

MINUTES OF THE TRANSIT AUTHORITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Held on September 29, 2008

The meeting of the Transit Authority Oversight Committee was held on September 29, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Lee County Public Works Building, 1500 Monroe Street, Conference Room 4C, Fort Myers, Florida 33901.

Board Members in attendance included:

Mayor Ben Nelson	City of Bonita Springs
Councilperson Dolores Bertolini	City of Cape Coral
Councilperson Carla Johnston	City of Sanibel
Councilman Bob Raymond	Town of Fort Myers Beach
Richard Shine	FDOT (Non-Voting)

Others in attendance included: Steve Myers, Mike Horsting, and Carmen Monroy from LeeTran; Jed Schneck from Lee County Attorney's Office; Scott Janke from Town of Fort Myers Beach; Jack Burges from the Lee MPO CAC; Joel Rey, Paul Fallin, and Rick Asnani from Tindale Oliver & Associates; and Don Scott, Ron Gogoi, and Meghan Marion from Lee County MPO.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Don Scott.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Marion called the roll.

Commissioner Tammy Hall – absent
Councilman Ben Nelson – present
Councilperson Dolores Bertolini – present
Councilman Warren Wright – absent
Vice-Mayor Carla Brooks Johnston – present
Commissioner Frank Mann – absent
Councilman Bob Raymond – present
Richard Shine – present

Ms. Marion announced that a quorum was present.

Agenda Item #1 – Approval of Minutes for August 10, 2007 Transit Oversight Committee Meeting

MOTION BY COUNCILPERSON JOHNSTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 6, 2007 TRANSIT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING. SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON BERTOLINI. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item #2 – Discuss the Differences in the Adopted Transit Interlocal Agreement and the Town of Fort Myers Beach Version and Determine a Plan of Action

Mr. Scott presented this item.

Mayor Nelson asked Councilman Raymond from the Town of Fort Myers Beach if there was anything in the adopted Interlocal Agreement that would be a deal breaker for the Town of Fort Myers Beach.

Councilman Raymond replied that the Town of Fort Myers Beach is skeptical and they would like to see that no one will have more than 49% of the votes.

Mayor Nelson replied that he doesn't have an issue with inserting that language.

Councilperson Johnston stated that she would like to see the Town of Fort Myers Beach included in this process. She stated that the Adopted Interlocal Agreement provides protection for each of the municipalities. She stated that she agrees that no one should have that percentage of votes just because one municipality is bigger than the other, each municipality brings something different to the table.

Mr. Scott Janke stated that when the Town of Fort Myers Beach received the Interlocal Agreement, the biggest issue was that no one shall have more than 49% of the votes.

Councilman Raymond stated that the Town of Fort Myers Beach has not had any representation at the table and they are not up to speed on what the process has been all along, so that is why there is some skepticism.

Councilperson Johnston stated that she understands that the Town of Fort Myers Beach has not been involved all along but wishes that there was some way to have one interlocal without going through all the different Councils again. She would like to find a way to get an agreement on this without having to send it around again.

Councilman Raymond stated that he will have to take this back to his Council and get their approval, but that they have already stated that they would like to see the language "no one shall have more than 49% of the votes" added to the agreement under Section 3B.

Mayor Nelson stated that we as the Oversight Committee will be deciding what the votes will be so putting that language in here now, doesn't seem to relevant in the body of this agreement.

Councilperson Johnston stated that what this agreement stands for is having a seat at the table. If you have a seat at the table then you get to decide on what happens.

Councilman Raymond stated that the Town of Fort Myers Beach would just like to get caught up on what has happened so far with the Transit Authority Committee since they have not had any representation in the past.

Mayor Nelson stated that this is designating a funding source for transit so that the County doesn't have to keep going back and trying to figure out a way to fund transit.

Mr. Scott stated that the County has set aside an amount of funding to help get this on it's feet but stated that they would like to see all of the municipalities being active in this.

Councilperson Bertolini stated that she will have a little trouble taking a new interlocal back to her Council.

Councilman Raymond stated that he would like to know where we are headed as far as a funding source.

Councilperson Johnston stated that the funding source has not been decided yet.

Councilman Raymond stated that he has heard that taxes would be assessed by non elected officials.

Mr. Scott stated that he assumed there would be elected officials on the Transit Authority Board.

Discussion ensued.

Joel Rey from Tindale Oliver & Associates gave a brief overview of where this committee has been and what the purpose of this interlocal is.

Joel Rey stated that the Interlocal Agreement is just to get a seat at the table to make decisions in the Charter. He stated that the Charter is where you will decide who will sit on the Board, what the funding source will be, etc.

Councilman Raymond stated that he will bring this back to the Council to be put onto the October 20, 2008 agenda. He stated that either Scott Janke or himself will contact Mr. Scott to notify him of the decision made by the Council.

Mayor Nelson asked if it would be possible to just add the Town of Fort Myers Beach by way of resolution from each municipality.

Attorney Jed Schneck stated that it would be fine to just produce a resolution to just add the Town of Fort Myers Beach for each municipality to sign.

Agenda Item #3 – Direction to Staff on Future Tasks

Mr. Scott asked Joel Rey from Tindale Oliver & Associates to give an overview of what the next steps would be, as long as everyone is on board.

Mr. Rey gave a brief overview and stated that one of the tasks they discussed moving forward with was a telephone survey. He stated that once the information is gathered then we would create a strategy.

Councilperson Johnston stated that the public needs to know what the different transit options are.

Mr. Rey stated that is why it is not just a marketing campaign it is an educational campaign.

Mayor Nelson asked if we need to use the word "Authority". He stated that this sometimes scares people away.

The committee agreed and stated that they would like to come up with a new name that doesn't include the word "Authority".

Agenda Item #4 – Discussion Regarding Developing a Regular Meeting Schedule

Mr. Scott explained that Staff would like to set up a regular meeting schedule for the Transit Authority Oversight Committee because it has been too difficult in the past to set up meeting dates within a timely manner. He stated that Staff has put together a schedule for the upcoming year with bi-monthly meeting dates and that we can cancel meeting dates as needed.

The Committee agreed to this.

Agenda Item #5 – Announcements

None.

Agenda Item #6 – Topics for next meeting

None.

Agenda Item #7 – Information Items

None.

Agenda Item #8 – Distribution Items

None.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.