP will be there until at least 2010 to make sure that it is closed properly.

The agency received a summary on a recent meeting on proposed minimum flows on the lower Hillsborough River. Minimum flows and levels is something that is required on every river and lake in the state and it is pretty important, especially on the Hillsborough River because the City of Tampa and also Tampa Bay Water pull potable water from the river and the river is important to the bay. It is important to have a balance of what is taken out for people versus what is left in for the estuary. There had been a provisional minimum flow of 10 cubic feet per second and that is about 6.5 million gallons a day, which is not much. The proposed level is 20 cubic feet per second, which is double that amount and there are still a lot of questions about how they arrived at those numbers and whether or not that will actually provide the gradient of fresh water to estuary water in the river to support fish and the health of the river.

The Technical Advisory Committee of the Estuary Program has formulated comments and recommendations and we hope to be involved in the coming months.

Other news:

On November 30th there will be a meeting of various regulators, funders, users, and interest groups about a potential boat launch facility on the south end of the Skyway Bridge. ABM and the Estuary Program are coordinating the meeting at the request of Commissioner Joe McClash of Manatee County. Anyone interested was requested to contact Suzanne Cooper at ext. 32.

The next meeting will be on December 14th for committees. The next Full Agency meeting will be held on January 11th, 2007.

B. Clearinghouse Review Committee (CRC) - No Report

C. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

On October 31st we held our second workshop entitled Hazardous Materials Management and Business Recovery in a Regional Disaster Workshop. The goal is to assist those smaller companies and facilities who may have no plans or very inadequate plans for dealing with disasters in general, as they pertain to hazardous materials and the effective safeguarding of these materials during an emergency. Our turnout has been excellent, packing the room for both workshops we have held to date, and we have a third one scheduled for Tuesday, January 23rd. Following these initial sessions, we will be offering more in-depth, advanced workshops in risk assessment and risk management.

We were able to give our ammonia siren warning briefing to all of the real estate management of Harbour Island. Almost 26 people attended and we hope to be able to present the briefing to the homeowners associations and get the word out to the residents of the island as well. We

previously did briefings on Davis Islands, and hope to return there in the near future.

January 21-27, 2007 will be EPCRA Awareness Week where we seek to promote awareness of hazardous materials in the community and the need for proper safeguards. We will be bringing a proclamation to the Council next month and will follow up with letters requesting that cities and counties also declare this same week as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. We have had excellent response from your communities in the past and we look forward to the 2007 campaign as well.

The LEPC meets the last Wednesday of this month, October 29th at 10:30 am and all were invited to attend.

D. Emergency Management - No Report

E. Legislative Committee - Vice Chair, Ms. Jill Collins

In the Agenda packet you received a copy of the 2007 Legislative Issues. The Legislative Committee met over a series of two meetings to develop this year's proposed issues.

The first issue deals with Emergency Management. We are supporting policy or statutory changes to ensure that the EMPA Trust Fund keeps pace with Florida's growth and can continue to enhance emergency management programs and capabilities. We are also supporting Special Needs legislation which provides for stronger language to ensure home health care providers and dialysis providers demonstrate continuity of care at the appropriate levels during and after a disaster.

The second issue is Workforce Housing Assistance which you are all very familiar with as our Employer Assisted Housing Program. Mr. Pumariega recently met with Rep. Mike Davis from the Naples area who is interested in the program and would like us to do a presentation to the Affordable Housing Committee to secure a sponsorship in the House. We are also scheduled to meet with Senator Bennett to discuss the possibility of his sponsorship on the Senate side.

The third issue is RPC funding for all eleven regional planning councils. We are requesting that the funding be increased from \$3.3 million to \$3.45 million for all eleven RPCs and that this funding would move from the current non-recurring status to recurring status.

This year we have added a new section to the 2007 Legislative Issues entitled *Issues Under Discussion*. In this section you will find information on Recommended Changes to Chapter 380 and also information on DRI Affordable Housing Methodology Reform.

The final item is the Regional Transportation Authority. Rep. Galvano has agreed to discuss this soon to be released Regional Transit Authority Bill at the Regional Transit Roundtable on December 20th at our offices.

The Legislative Committee will be meeting on January 3rd to discuss this bill and any others that have been introduced at that time. We will most likely bring recommendations to the full Council at the January 8th meeting.

Motion to approve the proposed 2007 Legislative Issues. (Hoyt/Miller)

Reverend Golden: The Issues Under Discussion are no less important.

Vice Chair Collins: These items are more "watch" items because there are already things going on in the process. There is nothing for us to take

action on.

Reverend Golden: But I do know that the dropping of the supply side calculation - those are still in the statutes. When I talked to Senator Bennett, it is my understanding that this is still a requirement of the statute.

Vice Chair Collins: DCA is actually working on what you are talking about. The ball is rolling on this and we will keep on top of it.

Commissioner von Hahmann: Just as a matter of discussion, this is the document that will go to all of the legislators so they will see this as part of the discussion. I agree with the Reverend, we are looking for some kind of a clarification in the DRI affordable housing methodology in the existing legislation. I'm hearing that DCA may be attempting to correct that.

Mr. Pumariega: As you may recall, we sent a letter to DCA that we wanted to make sure that we are involved in that process so DCA is taking the lead as far as any statute changes, or rule changes. We sent a letter to make sure that we participate in that process. With the transition taking place in Tallahassee it may cause a delay, however, we will monitor this issue.

Mr. Hoyt: I just want to say I've been a member of the Legislative Committee for all of this discussion and I can remember when we used to meet with a blank piece of paper and write down a few things. This is our Bible for moving forward and I do not recall ever discussing which of these items was the most important, or second most important. They are all important and I think this is a real step forward and I congratulate staff and all the committee members for all the work they do.

F. Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) - No Report

G. Telework Tampa Bay - No Report

H. Economic Development - No Report

I. Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF)

Staff provided a brief recap of the RDSTF General Assembly meeting that was held on November 2nd. The draft response plan for the incident management team was adopted so that is now final, and will be distributed to the members of the team. A demonstration of the regional training website was also provided (www.dstftraining.net) and that was well received. Staff encouraged all the First Responder Agencies in the region, and especially the training departments for those agencies, to check out that website.

Staff is working to wrap up the resource database for the RDSTF to capture all of the resources that are in the region in the event of a domestic security incident. There are still a few agencies that have not sent in their updates. A few Council members received a letter in their Council folders regarding this and staff requested assistance to have those outstanding agencies contact

the proper individual so the project can be completed.

Council Recognitions – Chairman Kersteen

This past week was not only an eventful one for our nation and our state, but also an eventful one for our Regional Planning Council board. Sadly, we learned that many of our gubernatorial appointees would not be reappointed to this Council and that this would be their last meeting.

I did a compilation of the eleven RPCs and of 45 appointments, 16 or 35% were reappointed, and all the others are new. That gives you a flavor of what happened. Governor Bush believes in term limits for gubernatorial appointees and many of our fine folks have already served 2 terms on the Council. Today we need to acknowledge their contributions throughout their individual tenures with the Council.

Mr. Michael Guju, Pinellas County, has been with the Council for one term. Mr. Guju was presented with a plaque.

Mr. Housh Ghovae, Pinellas County, served on the Council for the past 6 years. He has been a dedicated individual and served on the Agency on Bay Management, the Legislative Committee and the Building Committee. As an engineer by trade, Mr. Ghovae worked tirelessly toward the goal of building our new facility. Council will always be mindful of your contributions and the donation of your expertise in making this building a reality. Mr. Ghovae was presented with a framed print.

Mr. Ghovae indicated that he has served on the board for the past 6 years and had really enjoyed his time with the Council. He worked with many wonderful people on the Council as well as the staff and said he could not have experienced the wonderful knowledge anywhere else. He felt honored to have served and stated there is a lot of talent on the board. Mr. Ghovae stated he was saddened, but understands.

Mr. Ken Hoyt, Hillsborough County, served on the Council since 2000. He has been the analytical mind of the Council. He never missed a meeting in six years until recently when a knee operation got in the way of Council business. Mr. Hoyt served on the Legislative Committee, the Agency on Bay Management, the Clearinghouse Review Committee and the Regional Planning Advisory Committee. Chairman Kersteen presented Mr. Hoyt a framed print.

Mr. Hoyt said back in the late 1990s a state representative in Tampa, Rob Wallace, asked him if he would be willing to serve on something called the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. I said yes and he handed me some forms to fill out and I submitted them. I did not know at the time that I was going to acquire a second family, and I do feel that way about this Regional Planning Council. I have very fond thoughts about all of you, including a fabulous staff. If you realize that there are about 32 of us on the Council and there is not 32 of them and it is on their shoulders. It is their work in preparing background papers, reviews, organizing site visits and supporting initiatives such as affordable housing and help making us look good. This Council, in my opinion, does look good. It has had terrific leadership under Jane von Hahmann, Bob Kersteen, and the years before that and it will continue to have good leadership in the future. This Council is almost prepared to take the next step which is instead of being a state agency that is squeezed in between a couple of layers of government, it is my opinion that this Council should evolve into a Regional Council of Governments which has statutory missions such as reviews of DRIs and so forth. In addition, it would be a shame if this organization ever loses the big picture. That periodic review that we do of where we are going to be in 25 or 40 years from now, and gets its mission as the *convener of the region* right to get local and state government thinking and talking about what that future really is for what will one day be close to 5 million people in our region. I believe that the ultimate, most important job of this Council, is to

provide leadership and cover for local government people who want to work in this direction. This is a place where they can come and do that. I thank you all, and particularly thank my new friend of eight years Manny Pumariega for being a great guy and providing the leadership that this organization needs to be successful.

Ms. Jill Collins, Hillsborough County, was a tough one to take because she was slated to accept the Chairmanship for 2007. Ms. Collins served the Council for 6 years and dedicated herself to understanding regional planning councils and preparing herself to fulfill the duties of an officer within our organization. She has served as Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee and served on the Executive/Budget Committee. She represented the Council on both the state and national level by serving as the President of the Florida Regional Councils Association and as a board member of the National Association of Regional Councils and has done so with both knowledge, dedication and grace. Ms. Collins was presented with a framed print.

Ms. Collins stated a week ago, when the elections took place and some friends were not reelected I thought how tough it was for people to have to deal with that, and then I got the call on Wednesday. It has been an honor and a privilege. I served my terms and it was a blessing. The time that I had here I will never regret and it has been wonderful. I have enjoyed serving at the state level and the national level and on the Affordable Housing Study Commission. I have developed a strong friendship with Mr. Pumariega and have learned a lot from Commissioner von Hahmann. I learned a lot about affordable housing from Reverend Golden. Ms. Todd has been a true mentor and friend. Mr. Hoyt motivated me to research something and not make decisions before checking facts and I am a better person for knowing you. I want to thank everyone for their friendship.

9. **Other Council Reports**

Nominating Committee

Chairman Kersteen explained that we were originally prepared to present the Slate of Officers with Ms. Collins as Chair for 2007. Due to the information from the Governor's office, the Slate of Officers has been modified to reflect these changes.

Mayor Friszolowski, Chair of the Nominating Committee indicated that the committee met on October 30th, 2006. A quorum was present with the following members: Mayor Friszolowski as Chair; Mr. Ken Hoyt; Reverend James Golden; and Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd. We were pleased to nominate Commissioner Deborah Kynes for Secretary/Treasurer. Commissioner Kynes has served on the Council since 2000 and has been an active member of the following committees: Executive/Budget Committee, Chair of the Legislative Committee, Arts and Cultural Steering Committee, Agency on Bay Management, and the Building Committee. The Nominating Committee members strongly agreed that she was an exceptional candidate and would do an excellent job as an officer.

The Committee also voted unanimously to present to full Council, Ms. Jill Collins as Chair, Commissioner Scott Black as Vice Chair and Commissioner Deborah Kynes as Secretary/Treasurer. Because of the recent decision regarding gubernatorial appointees, the committee would like to request a motion to move Commissioner Scott Black into the 2007 Chair position and Commissioner Deborah Kynes into the 2007 Vice Chair position.

Motion to approve Commissioner Scott Black as Chair, and Commissioner Deborah Kynes as Vice Chair. (Miller/Golden)

Mayor Friszolowski suggested the Chair appoint members to a Nominating Committee to make a recommendation for the 2007 Secretary/Treasurer.

Chairman Kersteen asked for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee. Mayor Friszolowski, Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, and Vice Mayor Janice Miller volunteered. Chairman Kersteen asked anyone interested in running for Secretary/Treasurer to turn in their name to Wren Krahl, by Wednesday November 15.

Motion to accept the Nominating Committee as volunteered (von Hahmann/Black)

Commissioner von Hahmann said change is inevitable. These people have served the Council faithfully. It is a commitment that they don't get paid to do and we will lose, as a Council, the perspective that they bring. Our new members will also bring a perspective but this Council has operated so fantastically during my 6 years since I've been here and they were so knowledgeable that I didn't realize that they had just been recently appointed. Commissioner von Hahmann thanked the departing appointees for all they have done and for their leadership. She further stated that when she first started we had to wait for a quorum and now we start on time because of the dedication of the board.

Reverend Golden stated he participated in the visioning planning at St. Pete Beach. We discussed the direction which this organization would take over the next 5-10 years. We concluded that the leadership is not overvalued because what makes an organization like this is not the leadership. Everybody here is a leader, that's how you got here. To those of you that are leaving, I promise you not the best in leadership, but I promise you we will continue our commitment of stewardship. That is what I have seen in you and what you have done. We have been able to build consensus because we have moved beyond our respective leadership concerns and considerations and have become stewards. I'm not too worried that the government has taken you out of our midst. I hope you go on to other places and bring stewardship into those settings. And if those that come after you will join us and add to the sense of stewardship that we have in this Council, we will continue to be able to do the job that we need to do for our fellow citizens. I thank you for being a part of the solution and not a part of the problem.

10. **Executive/Budget Committee Report** - Chairman Kersteen – No Report

11. **Chairman's Report** - Chairman Kersteen
Through our departing members the brain trust will be modified, to say the least.

12. **Executive Director's Report** - Manny Pumariega
Mr. Pumariega reminded the Council that there is a Property Tax Reform Committee meeting in Tampa on November 17 (Friday) at the Hillsborough County Government Center from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Reverend Golden asked if there was an agenda available and stated that Manatee County is concerned about trying to build into grand-fathering mechanisms to help keep those who didn't want to build condos or apartments on their property. I didn't know if this was the forum for that.

Mr. Pumariega stated he has not seen the agenda but understands it will discuss a lot of different issues, such as affordability of taxes and said he believes there is an opportunity for new issues to be brought forward.

Commissioner Kynes is very interested in this subject and may be attending, and Mr. Kersteen is planning on attending.

Commissioner von Hahmann said that far and above the coastal communities who have been hit from escalating assessment values that are truly taxing their abilities to continue to do business, are the business communities. Those who own our businesses, especially our small ones, they also are the brunt of the inequities caused by the constitutional amendment that set the cap for homestead properties

at 3%. This state is recognizing that from an equality standpoint there is a major issue here when it comes to taxation in the state of Florida. The Florida Association of Counties has a working group, and the League of Cities also has a working group and now the governor's appointment of this Property Tax Task Force. In my heart I believe something is coming out of Tallahassee this year on this issue. Much like the insurance, those two issues this year will have to be addressed at the state level. As much as we as local governments and you are talking about what Manatee County did for its working waterfronts and those particular businesses who were, thanks to Senator Bennett, able to, as a county, to provide them some deferment of those taxes. No forgiveness, but deferment and we did tax our ordinance and I think you are speaking of that. That is like the tiniest band-aid on this huge open wound. The state is going to have to address this and I think we need to be sure that we are in some way vocal on that as a Council.

Vice Mayor Miller: Increasing the exemption is not the answer. It hurts the cities.

Commissioner von Hahmann: They are looking more, most of the legislation I've seen, most of the conversation I've seen, really has to do with more capping assessment across the board, whether it has to do with homestead, non-homestead, or commercial properties as well as looking at the legislation that guides the property appraisers' evaluation of property. Those are the two areas that they seem to be focusing on.

Vice Mayor Miller: Ideally they should change the law where Florida doesn't stand alone with insurance companies. We should have to be included in the whole country instead of by ourselves.

Commissioner von Hahmann: But it would be the state legislators that would cause that to happen.

Chairman Kersteen suggested the discussion be carried forward after the meeting is adjourned.

Mr. Pumariega stated that when he took over in 1998 he challenged the staff to take the Council to the next level and they have responded. We couldn't do it without the support of Council members, especially the ones that are leaving today. We couldn't have done it without your support and hopefully we will continue to get that support to take us to the next level. I appreciate the support of the outgoing members and the contribution they have provided over the past six years.

Commissioner von Hahmann: Mr. Chairman, before you leave today – no one mentioned and I want to thank staff and you as Chairman, and Mr. Pumariega, for the great job you did in having DCA come and discuss SB360 and especially how we, as local governments, are going to deal with concurrency issues and especially transportation. It was an incredible turnout, over 100 people, unfortunately there were only 2 local elected officials at any level present, but a lot of staff, a lot of the development community came to want to understand the actual impact of this legislation on them. This room was packed. There was a panel of representation from DCA, transportation, attorneys from local government and attorneys who represent the development community, DOT. It was an excellent forum. Commissioner von Hahmann thanked the Chair.

Mr. Pumariega thanked Avera Wynne, Planning Director, for putting the panel together. It was a well diversified panel.

Commissioner Black expressed thanks to the Council for the opportunity to serve as Chairman next year and this is with a lot of regrets that I will not have a year to work with Ms. Collins. I grieve for her as I know she was looking forward to the opportunity to serve as the Chairman. Commissioner Black said he was looking forward to working with everyone and the staff and executive director. I also want to acknowledge one other person who is not going to be returning and that is Steve Simon. As most of you know, he did not win his reelection effort last week and that is going to be a particular void for me. I've always appreciated his insights and analysis and the ability I have had to talk to him on various issues facing Pasco County. I will miss his input next year as a member of this Council. I know we will be making appropriate acknowledgments of his efforts in the past for this Council. Thank you and best of luck to all who are departing.

Mr. Pumariaga thanked Commissioner Stewart for attending as an alternate for Commissioner Welch. He is a former chair of the Council.

Adjournment 11:45 a.m.

Lori Denman, Recording Secretary

Robert A. "Bob" Kersteen, Chairman