

MINUTES OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 23, 2008

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Cassandra Reynolds
Mayor Greg Northrup
Mayor George Coleman
Mayor Robert F. Apgar
Vice Mayor Michael Carmolingo
Mayor Mike Thomas
Mayor Joan Duffy
Mayor Fredrick Costello
Mayor James Sowell
Mayor Nancy Epps
Mayor Allen Green
Council-member Art Giles
School Board Member Candace Lankford

REPRESENTING

Daytona Beach
Daytona Beach Shores
DeBary
DeLand
Deltona
Edgewater
Lake Helen
Ormond Beach
Pierson
Ponce Inlet
Port Orange
Volusia County
Volusia County School Board

Members Absent: Mayor Via, Holly Hill; Mayor Mackay, New Smyrna Beach; Mayor Lauer, Oak Hill; Mayor Strickland, Orange City; Mayor O'Neal, South Daytona

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael Mellon

REPRESENTING

Emergency Medical Foundation/EVAC

OTHERS PRESENT

Susan Caplan
Bob Williams
Joni Hunt
Betty Holness
Jim Cameron

REPRESENTING

Volusia-Flagler Coalition for the Homeless
Volusia-Flagler Coalition for the Homeless
ERAU
Volusia County
Daytona Beach/Halifax Area Chamber

VCOG STAFF PRESENT

Mary Swiderski, VCOG Executive Director
Herbert M. Seely, Chief Financial Officer
Mary Curran, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

At 5:00 p.m., Chairman Apgar called to order the June 23, 2008, regular meeting of the VCOG Governing Board.

The roll was called and a quorum was declared present. Chairman Apgar then led everyone in the Pledge to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PARTICIPATION

None

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/RESOLUTION PRESENTATION

Chairman Apgar presented VCOG Resolution 08-01 for the record:

Resolution 08-01**A RESOLUTION OF THE VOLUSIA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS SUPPORTING THE CENTRAL FLORIDA COMMUTER RAIL PROJECT.**

WHEREAS, VCOG, Inc. (Volusia Council of Governments) Governing Board consists of representatives from the Cities of Daytona Beach, Daytona Beach Shores, DeBary, DeLand, Deltona, Edgewater, Holly Hill, Lake Helen, New Smyrna Beach, Oak Hill, Orange City, Ormond Beach, Pierson, Ponce Inlet, Port Orange and South Daytona, the County of Volusia and the Volusia County School Board; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is undertaking the development and implementation of the Central Florida Commuter Rail Project running from DeLand in Volusia County through Seminole County, and Orange County (including the Cities of Orlando, Maitland and Winter Park) to Poinciana in Osceola County; and

WHEREAS, FDOT has reached agreement with CSX Transportation providing for the acquisition of the CSXT's A-Line between Milepost A749.7 near DeLand and A814.1 near Poinciana, a distance of approximately 61.5 miles for the use of the Commuter Rail Project; and

WHEREAS, Orange, Seminole, Volusia, and Osceola Counties and the City of Orlando (collectively, the "Local Government Partners") have agreed that the FDOT will be the agency responsible for the design, permitting and construction of the Commuter Rail Project and will be responsible for its operation, management and maintenance for a period of seven years; and

WHEREAS, FDOT has agreed to convey the Commuter Rail Project to the Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission (other than the stations, which will be conveyed to the Local Government Partners) after the initial seven years; and

WHEREAS, the Commuter Rail Project is described in METROPLAN ORLANDO's Long Range Transportation Plan "Financially Constrained Network" and Volusia County MPO's Year 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the Commuter Rail Project will result in overall social and environmental benefits, improve the quality of life in the state, stimulate economic growth, create new employment opportunities, and serve as a positive growth management catalyst; and

WHEREAS, the Commuter Rail Project will greatly benefit all of the citizens of and visitors to the Central Florida region, and is needed in order to relieve traffic congestion, provide transportation opportunities, and provide a relief for I-4 traffic during its reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, the Commuter Rail Project will become an integral part of Central Florida's balanced transportation system and, with concurrent development of improvements to roadways and bus transit, will greatly enhance the mobility of the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, financial commitments for the Central Florida Commuter Rail Project have been made by the Local Government Partners and state funding is contained in the Five-Year Work Program of the Florida Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Mica and Congresswoman Brown have pledged to secure more than \$300 million in federal funding for the Central Florida Commuter Rail Project and, if not used for this project, will be lost to rail transit projects elsewhere in the country; and

WHEREAS, it is more critical than ever to provide the traveling public with transportation alternatives as gasoline prices are soaring and new federal air quality standards for ozone put Central Florida at risk of being declared a non-attainment area which could result in sanctions being imposed; and

WHEREAS, the Central Florida Commuter Rail Project will support the efforts of Governor Crist's Energy and Climate Change Action Plan, established by Executive Order 07-128, with ambitious goals for reducing statewide green house gas emissions;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Board of VCOG, Inc (Volusia Council of Governments) Governing Board that:

Section 1. VCOG, Inc. (Volusia Council of Governments) Governing Board supports the design, construction, and implementation of the Commuter Rail Project in the Central Florida area; and

Section 2. VCOG, Inc. (Volusia Council of Governments) Governing Board requests the Florida Legislature to approve fair and reasonable insurance provisions for the Central Florida Commuter Rail Project as recommended by the Florida Department of Transportation and consistent with the provisions of the Interlocal Agreement; and

Section 3. VCOG, Inc. (Volusia Council of Governments) Governing Board joins in efforts with other government agencies and jurisdictions throughout Central Florida under the auspices of METROPLAN ORLANDO's Municipal Advisory Committee to support the METROPLAN ORLANDO Board in making this project a reality.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the VCOG, Inc. (Volusia Council of Governments) Governing Board this 23rd day of June, 2008.

MOTION by Volusia School Board Member Lankford and **SECOND** by Mayor Duffy for approval of VCOG Resolution 08-01, as presented; motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

VCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING

Mary Swiderski presented her report:

- She had attended a Grant Seminar and will be passing on information of available grants to members' governments
- Mayor Via asked her to relay his request for the Board's consideration to move its meetings to Monday mornings
 - Chairman Apgar announced this will be discussed by the VCOG Executive Committee
- Due to budget cuts, VCOG will be curbing its refreshment expenses

CONSENT AGENDA

As requested by Mayor Green the Treasurer's Report was pulled from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2008

Minutes of the April 28, 2008, regular meeting of the VCOG Board were mailed with the Board members' agenda packets.

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2008

Minutes of the May 19, 2008, regular meeting of the VCOG Board were mailed with the Board members' agenda packets.

MOTION by Mayor Costello and **SECOND** by Mayor Duffy for approval of only meeting minutes consent agenda items, as presented; motion was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF MAY 2008

Treasurer Report for the period of May 1, 2008, through May 31, 2008, was mailed with Board members' agenda packets. *Note: Revenues and Expenditures were within the budget for the month.*

Mayor Green inquired about the balance under 07/08 Budget Revenue and Expenses. It was explained that part of the difference is the 12% reduction in all members' fees and part is a drawdown of reserves, as approved by the VCOG Board.

MOTION by Mayor Green and **SECOND** by School Board Member Lankford for approval of the Treasurer's Report, as distributed; motion was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS**VCOG PROPERTY TAX REFORM COMMITTEE UPDATE – MAYOR ROBERT APGAR**

- Mayor Apgar mentioned the Committee has not met for several weeks; however, they are scheduled to meet July 2, 2008
- The Committee will discuss the News-Journal's recommendations on the proposed Constitutional amendments

VCOG SMART GROWTH COMMITTEE UPDATE – MAYOR GREG NORTHRUP

Mayor Northrup reported:

- The Committee was presented a draft of model comp plan language.
 - Members had concerns regarding intent of language; effect on areas adjacent to map boundaries
 - When comp plan submitted provisions become law
 - It was recommended that the draft go back to the TAC for further tweaking

NEW BUSINESS

HOMELESS COALITION PRESENTATION – BOB WILLIAMS & SUSAN CAPLAN

Susan Caplan made introductory remarks:

- She is President of the Coalition Board
- A draft was distributed of the Coalition's plan to end homelessness in 10-years
- Every continuum in the nation is mandated to create a 10 year plan to end homelessness
- The Daytona Beach Chamber was the reviewing body of the plan draft
- The plan is written as to what the cost is if we do not fund and help cure homeless issues
- The Coalition has created an intensive schedule of speaking and presenting its plan to local governments, church and civic groups, etc.
- She requested VCOG Board members to take time to read Coalition's 10-year plan

Dr. Bob Williams gave his presentation:

- Vice President of Economic Development at Daytona State College
- He gave recognition to: Lindsey Roberts, former Executive Director of Coalition for leading the effort; to Sally Ann Groody of Serenity House and Jim Cameron
- The plan includes preliminary findings and conclusions across 4 core areas:
 - Prevention
 - Emergency shelters
 - Transitional services and housing
 - Permanent housing
- Overall recommendations includes specific goals for each of the next 10 years
- The continuum of care that makes up the Homeless Coalition:
 - Federal and State governments
 - Funding stream comes through the Coalition - under which are lot of different organizations including:
 - Serenity House, Stewart Marchman, Salvation Army, Halifax Urban Ministries, Star Center, etc. – services that are distributed throughout the community
- For 2008, the Coalition has 7 specific goals
 - Identifying all funding/services in the two-County areas
 - Bringing agencies together to collaborate provision of services
 - Homeless Management Information System which is already in place and can be used to begin taking a more case management approach to people who need services
 - Document the discharge policies of all agencies
 - Increase permanent housing bed capacity by a minimum of 6 beds – did not get the grant funding
 - Pilot a housing-first model
 - Identify funding to pilot centralized case management strategy
- The Coalition requests that the VCOG organization support this plan and provide a commitment to encourage support for the plan throughout the community with local governments, etc.
 - The Coalition asks that members volunteer to help implement the plan

Bob Williams thanked the VCOG Board for the opportunity to share the Coalition's "Come Home Plan"

Discussions:

- School Board member Lankford, County Chair Bruno, and Mayor Via sit on myregion.org Congress of Regional Leaders which is putting together a coalition – Orange, Seminole, Osceola – to work on homelessness [Lankford]
 - The Volusia-Flagler Coalition is not currently working with myregion.org [Caplan]
 - Like hundreds of other continuums, they are following some blueprints from other continuums of care [Caplan]
 - No rep from West Volusia or the School District sat on the Coalition's Committee that drafted the plan [Lankford]

- Coalition's West Volusia Task force consists of West Volusia business leaders – they had input on the draft of the plan [Caplan]
- School system connection is through the United Way "Power of the Purse" which is part of the United Way Women's Initiative of Volusia-Flagler Counties [Caplan]
- It is a regional problem; it is a national problem [Apgar]
 - If we are going to solve homelessness, need to reach out and make sure there is good representation all across the county [Apgar]
- What does Coalition want from VCOG members collectively, as well as, individually [Costello]
 - The Report looks great [Costello]
 - Is the Coalition looking to local governments for funding [Costello]
 - Coalition is asking elected officials to start a dialog amongst themselves [Caplan]
 - Also asking officials to read the plan; find any omissions; or things the Coalition needs to elaborate on; then refer suggestions/comments back to Tony Schefstad, Coalition's Executive Director [Caplan]
- Need a 10-year plan that all can buy into [Williams]
 - Plan has strategic elements; Coalition is asking if this is the strategy local governments can endorse and support, and help affirm that it is the Coalition's 10-year plan [Williams]
 - Help to channel resources back into solving the problem [Williams]
- County Councilmember Giles was impressed with the Coalition's 10-year plan
- Suggested by Commissioner Reynolds that the Coalition look at and think about being very supportive of case management in its plan
 - She was glad to see Volusia community finally has a draft of a plan that appears to be feasible and workable
- Mayor Epps remarked on the Coalition's funding, according to what is listed on its website
 - Town of Ponce Inlet has a new procedure in place re applying for funding
 - She asked if the Coalition included homeless people that will work in its plan
 - The Coalition is mandated to have a certain percentage of homeless and formerly homeless on its Board of Directors [Caplan]
 - The Coalition is already having to spend money; the plan outlines how they will spend it differently [Caplan]
- The number 1 goal of 2008 is to "Identify funding sources" – the Coalition asks that elected officials recognize the amount spent on law enforcement responses as result of vagrancy or other homeless related issues
- Mayor Costello had concerns re goals listed in the plan:
 - 1st goal in 2009 is all funding agencies approve the 10-year plan – assumption is that includes all cities and the County as funding agencies – by March 2009
 - In 2011, a goal outcome is renewed commitment from stakeholder groups and funding agents
 - He did not want the Coalition to expect there is availability of funding from Ormond Beach

Chairman Apgar thanked Susan Caplan and Bob Williams for coming before the VCOG Board. Susan Caplan thanked the Board for giving them the opportunity to speak.

APPROVAL TO EXTEND AUDITING CONTRACT WITH BRENT MILLIKAN & CO.

Chairman Apgar reported the VCOG Executive Committee discussed the proposed renewal and decided it was time to go out for an RFP. Also, it was suggested to add in an internal audit function, as an alternate bid. Fundamentally, the three agencies do not have internal audit type procedures. It is noted that anything VCOG does on this is contingent on the other two organizations' approval. The VCOG Executive Committee's recommendation is to go out for an RFP.

MOTION by Mayor Green and **SECOND** by County Council-member Giles to accept the VCOG Executive Committee's recommendation to go out for an RFP; the motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

VOLUSIA SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER CANDACE LANKFORD

Request that a discussion be scheduled on a future agenda regarding proposed constitutional amendments.

MR. MIKE MELLON

Remark of EVAC's first down turn ever in its 26-year history
What foundation is trying to do – since late last year – is continue drawing down unit hours. That there is a significant impact of economic downturn on everything.

MAYOR GEORGE COLEMAN

Reminded everyone of Volusia League of Cities dinner-meeting on July 24; hosted by DeBary.

VICE MAYOR MICHAEL CARMOLINGO

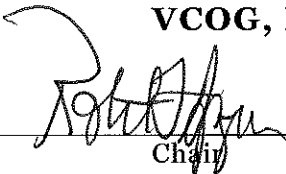
Announced that City of Deltona had \$50,000 in recycling funds and gave \$50,000 in scholarships to worthy students in Deltona.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the VCOG Board, the meeting was then adjourned at 6:10 p.m.


AS SUBMITTED, THE FOREGOING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD WERE APPROVED IN AN OPEN MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 25, 2008, IN THE MPO/VCOG/WAV CONFERENCE ROOM AT 2570 W. INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 120, DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA.

VCOG, Inc.



Chair

ATTEST:



Recording Secretary