

MINUTES OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD

REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 26, 2007

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
Mayor Dennis Mulder
Mayor Mike Thomas
Mayor Roland Via
Mayor Mark Shuttleworth
Vice Mayor James Hathaway
Mayor Albert Erwin
Mayor Fredrick Costello
Mayor James Sowell
Mayor Nancy Epps
Council-member Art Giles
Saralee Morrissey

REPRESENTING

Daytona Beach
Daytona Beach Shores
DeBary
DeLand
Deltona
Edgewater
Holly Hill
Lake Helen
Mayor Vandergriff, New Smyrna Beach
Orange City
Ormond Beach
Pierson
Ponce Inlet
Volusia County
Ms. Lankford, Vol. Co. School Board

Members Absent: Mayor Thompson, Oak Hill; Mayor Green, Port Orange; Mayor O'Neal, So. Daytona

NON-VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Mellon, Emergency Medical Foundation

OTHERS PRESENT

Joni Hunt
Alex Kish
Wanda Van Dan
Herb Cramer
Sean Stenson
Gordon Williamson
Frank Bruno, County Chair
Betty Holness
Jim Cameron

REPRESENTING

ERAU
Brent Millikan & Company
Citizen
Sprint/Nextel
Sprint/Nextel
Sprint/Nextel
Volusia County Council
Volusia County
Daytona Beach/Halifax 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 PM, in the absence of the Chair, Vice Chairman Apgar called the March 26, 2007, regular meeting of the VCOG Governing Board to order.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PARTICIPATION

No comments were expressed.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/RECOGNITION

None at this time.

VCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING

- A copy of the VCOG Smart Growth Committee meeting minutes of March 12 and update of VCOG Smart Growth Committee meetings as of March 26 was handed out to the Board.
- The Budget Seminar arrangements are in progress. Mary Swiderski has contacted DeLand High School for the west side location and ERAU for the east side; Tom Harmer, a Professor at UCF and retired city manager of Titusville, will officiate. Mary Swiderski estimated a cost of \$3000 for the seminar at both locations; she requested the VCOG Board's approval for \$3000.

MOTION by Mayor Via and **SECOND** by Mayor Epps to approve \$3,000 towards the estimated expenses of the Budget Seminar; motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

Mayor Via announced having talked with Alex Kish, Brent Millikan Co., who volunteered to do a segment on auditing for the Seminar.

- **GREEN DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**
A proposal from Deborah Green was presented to the VCOG Executive Committee and its members agreed for VCOG to contribute \$1000 towards the workshop. What Deborah had wanted was VCOG staff assistance which WAV wouldn't provide; therefore, the VCOG Executive Committee decided to postpone the workshop until the fall. Meanwhile, DBCC wants to undertake the workshop; Mary Swiderski, the County and DBCC are working together on coordination – DBCC will arrange location, do notifications, etc. and VCOG will assist by sending emails.

RECOMMENDATION by Mayor Costello to get the News Journal to publish that the workshop is happening – that the VCOG Smart Growth Committee members, the VGMC and local governments' planning boards have been invited – to let residents know that local officials are learning about and working toward "How Shall We Live" in a green environment.

RECOMMENDATION by Mayor Apgar to show co-sponsorship between DBCC and VCOG and whoever else is involved. He commented that it is important that people recognize there is value in some of these organizations.

- Information on "Who's Lesley Blackner?" was distributed to the Board. Mary Swiderski explained that this is the lady who is championing the Florida Hometown Democracy that may be on a referendum in 2008. Members were encouraged to have awareness on this.

Regarding the VCOG audit report, Mary Swiderski announced that Board members did not have to take it with them and that would also save VCOG from having to make additional copies.

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

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

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT - MONTH ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2007

Treasurer's report covering the period of February 1, 2007 to February 28, 2007, had been mailed with Board members' agenda packets. *Note: Revenues and Expenditures were within the budget for the month.*

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

OLD BUSINESS

VCOG SMART GROWTH COMMITTEE UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO DATE

Mayor Northrup reported the Committee is very close to having Map A completed; when it is completed the Committee will vote to adopt it. He indicated there seems to be positive consensus of everything they have been working on with the County. Mayor Northrup reported that the Committee is progressing.

▪ CONSIDERATION OF ADDING A VOLUSIA SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER ON THE COMMITTEE

Vice Chairman Apgar recalled that Mayor Via had suggested having a School Board member on the Smart Growth Committee.

Mayor Via gave his rationale for recommending having a School Board member serve on the Committee. He mentioned talking with Candace Lankford and that she was okay with the Committee as is. Ms. Lankford intends to continue attending the meetings and providing input. Mayor Via just thought it was a way to reach out to the School Board by including its representative on the Committee. Several VCOG Board members discussed including a School Board representative on the Committee.

MOTION by County Council-member Giles and **SECOND** by Mayor Northrup to include a Volusia School Board Member on the VCOG Smart Growth Committee.

Mayor Via pointed out it is up to the School Board who its representative will be. He then mentioned that Candace Lankford participates in myregion.org as the representative of Volusia School Board.

Mayor Apgar offered as a cautionary word, that members of the VCOG Smart Growth Committee be very careful who they talk to on the subject of smart growth – that it is a “Sunshine” committee – and the larger the group gets, the more they all need to be discerning in what conversation they have with one another.

Mayor Apgar called for a voice vote and the motion was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

▪ UPDATE ON THE SMART GROWTH SUMMIT SCHEDULED SATURDAY, JUNE, 16, 2007
PRESENTATION OF DON UPTON WITH FAIRFIELD INDEX TO FACILITATE SUMMIT

Vice Chairman Apgar noted that Don Upton was not in attendance. He called on County Chair Frank Bruno to address the VCOG Board.

County Chairman Bruno made the following comments:

- Commend members of the VCOG Smart Growth Committee on doing a “fantastic” job.
- Thank you to Mary Swiderski for keeping him informed as to what is going on.
- Commend Mary Swiderski and Betty Holness for getting Don Upton from Fairfield Index to be moderator of the Summit.
- Reminder that Summit will take place June 16th, at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.
- Express appreciation to Embry Riddle for its support of Summit.
- Congratulate Mayor Greg Northrup for all the hard work and putting the VCOG Smart Growth Committee together.
- The Committee appears to be moving ahead on Map A. The Committee may have enough time to even address Map B before the Summit.
- Believes Summit will be comprehensive with presentations from State, regional and local speakers.
- Mr. Upton indicated that he will have a report back to VCOG and all parties within a week following Summit.
- A follow-up meeting to the Summit should focus on how do we do implementation of the recommendations resulting from Smart Growth meetings and the Summit.

Vice Chairman Apgar announced an April 9th meeting of the VCOG Smart Growth Committee, at 4 PM, at the Daytona Beach Airport. He mentioned that a speaker will be coming in from Gainesville to discuss a number of options that we would have to conserve these Map A lands. Vice Chairman Apgar extended an invitation to anyone having an interest in that to attend.

APPROVAL OF SUMMIT'S BUDGET

Mary Swiderski announced the Summit will be an all day event; beginning at 8 AM with sign-in and ending around 4 PM. An information packet on the Summit was distributed to Board members for review. Mary Swiderski indicated the anticipated cost will be \$16 per person which includes a Continental breakfast and lunch buffet; an additional \$12,000 includes \$12,000 fee for the facilitator and incidental expenses [copying, mailing, advertising, etc.]; the total anticipated cost is \$20,000 for the Summit. Mary Swiderski gave rationale for this cost outlay and asked for the VCOG Board's consideration.

MOTION by Mayor Erwin and **SECOND** by Mayor Via for approval of \$20,000 towards budget for the Smart Growth ["How Shall We Live"] Summit, on June 16th. Discussions ensued regarding anticipated attendance; concerns of government spending; requiring of preregistration; and the importance of having a Smart Growth Summit. Vice Chairman Apgar called for a voice vote and the motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

NEW BUSINESS

PRESENTATION OF VCOG'S FY 2005-2006 AUDIT REPORT BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF BRENT MILLIKAN CO., CPA

Alex Kish, Brent Millikan Company, pointed out the report is called a "Comprehensive Annual Financial Report" and it is submitted to GFOA annually for review and certification; as a result it contains more information than a regular audit report. He complimented the VCOG Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer on doing a "wonderful" job on the transmittal letter that explains what the organization does, how it operates, etc. Brent Millikan Company has rendered an unqualified opinion on the financial statements; i.e. there are no qualifications or inconsistencies or standards issues that need to be reported separately. Mr. Kish presented an overview of the information contained in the report. The report shows that VCOG is strong financially. Auditors had no issues they needed to report regarding internal control, or compliance, or financial reporting or any other matter. Mr. Kish offered to answer any questions.

MOTION by Mayor Northrup and **SECOND** by Mayor Via to accept the VCOG FY 2005-06 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for file, as presented.

County Council-member Giles complimented Herb Seely and thanked him for doing a good job. In addition, Vice Chairman Apgar expressed appreciation on behalf of the whole VCOG Board.

Vice Chairman Apgar called for a voice vote and the motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

UPDATE ON CELLULAR SERVICES

▪ NEXTEL/SPRINT SERVICES – SEAN STENSON

Mr. Stenson recalled meeting with the VCOG Board in 2006 and that Board members had some very legitimate issues. He introduced several company reps attending with him: Herb Cramer, and Gordon Williamson. Mr. Stenson reported on the following:

- Company representatives went around and talked with most of the cities to understand their concerns and they followed up on site issues.
- They did network updates over the course of 2006.
- Start of hurricane season last year they went to a lot of the public safety entities and offered them some free loaner phones that were on the Sprint side of their network.
- They were able to install over 1,000 permanent generators in the market place to protect against commercial power loss.

- Had communications with County EOC to understand where critical facilities are within Volusia County; and jurisdictions would decide which critical facility is important to first responder community.
- They were able to place portable generators before Ernesto came thru last year.
- They will make every effort to pre-wire critical sites for portable roll-out [generator]; any sites where they couldn't put permanent generator.
- During tornado event last month, although a large teleco circuit was ripped out of the ground on which they lost several cell sites, they were able to provide a satellite cell on truck and provide coverage.

Note: The VCOG Secretary/Treasurer, County Council-member Giles took up chairing of the meeting when the Vice Chairman, Mayor Apgar had to leave.

Mayor Costello inquired if Sprint or Nextel had ever constructed a camouflaged tower any where in the country. Upon an affirmative response,

Motion by Mayor Costello that VCOG request the County Council and all municipalities not allow any towers to be built in Volusia County that aren't camouflaged; motion was Seconded by Mayor Erwin.

Secretary/Treasurer Giles asked for some information as he has received a lot of emails re camouflaged towers in his County email system.

Mr. Stenson revealed that camouflaged towers are installed from time to time; however, not that many because they are high cost items. Also, he didn't Sprint/Nextel is building any new towers; that anything they are "hanging" today is on an existing site.

Secretary/Treasurer Giles indicated that municipalities and the County can make that decision re towers individually.

Mayor Costello decided to retract his motion and Mayor Erwin retracted his second.

Secretary/Treasurer Giles thanked Mr. Stenson and the other Sprint/Nextel reps for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Stenson thanked the VCOG Board for giving them the opportunity to speak before them.

REQUEST by Secretary/Treasurer Giles that if Mr. Stenson has any information on the camouflaged towers, to please send it to Mary Swiderski; as he and the other VCOG Board members were interested in reviewing it.

- VERIZON – MALIKA TAALIBE
As no Verizon representative was in attendance, no presentation was made.
- CINGULAR – TOMMY FAZIO
As no Cingular representative was in attendance, no presentation was made.

APPROVAL OF VCOG MEMBERS' ASSESSMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-08

Mary Swiderski pointed out that VCOG has a contingency fund and as Volusia jurisdictions are experiencing some financial constraints, VCOG is not increasing its members' assessments for upcoming fiscal year; any slight changes in a member's assessment is because of change in population. The end total of assessments will remain the same as it has for the last 3 years.

MOTION by Mayor Epps and **SECOND** by County Council-member Giles to accept the VCOG Executive Director's recommendation on Members Assessments for FY 2007-08; motion **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** on a voice vote.

UPDATE ON PROPERTY TAX LEGISLATION

Mary Swiderski announced that she had distributed the latest information from the Florida League of Cities for VCOG Board members' review. Vice Chairman Apgar inquired if everybody is getting the Florida League of Cities legislative updates. No one denied receiving that information.

Mayor Via related when he spoke recently to three different groups, consisting mostly of retired people, and he mentioned replacing property taxes with sales tax, they opposed that alternative. Mayor Via revealed that he has communicated a lot with the Volusia Tax Reform group and they understand they need local officials as the governments to help them in Tallahassee. He emphasized that they need the Volusia Tax Reform group; that they are not as focused about "capping the spending" as getting comprehensive tax reform on non homestead properties and businesses. Mayor Via announced the Council of Mayors, that all the cities in the Florida League of Cities belong to, are meeting March 28. He urged all the mayors to attend because out of that meeting they will have a platform issue to present to all the legislators.

Mayor Costello said, "Our residents think we are the bad guys." He stressed that they must make residents aware it's the State that has raised the property tax because of what they did to schools; that the State used to send "X" percent of sales tax dollars to the school board and now it's sending "X" minus percent.

REQUEST by Mayor Costello that Mary Swiderski contact the School Board and see if she can get the accurate numbers for the VCOG Board.

Mayor Costello also mentioned the State raised property tax dollars to fund SIS [Strategic Intermodel System] and that basically cut local dollars for roads. Mayor Costello asserted that local governments have to make residents understand that it is the State that continually shifts expenses to the cities and counties, which they must fund because citizens demand various programs/projects.

RECOMMENDATION by Mayor Costello that as VCOG Board Vice Chair, Mayor Apgar, and as Chair, Mayor Vandergriff, and Mary Swiderski – somebody – should go to the Daytona Beach News Journal Editorial Board and the Orlando Sentinel Editorial Board to "get the message out there."

Mayor Costello declared that the issue is equity, not quantity; that the State has to fix the equity issue amongst the tax payers. He stressed that is the message local officials have got to give their residents and legislators, i.e. "fix the equity."

Vice Chairman Apgar mentioned one thing they all can try to do is mobilize residents in a different way; in particular, all the agencies that the cities/County support or provide matching dollars. He pointed out if the cities/County constrain residents receiving support from the community in matching grant dollars, or outright grants, etc. then they may begin to listen.

Mayor Via reported that the Florida Chamber of Commerce has said it is supporting the cuts. He revealed that Holly Hill provides financial support to its Chamber of Commerce; its Chamber has voted to not extend their support to the Florida Chamber of Commerce's stance. Mayor Via claimed that all these organizations have lobbyists in Tallahassee. Mayor Via stated, "Volusia Tax Reform is not an enemy; they are the power of the people." He emphasized that officials need to use that power to make their point in Tallahassee.

Mayor Thomas concurred with what Mayor Costello had said and he would be willing to talk about the issue but he needed the facts and figures to tell residents.

Mayor Northrup proclaimed that any type of cap put on cities and counties is bad for them. He declared that officials have to stress the point that they don't want caps; that they want the individual cities and counties responsible for their own taxes but get some equity. Mayor Northrup pointed out when there is equity somebody is still going to pay it no matter what. He asserted that it needs to be done by committee and not by legislators.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTSMAYOR ROLAND VIA

He called attention to the "How Shall We Grow" packet from myregion.org that was distributed; within the packet is a "Proposed Regional Growth Compact" drafted by the How Shall We Grow Policy Framework Commission [consisting of 7 mayors, 7 county managers, and 2 school board members]. The compact shows some of the principles they are trying to adapt; also the six "Key Actions." Mayor Via talked briefly about the four maps developed for the "How Shall We Grow" process. Mayor Via said, "We are doing a great job on our own smart growth but if we don't integrate ourselves with surrounding counties a lot of our work will go for naught."

REQUEST by Mayor Via that anyone who wants to provide input on the 6 key actions need to submit that by April 9th which is the next Smart Growth Meeting. Mayor Via related that he needs this because he is the mayoral representative of Volusia in the seven county region. He asked that all comments be sent to Mary Swiderski.

COUNTY COUNCIL-MEMBER ART GILES

He announced that, at the MPO meeting on March 27, he will bring up an issue about sidewalks and schools that had recently come before the County Council

MAYOR NANCY EPPS

She reminded everyone about Ken Russell and she expressed, "What a loss it has been."

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the VCOG Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

AS SUBMITTED, THE FOREGOING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VCOG GOVERNING BOARD WERE APPROVED IN AN OPEN MEETING HELD ON APRIL 23 DAY, 2007, IN THE MPO/VCOG/WAV CONFERENCE ROOM AT 2570 W. INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 120, DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA.

VCOG, Inc.

Chair

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary