MINUTES

Members Present:
Councilman James Hilty, Chairman
Tracey Alesiani
Jeffrey Askew
Susan Hanley
Megan Reimer (for Meagan Crowley)
Andrew Singer
Same Weekley
Kathleen Woodring

Members Not Present:
Charmaine Richardson

Others Present:
Greg Slay, TPO Director
Ken Odom, TPO Staff
Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Staff
Donna Hersom, Marion Transit Services
Diane Coleman, Marion County Homeless Council

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call
Chairman James Hilty called the meeting to order at 2:24 PM. Secretary Kayleen Hamilton called the roll of members; a quorum was present.
Item 2. Proof of Publication

Secretary Kayleen Hamilton announced the meeting was published online at the city of Ocala, Belleview, and Dunnellon websites and on the TPO’s website and Facebook page.

Item 3. Review and Approval of the Community Transportation Coordinator Selection

Mr. Odom advised that every five years, by state statute, the board was required to advertise a request for proposals for the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) position. Mr. Odom reported that staff had issued the request for proposals through the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) and had received one submission. Marion Senior Services was the respondent, and Mr. Odom mentioned that Marion Transit through Marion Senior Services had always acted as the CTC for Marion County. In years past, however, staff had received multiple proposals.

Mr. Askew asked what other companies had submitted proposals previously, and Mr. Slay said that MTM had submitted the last time the position was advertised. Mr. Slay said that staff had talked to the CTD regarding what companies were submitting for contract and that the CTD did not know of any in the Marion County area. A small number of companies did that type of work, and Mr. Slay commented that the Medicaid revisions made it less appealing.

Mr. Odom reported that the proposal documents were available if anyone was interested in reviewing them. Ms. Woodring stated that it seemed like the board had a good working relationship with Marion Transit. The rate model, which was built by the CTD, was included in the meeting packet, and Mr. Odom advised that it reflected a significant drop in rates from the previous year. This was due to the changes in Medicaid transportation and fuel costs. Mr. Slay mentioned that SunTran was spending ten to twelve thousand dollars less on fuel than it had been spending the previous year.

Mr. Slay explained that the board would make a recommendation regarding the CTC to the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). The TPO would then make the recommendation to the CTD. The CTD was the agency that directly contracted with the CTC for services. Mr. Hilty asked about the charge for escorts, and Mr. Slay said that staff would look into it.

Mr. Askew asked about revenues, and Mr. Slay said that the County Commission provided matching funds to various grants that supported the transportation disadvantaged and ADA programs.

Mr. Askew moved to recommend Marion Senior Services as the CTC. Mr. Singer seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
Item 4. Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2015

Mr. Askew made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2015, meeting, and Mr. Weekley seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Item 5. Comments by TDLCB Members

There were no further comments by TDLCB members.

Item 6. Comments by CTC

There were no further comments by the CTC.

Item 7. Comments by TPO Staff

Mr. Singer mentioned that he had heard that the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council might be dissolved, and Mr. Slay reported that there was legislation pending that would reconstitute the regional planning councils (RPCs). This would disband the Withlacoochee RPC and move its areas into others. The original bill would have moved Marion County into the North Central Florida RPC, and Mr. Slay said that from a planning standpoint it would make more sense to be part of the East Central Florida RPC because Marion County was more actively involved with the counties to the south. Ms. Woodring reported that a companion bill had just passed in the House.

Mr. Slay advised that the next meeting would be held at Marion Senior Services and would include a tour and bus walk-through.

Item 8. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Item 9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m. by Chairman Hilty.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Kayleen Hamilton, TPO Administrative Assistant