



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Marion County Commission Auditorium
601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

December 19, 2018

MINUTES

Members Present:

Commissioner Kathy Bryant
Commissioner Jeff Gold (*arrived at 10:36am*)
Mayor Kent Guinn
Councilwoman Valerie Hanchar
Councilman Justin Grabelle
Commissioner Ronald Livsey
Councilman Brent Malever
Commissioner David Moore
Councilman Jay Musleh
Commissioner Michelle Stone
Commissioner Carl Zalak
Councilman Matthew Wardell

Members Not Present:

Councilwoman Mary Rich

Others Present:

Oliver Cromwell, SunTran
Sean Lanier, City of Ocala
Darren Park, City of Ocala
Paul Marraffino
Peter Lee, City of Ocala
Karen Williams, Marion Senior Services
Jennifer Martinez, Marion Senior Services
Cindy Brown

Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Secretary Shakayla Pullings called the roll of members. A quorum was present.

Item 2. Proof of Publication

Secretary Shakayla Pullings stated that the meeting had been published on December 7, 2018 online at the TPO website and on the City of Ocala, Marion County, Belleview, and Dunnellon websites.

Item 3a. Resignation of the TPO Director and Future Considerations

Mr. Moore told the board the TPO Director, Michael Daniels had resigned his position giving the board a 90-day notice and Mr. Moore presented the board with some options:

- Allowing Mr. Daniels to work the 90-days allowing the TPO Board time to find a replacement TPO Director
- Accept Mr. Daniels resignation effective immediately and the City of Ocala Staff to appoint an Interim Director for the TPO
- If City Staff had not been able to appoint an Interim Director at the time Marion County would appoint an Interim Director

Mr. Moore told the board that he would prefer option one which would allow Mr. Daniels to work the 90-days allowing the TPO Board time to find a replacement TPO Director.

Mr. Moore asked Mr. Daniels if he was willing to work the rest of the 90-days and Mr. Daniels said that he was willing.

Mr. Musleh made a motion to allow Mr. Daniels to work 90-days allowing the TPO Board time to find a replacement TPO Director. Mr. Zalak seconded, the motion was not unanimous with Commissioner Stone and Commissioner Bryant opposing.

Mr. Moore asked the City of Ocala HR Director, Jared Sorensen to conduct a Salary Survey to see what surrounding areas were paying for the TPO Director position.

Ms. Bryant said she didn't believe the TPO Board needed to raise the salary of the TPO Director position so soon.

Mr. Moore said he only wanted to conduct a Salary Survey to find out if the Ocala-Marion salary for the TPO Director position was competitive.

Item 4. Comments by TPO Members

Mr. Musleh asked when the search process for a new TPO Director would begin.

Mr. Moore answered, immediately.

Mr. Musleh suggested posting the TPO Director position and then negotiating salary once the Salary Survey information had been received.

Mr. Musleh also suggested contacting the finalist with Mr. Daniels for the TPO Director to see if she might be interested in the position.

There was additional board discussion about the qualifications of position and the going forward of posting the Director position.

Ms. Bryant said she had one concern about committing to 90-days and said if the board reached out to the other finalist and she was interested and ready to start immediately how would that effect the board moving forward by locking Mr. Daniels in for 90-days.

Mr. Zalak asked Mr. Daniels if the position was filled sooner than the 90-days would he be willing to leave the TPO.

Mr. Daniels replied yes.

The board told Mr. Sorensen to reach out to the other finalist first and if she declined to post the TPO Director Position Statewide.

City of Ocala Attorney, Mr. Baxley expounded on the Staff Services Agreement between the City of Ocala and the TPO.

Ms. Stone said she would like to revisit the Staff Services Agreement to see if it had been the best way to oversee the TPO with so many big projects taking place.

There was board discussion about reviewing the Staff Services Agreement.

Mr. Moore reminded the board that other items such as the reviewing of the Staff Services Agreement and additional items should be reviewed and discussed the next scheduled TPO meeting and not at the Special Meeting.

There was additional board discussion.

Again, Mr. Moore advised the board to stay on topic of the only action item for the Special Meeting Agenda.

Item 5. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Ms. Bryant said that she was a part of the Committee that hired Mr. Daniels and that she was very disappointed by the things that had transpired.

Ms. Stone said that she worked with Mr. Daniels and that the communication had been a very big issue for her and that she stood on the fact she would like to be notified of key decisions pertaining to the TPO and more specifically the Transportation Disadvantaged Board that she chairs. Ms. Stone asked the board to keep that in mind as a new Director will be hired and it would be an opportunity to let the new Director know.

Item 6. Adjournment

Chairman Moore adjourned the meeting at 10:44 AM.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Shakayla Pullings, TPO Administrative Assistant