



Council Minutes

February 12, 2007
10:00 a.m.

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Chair, Commissioner Scott Black, City of Dade City
Vice Chair, Commissioner Deborah Kynes, City of Dunedin
Secretary/Treasurer, Reverend James T. Golden, City of Bradenton
Past Chair, Mr. Robert Kersteen, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County
Commissioner Gigi Arntzen, City of Largo
Mayor Larry Bustle, City of Palmetto
Ms. Michele Cavallo, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County
Council Member Bob Consalvo, City of New Port Richey
Commissioner Phil Collins, City of Treasure Island
Vice Mayor Larry Crowley, City of South Pasadena
Commissioner Bill Dodson, City of Plant City
Commissioner Ronnie Duncan, Pinellas County
Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Jack Mariano, Pasco County
Councilor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole
Vice Mayor Janice Miller, City of Oldsmar
Mr. Andy Núñez, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County
Mr. Frank Parker, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pasco County
Vice Mayor 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
Ms. Kim Vance, Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County
Commissioner Jane von Hahmann, Manatee County
Mr. Charles Waller, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pasco County
Mr. Philip Waller, Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County
Councilman Earnest Williams, City of St. Petersburg
Mr. Kent Fast, Alt., Ex-officio, Florida Department of Transportation
Mr. Mike Farley, Alt., Ex-officio, Department of Environmental Protection
Mr. Todd Pressman, Ex-officio, SWFWMD

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Commissioner Rose Ferlita, Hillsborough County
Councilman Charles Fletcher, City of Tampa
Mayor Ward Friszolowski, City of St. Pete Beach
Mr. Julian Garcia, Jr., Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County
Dr. Lois Gerber, Gubernatorial Appointee, Manatee County
Mr. Russell Johnson, Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County
Council Member Mark Knapp, City of Temple Terrace
Commissioner James McCormick, City of Safety Harbor
Vice Mayor Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park
Ms. Michelle Miller, Ex-officio, Enterprise Florida

OTHERS PRESENT

Shawn College, Exec. Planner, Hillsborough Planning Commission
John Healey, Planner, Hillsborough County
Trisha Neasman, Planner, SWFWMD
Eric Larrinager, Fowler White Boggs Banker
J. McClellan, SWFWMD
Chris Coughlin, Newland Communities

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
Ms. Suzanne Cooper, Principal Planner
Ms. Lori Denman, Recording Secretary
Mr. John Jacobsen, Accounting Manager
Ms. Betti Johnson, Principal Planner
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. Kim Williams, Communications/Graphics Coordinator

Call to Order - Chairman Black

The regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council was called to order by Chairman Black on February 12, 2007 at 10:08 a.m.

The Invocation was given by Reverend James Golden, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call - Recording Secretary

A quorum was present. There were no voting conflicts.

Announcements:

Chairman Black reminded Council members to mark their calendars for the 15th Annual Future of the Region Awards Luncheon on Friday, March 30 @ 11:45 a.m. at the Quorum Hotel, 700 North Westshore Blvd., Tampa.

Special Recognition:

Mr. Pumariaga stated this meeting will be the last meeting that Roger Tucker will be in attendance. It has been a privilege to have worked with Roger for 26 of the 36 years he has been providing service to the Council. Roger has left a mark in many of our programs/projects. He has been involved with the DRI process since the inception. He was involved in setting the rules and was involved with the first appeal. He was one of the principals in forming the Agency on Bay Management in 1984; and in 1987 he was one of the individuals involved with SWIM legislation that the Water Management District has been administering over the years. Roger was also one of the principals that worked in establishing the policies and procedures handbook for the National Estuary Program which has been used as a prototype for the rest of the nation.

He was the individual responsible for initiating the quarterly Bay Soundings Journal; and was a key and influential player in all phases of our office building project; and has been a key advisor during a number of re-structuring efforts of the Council. Roger has never missed a Council meeting, and most of all, Roger has kept the Council on solid legal ground over the past 36 years.

Mr. Pumariega personally thanked Roger for all his contributions to the Council and stated he always had the Council's best interest.

Chairman Black stated, with regret, that the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Retirement celebration for Mr. Tucker has been cancelled at the request of Mr. Tucker. Mr. Tucker served in the Coast Guard for 6 active years and talks often of his experiences. He is a member of the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. Mr. Tucker was presented with a replica of the US Coast Guard Eagle Cutter as a token of appreciation for his years of service. The Eagle is a three masted sailing ship with over 21,350 square feet of sail. It was commissioned in 1946 and has a home port at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. The Eagle serves as a seagoing classroom for approximately 175 cadets. Mr. Tucker was also presented with a gift card.

Mr. Tucker thanked everyone for the many good years he had at the Council. There has been a change in the makeup of the Council over the years, but it has all been for the better. The Council has a wonderful staff and he has been happy working here.

1. **Approval of Minutes** - Secretary/Treasurer Golden
The minutes from the January 8, 2007 meeting were approved. (von Hahmann/Duncan)
2. **Budget Committee** -Secretary/Treasurer Golden
The Financial Report for the period ending 12/31/06 was approved. (Kersteen/Dodson)
3. **Consent Agenda** - Chairman Black
Consent Agenda Item #3.E.1. Notice of Proposed Change Report (NOPC) - DRI #59 - Apollo Beach, Hillsborough County was pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Mr. Kersteen requested Consent Agenda Item #3.F.11. - Annual Report Summaries/Biennial Report Summaries - DRI #145-Southbend, RY 2005-06, Hillsborough County be amended. The second paragraph, first sentence, should be changed to state "*The Development Order has been amended seven times, . . .*"

The Consent Agenda was approved with Consent Agenda Item #3.F.11. to be amended.
(von Hahmann/Kersteen)

4. **Item(s) Removed from Consent Agenda and Addendum Item(s)**
Consent Agenda Item #3.E.1. - NOPC, DRI # 59 - Apollo Beach, Hillsborough County was pulled due to additions and/or revisions to the staff report. Page 10 of the report has the addition of one recommended condition for the Apollo Beach Development Order, requested by the Agency on Bay Management which states: *3. All environmental permit applications shall be provided to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's Agency On Bay Management for review and comment to the appropriate regulatory agency. Such applications shall include contingency measures to correct or remediate any failure to meet the habitat mitigation or water quality standards set forth in the permit.*

Motion to approve amended staff report. (Miller/Vance)

5. **Review Item(s) or Any Other Item(s) for Discussion - None**

6. **A. Mr. Steve Seibert, Executive Director, The Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida**
Mr. Seibert is a former Chair of TBRPC, a former Pinellas County Commissioner, and the former Secretary of the Department of Community Affairs. He is currently the executive director of the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida.

The Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida was formed as part of the growth management changes in 2005. It was a stealth part of the legislation. Senator Bennett was one of the individuals that formed the commission. The reason it was formed was, in a large part, out of frustration that the legislators felt over how complex growth management was. They saw numbers year after year of people moving to Florida and had grave concerns over environmental integrity and the educational system, etc. and found themselves dealing at the margins every year. They were dealing with interest groups of varying sizes making suggestions on what to do and no one had the big picture. It was Senator Bennett's goal to form a group that would have a longer view. The conversations about growth management have often been unsatisfactory. We were constantly dealing with the details, when the bigger questions of where we are going, what are the challenges to be faced were left unaddressed. There was no vision.

Whenever you form a new organization a lot of people ask why. The future of Florida is an uncertain one. We will face increasingly intense storm events, we are under global economic pressure, the future of agriculture is fascinating and incredibly complex. We are dealing with demographic changes, we will be older and more diverse. We have long term water and energy challenges. Land use design needs to be revamped. The whole future is difficult to put our arms around. Someone has to get a handle on the long term future of Florida. At stake is a very fundamental notion that a free people can actually govern themselves. That we can rise up and wisely address the challenges that we will face as this nation and this state have done in the past. Or, is this generation or the next simply going to passively accept what comes. Will we deal with the crisis only after it hits? I think it is appropriate on Lincoln's Birthday to actually lay this down to its core point which is: are we capable of truly governing ourselves?

The statutory responsibilities of the Century Commission are the broadest ever seen. There is no other entity in the country that has the scope of responsibilities. We are to annually envision the future of the state of Florida and recommend policies, actions, steps, legislative changes and to recommend those to the Governor and the legislature. We are to continuously review and consider statutory and regulatory provisions, governmental processes, economic trends, social trends so we can make recommendations accommodating population growth and, at the same time, maintaining Floridians' quality of life. We are to bring people together of varied interests to develop a shared image of the state. We are to look at population increases and trends. We are to create a vision, develop strategic action plans to achieve that vision utilizing 25 and 50 year planning time frames. We are to serve as a repository for exemplary community building ideas and assist others to work in collaboration on issues relating to growth management. Lastly, we are to file an annual report that will do, amongst other things, discuss the need for intergovernmental coordination, balance environmental protection and development and make recommendations regarding dedicated funds for infrastructure, transportation systems not adequately addressed by the SIS, and look at educational infrastructure to support population growth. That is what the Century Commission has been charged to do.

We are not an institution or an empire or a large body of political scientists in white coats. There are amazing folks that think all the time about any one of these issues and our job is to build a

business model where somehow you coordinate those efforts. That is precisely what we have been trying to do.

We are a repository of ideas. If we do it right we might be a factory of ideas. Based upon those ideas we will make recommendations. We think it is responsible to develop strategies for others to further those recommendations, and monitor those recommendations to help others implement those or to determine that we aren't handling them at all.

The scope of our interests as a commission are broader than any I have ever seen, which was established in our first annual report. We established 12 essential state interests. In May 2006, I asked a question of 15 commissioners - what is the Florida you fear in 2030? That elicited some pretty heartfelt thoughts and if I ask that same question to you I would suspect that 11 of the same 12 issues would probably be addressed.

The Century Commission is a 15-member commission. Five members appointed by the president, the governor and the speaker. The Chair is Mayor Rick Baker, from St. Petersburg. It is an interesting group of folks with diverse interests, and all are comfortable in expressing their views. The first report we filed last week was filed with a new Governor, a new Speaker, and a new President. There is no one sitting there that was appointed by the new administration. Arguably, that's how it ought to be. Arguably, some body ought to hold on to some historical knowledge and move forward irrespective of changes of administration. And the hope would be that over time that we just keep going.

Our scope is broader and longer at 50 years and probably with more altitude. At every meeting someone, including the executive director, tries to draw us down into the weeds of a specific issue of the day. Property insurance would come to mind. A big issue that is riveting and has everybody's attention in Florida, but other groups are dealing with that. It is not something the Century Commission should be dealing with. What we ought to be talking about is whether Florida is storm resistant in a very real continual way. It is absurd for example to think that in the next 50 years we will not have one or more Katrina size storms hit Florida. How will we handle that?

Mr. Seibert urged Council to visit the web site: www.centurycommission.org and to read the first annual report, which was filed on January 16th, 2007. There is a spot after every recommendation for your comments and a broader set of surveys for anything you want to tell us. The comments and surveys go directly to Mr. Seibert for his review.

The recommendations plant flags to either engage in or support research initiatives in energy independence, in long-term (50 year) water supply, in looking at better land use choices, and to find out what stands in the way of sustainable decision making in Florida. Grady Pridgen will talk about why it is almost impossible in Florida to really build green and that he has to go to other countries to get the regulatory relief that he needs. We have to find out what those obstacles are.

At the first meeting Senator Bennett said if we are looking at the future of Florida, we need to identify Florida's most precious critical environmental lands that must be saved. It has to be something that is discussed at length with landowners. This is one thing that we have to do for the future of Florida and this became the Critical Lands and Water Identification Project. You are probably saying we already have that information. There are all kinds of groups, both private and public, that have incredibly rich data layers; however, the problem is they tend not to sit at the same table and talk about it. The other problem is that once they draw those maps they tend not to talk to people who actually own the land.

We have planted a flag for regional visioning for the importance of the kinds of conversations the Council has, and the key to that is governor buy-in. The Governor must believe in regional problem solving with these long term issues and the Governor must direct state agencies to be respectful of that. Without that we believe it will not happen.

There are 12 or 13 recommendations and the last one I want to mention is a value study. We are trying to study groups such as TBRPC because we believe that people's values form the basis of any vision and we have to ask, we cannot assume, what people believe and what people care about. We are engaging in the Tampa Bay region a pilot study which started with some focus groups that will ultimately move into Reality Check - a very exciting project. One of the first steps of that is to really dig down and ask people not just what they care about, but why they care about it. We have lots of data that tells us what makes people angry. Traffic congestion makes me angry - why? Because I'm coming home late. Why does that make you angry? Because I've missed my kid's soccer game four times. When you get down to it, transportation planning is a function of core values. Then you can start talking about it in a way that actually matters to people.

We had asked a professor from Florida State to look at the surveys and polls that have been taken about people's attitudes toward growth in the last 20-25 years and he wrote a report (on the web site). At the end of the report he says something very important. He said it is more important what you don't know. What we don't know about what people care about, we don't know what people in rural Florida think about because we never asked them. He said we don't know what people think in the Panhandle because we haven't asked them. He said we don't know what people aspire to, except people in Central Florida. We don't know what their dreams are. We know what their frustrations are, but we don't know what their dreams are. Maybe most importantly, and this is the one where we are focusing our efforts, we don't know what trade-offs people are willing to make to create the Florida they want. We call it "creating the Florida where our kids and grandkids will want to stay." That is our mission. To create the Florida where kids and grandkids will want to stay. There are trade-offs involved in that. If traffic congestion is your problem are you willing to car pool? Are you willing to allow greater densities in the downtown area? Are you willing to do mass transit? Are you willing to do the things necessary to create a different kind of transportation system? Those are the kinds of discussions we are having and we welcome your engagement in any possible way.

The Executive Summary of the Century Commissions First Annual Report to the Governor and the Legislature was distributed.

Questions & Comments:

Commissioner von Hahmann: Thank you for being here today. I'm not going to tell you that I didn't have concerns about what you are doing. I do appreciate what is here and you have obviously put a lot of thought into the first ½ of the year and it congealed into specific ideas and goals. On a personal level I would like to thank you for placing the environment, energy, and water first. It may not have been intentional, but I agree with you that there will have to be concessions made in order to arrive at what we truly want.

Mr. Seibert: Thank you. There are no models and we are making this up as we go along. Obviously the environment is a critical issue that keeps rising up, but it would be absurd for us to say that we shouldn't address economic development, or education, which are the other two issues that keep coming up. The reason we

didn't address them in our first report is because we didn't know how to put our arms around it. I would tend to think that if we get some real attraction on values, on regional planning, on environment, storms, disaster recovery we will start to tell a story about economic development. We will start to be a place where companies will say they will invest in Florida and bring capital to Florida.

Commissioner Mariano: I appreciate all the work you are doing on green building. I watched the last meeting on TV and I think it is the ultimate future and the best way we can make Florida sustainable. As far as talking about transportation, are you looking at the old railroad lines that aren't being used? Have you thought about picking up those corridors for the 50 years down the road?

Mr. Seibert: Not yet. We are spending time with DOT as they are looking at their 50 year transportation corridor effort which is probably the most significant current planning effort happening statewide. That will decide a lot of things. That is really important to be engaged in and they have asked for our help in that. Not because we can bring planning expertise to the table, but because we can bring people to the table. One thing that I wanted to mention is maybe one of the values we have is that people will come to the table if we ask them. So conversations tend to occur that haven't typically occurred. We haven't gotten to your kind of specificity yet, but I will remember.

Reverend Golden: I'm looking at the Proposed Statutory Changes that you recommended and for the most part I have no difficulty with it, however I'm concerned about why you feel the need that the Commission should be permitted to accept financial support from outside sources as opposed to being fully funded by the budget.

Mr. Seibert: We made some fairly minor recommendations for changes in the legislation this year. Right now we are fully funded by the Florida legislature. We are asking for the ability to seek funding, as other organizations can, from outside sources to help us do our job. There are two reasons for that. The first is that there are granting agencies out there that are interested in this concept. The foundation kind of work where they may send us money but we can't accept it because we're not able to do that by law. There are some private sector entities out there that would be supportive because we are doing some things to help the future of Florida and they certainly have not been welcomed to the table. The real reason is that there is no confidence that the Commission will get adequate funding from the Florida legislature.

Reverend Golden: I don't want to beat down logic, but that's precisely my point. This ought to be worthwhile enough to make sure that it is continually funded. My fear is that the private sector or the foundation opportunist will start skewing the purity of the purpose as has happened a lot with folks who have a financial stake in the outcome. Having said all that, do you have a sponsor at this time for the recommendations that you are proposing?

Mr. Seibert: Not specifically. We have champions in both houses and a working relationship with the new governor. The legislature is obligated to form a joint special committee to address the recommendations of the Century Commission. That

committee has not yet been formed, but it will be in the next week. That would be the most logical way for us to get our specific recommendations heard cleanly and crisply and not with a lot of clutter.

Reverend Golden:

Mr. Chair, would it be inappropriate or out of order that there are three recommendations that you have. I am particularly pleased about the addition of the 3 new members to reflect the diverse character of the state; secondly, that it should be assigned to the office of the governor for purposes of administration and fiscal responsibility, and thirdly, that the executive director should serve at the pleasure of the commission. I would much rather see – are you saying that you need to have statutory authority to receive financial support? If it is in order I would like to **move that we go on record by Resolution or by letter to the Chair in support of the recommendations of the Century Commission as reflected in their first Annual Report to the Governor and the Legislature dated January 16, 2007.**

Chairman Black:

We will go ahead and send out a letter stating that our Council supports the ideas set forth by Mr. Seibert.

Reverend Golden:

The proposed statutory changes. I'm still looking to see, but I think they ought to have statutory authority to go in the direction you say you would like to go in to get beyond the partisanship component.

Mr. Seibert:

There is one request that I have. In my opinion the great black hole of all growth management thought has been the inability to truly engage people. We don't talk about this stuff very effectively with the people as a whole. I don't know if that is possible. I'm getting at that age where I'm not sure. We can have meaningful communication with massive numbers of folks about these very difficult things that will involve some personal sacrifice. But I'm not willing to give that up yet. I'm enough of a local government person to know that we do a pretty good job of it community by community, but are Floridians ready to talk about these issues? Are they really willing and interested enough - you look at citizen participation and some of the trend lines aren't very good. The question is: can we engage the citizenry and if we can, how do we do that? I don't know exactly how and I'm really interested in people giving us advice. It's one of our big pieces - citizen participation. I know you struggle with it, and everybody struggles with it. Are there mechanisms out there that we aren't utilizing? Are there methods that could be more effective?

Reverend Golden:

That is a great myth that we need to disabuse ourselves of in terms of communicating with the people. We do need to be very serious about our stewardship responsibilities. You will not communicate with everybody, but if you are doing the right thing for the right reasons then everybody will be blessed. The real problem that you have is building the trust in people that would allow you to do your work and for people to have confidence in. That's why I had the misgivings about the private funding. You are not going to be able to communicate with everybody, but you can communicate through your actions a sense of what you are doing on behalf of everybody can be trusted.

Mr. Seibert: So if the intention is right, and the trust is valid and legitimate, it will all work out.

Reverend Golden: I'm not saying it will all work out, that's a job in and of itself. Is the process being pure and unadulterated on behalf of all Floridians? I saw this when I saw one man say we are going to do this for the citizens of this state and I saw the entire insurance industry turned upside down in less than a month. It can be done. And he didn't communicate with everybody.

Taken out of order:

Chairman Black introduced Commissioner Bill Dodson and Mr. Alfred Berry and thanked them for taking part in *Celebrating Tampa Bay*.

Commissioner Dodson said the City of Plant City has always provided a strong supportive role with relationship to the Florida Strawberry Festival. This year the California market on strawberries is depressed due to weather and as a result, demand is up for Florida strawberries. The supply in Plant City is good, but it is being shipped out all over the country. The growers are very happy, working well, and shipping them out. Everything that was available over the weekend has been shipped. Commissioner Dodson distributed a Florida Strawberry Festival brochure which is very informative. Information can also be found on their web site: www.flstrawberryfestival.com.

9. Other Council Reports

Celebrating Tampa Bay: City of Plant City

Mr. Alfred Berry, Florida Strawberry Festival®, stated it was a pleasure to be before the Council and found the meeting very interesting. The Florida Strawberry Festival® is strictly volunteer work, is a 501(c)(3), and they get no money from any agency other than the people who come through the doors. There are approximately 2500 volunteers that participate. The line up of entertainment is shown in the distributed brochure. The Festival has on the line \$1,600,000 in entertainment and they need to break even. Right now they are at \$1,200,000 and the doors aren't open yet for sales or tickets to the shows. People like good clean entertainment and no beer or wine is served at the festival and you can't buy tobacco products or lottery tickets. Folks leave with an image of having a lot of fun with your family.

Mr. Berry provided a brief promotional video of the Florida Strawberry Festival. The Florida Strawberry Festival® is full of traditions and has served to preserve and enhance the agricultural and historical legacy of the strawberry. The Festival has exhibits of agriculture, commerce, industry, livestock, fine arts, horticulture, and crafts. The fabric of American life is woven into this Florida Strawberry Festival® through ethnic traditions, social events, competitive contests, youth developmental programs, top-name entertainment, parades with scores of glorious floats, and high-stepping marching bands moving to the musical beat.

The Florida Strawberry Festival® heritage dates back to 1930 when members of the newly organized Plant City Lions Club conceived the idea of an event to celebrate the bountiful harvest of the strawberries. The Lions Club and other civic organizations have participated in the Florida Strawberry Festival® throughout its history. The American Legion Post #26 is also recognized for its effort in getting the Florida Strawberry Festival® reactivated in 1948 following a six year hiatus during and immediately following World War II.

Today, the annual event has become one of the best Florida Strawberry Festival®s in the land, with its organization remaining the same as in 1930. "The Florida Strawberry Festival® Association," a community oriented organization, is governed by a board of directors from the community who annually devote many hours to establishing policies and direction for the annual event. As a result, it has never been a drain on

taxpayers, but represents the community in a superb manner. This successful event now ranks among the top 30 such events in North America.

Over 5,000 acres of strawberries are planted annually. There are some 2,600 farms in Hillsborough County producing fruit and vegetable crops with an annual value of over 400 million dollars. This county is now one of the largest agricultural counties in the nation. The diversified farm production includes strawberries, citrus, tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, squash, okra, peppers, beans, dairy products, eggs, ornamental horticulture, tropical fish, beef cattle, swine and other related products.

One of the main events of the Florida Strawberry Festival® is the annual scholarship pageant for the selection and coronation of the Florida Strawberry Festival® Queen. There are competitions and contests for youth and adults combined with exhibits of agriculture, commerce, horticulture, fine arts, livestock, homemade goods, crafts, and parades designed to satisfy the interest of all.

Country music entertainers perform each day at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise stated. There are about 4,000 free seats (**for most shows**) included as a part of the gate admission available on a first-come, first-served basis, or you may purchase reserved seats for \$15 and \$10, unless otherwise stated, depending upon location as long as they are available.

The Ride-A-Thon on the Midway allows patrons to ride most mechanical rides from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. for one low price. Children ages 5 and under are admitted to the grounds free when accompanied by a paying adult. Once inside the gates, proceed to the midway and purchase your wristband there.

King Strawberry is the highlight of the Florida Strawberry Festival®. Many strawberry delights such as strawberry shortcake, strawberry milkshakes, strawberry sundaes, strawberry cobbler, strawberry ice cream, and just plain strawberries are available for purchase by the flat or quart so that patrons may extend the pleasure at home. Strawberry plants are also available for your own production at home.

Chairman Black thanked Mr. Berry and Commissioner Dodson for their presentation and reminded Council members that *Celebrating Tampa Bay* is one of his initiatives for 2007. The City of Bradenton will present their upcoming DeSoto Festival at the March meeting. The Chairman asked Council members to keep in mind any events they have planned for their municipality, or special projects such as redevelopment or housing, and bring it to the Council, with other people from your community, to showcase these successful events and festivals of your area. It brings a little bit of fun to the meetings.

6. B. Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's 2007 Initiatives Plan

Mr. Avera Wynne, Planning Director, provided a brief presentation of the 2007 Initiatives Plan which was developed following the Council Visioning Session held in October 2006.

Initiatives were separated into three categories:

Priority Initiatives are undertaken on an as-needed basis. These initiatives may be an extension of existing Council activities or completely new undertakings.

Ongoing Activities are those activities that the Council has traditionally conducted, but are not mandated by Federal or State regulations.

- Agency on Bay Management
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Hurricane and Hazard Preparedness Planning
- Telework Tampa Bay
- *Bay Soundings* - Journal on Tampa Bay and its Environs
- Economic Development District

- Regional Information Center
- Expanded Technical Assistance

Mandated Programs and Activities are those programs that are mandated by Federal or State regulations.

- Strategic Regional Policy Plan
- Development of Regional Impact Program
- Intergovernmental Coordination and Review
- Local Government Comprehensive Plan Review

The **Priority Initiatives** are separated into 2 tiers:

The First Tier are the initiatives that received the highest ratings of feasibility and importance, and asked the question “where can the RPC make a difference?” Is it important and is it feasible for the regional planning council to be involved in it? Convener of the Region is woven into the mission statement of the organization. Promote Regional Leadership/Stewardship to Accomplish Success was a new topic. Strategies for Growth Management-Decision Support Tools is on-going, with added emphasis on trying to work with Reality Check, the Future of Florida Corridors. To Strengthen the SRPP works well with the Strategies for Growth because we can modify it if we need to. Affordable Housing is something the Planning Council has been working on for the last 3 years and will be added to our Initiatives Plan.

The Second Tier are those initiatives that were identified as important; however, they already fit well with our on-going initiatives, activities, fit with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP), or fit with what the Agency on Bay Management is doing. Perhaps they fit with some of the other expanded Technical Assistance that we are doing such as working with Tampa Bay Water on their public dissipation element. Another example is the TBRPC contract with the Chairman’s Coordinating Committee to upgrade the multi-use trails plan. A lot of the different activities that we are already engaged in with our on-going activities fit nicely with some of the things we have identified as priorities. (Page 13 of the Draft 2007 Initiatives Plan)

Mr. Wynne mentioned Reality Check (www.realitychecktampabay.org) and stated members should go to the web site and nominate either themselves or someone from your city or organization to participate. There is a difficult process in selections but they are taking nominations for 300 seats at the table. It will be roughly divided 1/3 of government elected folks, 1/3 private sector, and 1/3 special interest/stakeholders such as Sierra Club, Environmental, or other types of educational folks. They are looking for a diverse group from the 7 counties that will be involved. Seats are being proportioned out by county and then by type. A dry run of Reality Check will take place in the Council conference room on Tuesday, February 13th.

Commissioner von Hahmann: This is a prime opportunity for the region to step out and see what people are willing to sacrifice and give up to receive what they want for this region’s future. I looked at our Initiatives and especially the Second Tier and they marry very well with the conversations already being had at the state level. It is a comfort to know that we are at least moving and have a similar thought pattern to what is being looked at, at the state level.

Motion to approve the 2007 TBRPC Initiatives Plan. (von Hahmann/Todd)

7. **Council Members’ Comments** - Chairman Black - None

8. **Program Reports**

A. Agency on Bay Management (ABM) - Chair, Mr. Robert Kersteen

Mr. Kersteen said the ABM honored Mr. Tucker for his many years. He had been a key player in the establishment of the ABM and, as Mr. Pumariega stated, the Bay Soundings publication. ABM also honored Mayor Mary Maloof for her many years as Chairman of the ABM. Mr. Kersteen said he is honored to be the new Chair and to take over from Mayor Maloof, who was a pioneer along with Mr. Tucker.

Ms. Cooper provided a report on the February 8, 2007 Natural Resources/Environmental Impact Review Committee. On the agenda were the Apollo Isles Proposal which resulted in the letter that was attached to Council Agenda Item #3.E.1. NOPC - DRI #59 - Apollo Beach. We also talked about Mangrove Trimming. The DEP is the overseer of mangrove trimming permits and enforcement and they do implement that in Manatee County. Pinellas County has had delegated authority for several years and Hillsborough County received authority in late 2006. Discussion led to a call for more diligent effort to track environmental legislation this year, since it appears there may be interest in reducing local government's role in environmental management and other issues of concern to the ABM.

The next full Agency meeting will be Thursday, March 8th. All were invited to attend.

B. Clearinghouse Review Committee (CRC) - Chair, Commissioner Deborah Kynes
No Report.

C. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
No Report

D. Emergency Management
No Report

E. Legislative Committee - Chair, Commissioner Jane von Hahmann

The Legislative Committee will be meeting immediately following the Council meeting.

Appointments are being made to the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission. This is a very important commission since they will be reviewing all of the taxing policies of the state. They have the authority, through this commission, to place things on the ballot for election and they are very powerful. There have been recommendations to serve from Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas and Sarasota counties so hopefully we will have representation on that board. We need to stay focused and the Legislative Committee will do that.

The Windstorm Mitigation Study will be created as a result of the House Bill 1A. Their first meeting was held on February 8th and we will be monitoring their activity.

The Governor's budget is proposing \$3.3 million in funding to the 11 regional planning councils. This is the same funding level as the current fiscal year.

Commissioner von Hahmann referred Council members to their folders which contained a copy of the FRCA Legislative Summary Report of bills that have been presented and are of interest to regional planning councils. This provides a brief synopsis of each bill for your review, and note that these bills may have an impact at your local government level.

The Legislative Committee is meeting immediately following the Council meeting to discuss the proposed transportation authority bills filed by Senator Mike Fasano and Representative Bill Galvano. The results of today's Legislative Committee meeting may require a letter to the filers of the bill as well as other stakeholders.

Motion to authorize the Chairman to send a letter to the filers of House Bill 251 and other stakeholders providing Council comments and recommendations regarding the legislation. (Duncan/Mariano)

Comments:

Reverend Golden: Are we now saying that the Legislative Committee can make recommendations that would be binding on the Council?

Chairman Black: There would be a consensus on the part of all of us.

Mr. Pumariega: In talking to Representative Galvano and Senator Fasano, time is of the essence. I foresee us bringing additional comments and recommendations to the March meeting, but for now if the committee comes up with a consensus on a few particular items it is important that we send a letter immediately.

Reverend Golden: What are those particular items that you want us to deal with today?

Mr. Pumariega: All the provisions of the two bills.

Commissioner von Hahmann: Mr. Chairman, maybe it can be a recommendation. Could there be an agreement that the Council will allow the Legislative sub-committee to draft a letter and have my signature as Chairman of that committee? I agree with Mr. Pumariega, this is very important. There are some differences in these bills, there are some items that will be discussed today.

Chairman Black: Personally I am comfortable with this being a letter representing the Council as a whole. I don't have any concerns about that. If the makers of the motion are OK with that.

Commissioner Mariano: One of the things I am going to be looking for in this meeting is that we actually have a seat recommended by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, which is currently not on either bill. At the meeting at the Tampa Bay Golf & Country Club last week they talked about land use and Mr. Clifford and Mr. Smith said land use is a very important thing and I can't think of a better organization if its going to look at land use than this one right here. That will be one of the directions that I will be looking for.

Chairman Black: The point is well taken. Commissioner Mariano has stressed this point even with the meetings at the Pasco County MPO, which we both serve. I appreciated his comments this past week at our meeting in Pasco County about wanting to make sure the TBRPC is represented on such an authority, should it be created.

Reverend Golden: That's exactly the kind of concern because if we approve this motion as is, that is not a part of what we are supporting.

Chairman Black: It will be a part of the Legislative Committee's recommendations, or at least it will be addressed in the Legislative Committee.

Commissioner Mariano: One thing further, I think this Council did a great job by putting in their recommendations at a timely manner of the insurance for the special session. I think that was heard by the Governor. As this gets through the House and Senate I think this is an important piece to have in there.

Reverend Golden: Would you have a problem with at least that particular recommendation? I don't have a problem with the motion, I just want to make sure that it is something that reflects what we as a Council are agreeing to. And particularly if we want to have a seat on this particular board. Because of urgency, we need to say that right now.

Chairman Black: I don't think anyone would have any concerns being represented on such an authority. I think we would want our voice heard. Are you comfortable with that Commissioner von Hahmann?

Commissioner von Hahmann: With that particular one recommendation? I will be comfortable with it after having a discussion at the Legislative Committee meeting. I hear it coming from this board, but I think maybe there is a broader discussion that needs to happen.

Commissioner Mariano: I agree but I just wanted at least some direction.

Commissioner von Hahmann: I think it's only one of the items that you will hear conversation on concerning these two bills.

Chairman Black: We have a motion on the floor to send a letter on behalf of the Council as a whole, pushing forward the recommendations of the Legislative Committee on this issue. Motion carried unanimously.

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)

No Report.

10. **Executive/Budget Committee Report** - Chairman Black

The committee met at 9 a.m. and was provided a presentation from the Auditor. He presented a draft Annual Audit which will be presented to the full Council for consideration and approval at the March 12th meeting. The audit report was favorable with no items of concern.

11. **Chairman's Report** - Chairman Black

The Kumquat Festival was great. Jessica White, TBRPC staff person, attended. She wrote a very nice email to me, which I passed along to our Chamber of Commerce and City Hall staff so we can use it in promoting our festival in the future. Chairman Black thanked Ms. White for attending.

12. **Executive Director's Report** - Manny Pumariega

To follow up on Mr. Seibert, we have interesting challenges ahead of us in Florida and I think we all need to work together with the stakeholders to create a different way of doing business as we have in the past. We need creative solutions. The window is closing on us for some of these challenges. With the support of the Council, we will continue to focus on the spirit of cooperation with all vital stakeholders.

Chairman Black thanked everyone for their attendance.

Adjournment 11:35 a.m.

Lori Denman, Recording Secretary

Commissioner Scott Black, Chairman