



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES Metro Miami Action Plan Trust

Office of the Metro Miami Action Plan
19 West Flagler Street
Mezzanine Room 106
Miami, Florida 33128

Meeting Date:

January 18, 2006
12:30 P.M.

Prepared by:

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners

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Clerk of the Board Division

Reporter:

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**METRO-MIAMI ACTION PLAN TRUST
MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2006**

The Metro-Miami Action Plan Trust (MMAP) convened at the Office of MMAP Trust Board Room, 19 West Flagler Street, Mezzanine Room #106, on January 18, 2006 at 12:36 p.m., there being present Chairperson John T. Jones, Jr., Mr. Tony E. Crapp, Jr., Ms. Veldrin Freemon, Ms. Marie B. Hyppolite, Ms. Beverly Kovach, Ms. Greicy Lovin-Meighan, Mr. Herbert Robinson, Dr. Marzell Smith, and Mr. Daniel A. Wick, Jr. (Trust members Mr. Arthur Barnes, Mr. Thomas B. Donaldson, Mr. Robert Holland, Mr. Benedict P. Kuehne, Mr. Omar Malone, Dr. Marty Pinkston, Ms. Cynthia Stafford, Dr. Richard E. Williams, and Mr. Hannie L. Woodson were absent).

ROLL CALL:

Staff members present were: MMAP Trust Interim President/CEO Randall Carr; Mr. Jacob Berry, Ms. Laverne Carlile, Ms. Rachel Fredericq, Mr. Jose Gonzalez, Ms. Joann Hicks, Ms. Madeline McIntosh, Mr. Caesar Phillips, Ms. Traci Pollock, Mr. William Simmons, Ms. Angela Vaughns, Mr. Joey Walker; Assistant to Assistant County Attorney Tony Crapp Mr. Gary Hartfield, and Deputy Clerk Mary Smith-York.

Chairperson John T. Jones called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m. and hearing no requests for changes to today's agenda, announced that the Trust would hear presentations at the start of today's meeting.

I. MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS

A. Action Committee

1. Criminal Justice Sensitivity Action Committee

Not presented.

2. Education Action Committee

Dr. Smith provided an oral report on issues involving the Education Committee, focusing primarily on safety issues at the Martin Luther King (MLK) Academy. The following issues were highlighted:

- Fencing surrounding the Academy needed repair;
- the area of NW 135th Street, near the MLK Academy needed school zone traffic signs; and
- the school's cafeteria needed a communication device.

Dr. Smith advised the fence surrounding MLK was damaged during Hurricane Wilma and vandals were entering the building, destroying property, and jeopardizing the safety of students. He noted repairing the fence was the landlord's responsibility and requested feedback on what approach would best resolve this issue. Regarding the traffic sign issue, Dr. Smith noted staff member Caesar Phillips advised that 135th Street was under the jurisdiction of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Pertaining to the communication device issue, Dr. Smith reported that staff had been requested to investigate means for providing a communication device, such as a telephone or a walkie-talkie, to the cafeteria worker for security purposes.

In response to Dr. Smith's comment on traffic signs, President/CEO Randal Carr advised that staff had been working with FDOT regarding this issue for quite some time. He noted that after being told the State needed to perform a survey, the State had taken no further action.

Chairperson Jones recommended that staff provide the Education Action Committee with a written copy of all responses from FDOT regarding this issue, along with a copy to each Trust members so that adherence to timeframes and deadlines might be monitored.

Mr. Caesar Phillips advised that in order for County personnel to obtain walkie-talkies, a request needed to be submitted to the Enterprise Services Technology Department (ETSD) to secure the required license. He noted this process had been initiated and was awaiting approval of the license.

Chairperson Jones suggested a security guard, equipped with a communication device, be stationed in the cafeteria during mealtimes temporarily until a more permanent solution could be developed.

Upon concluding discussion on the foregoing report, Mr. Crapp announced that MLK Director Madeline McIntosh was present and that she requested permission to appear before the Trust regarding MLK issues.

Dr. Smith objected to Ms. McIntosh coming before the Trust without allowing the Education Action Committee the opportunity to hear her concerns and attempt resolution. He noted a memorandum from Ms. McIntosh, dated January 18, 2006, outlining her concerns, was just distributed and had not yet been reviewed.

Chairperson Jones advised Ms. McIntosh that her presentation would be deferred until Dr. Smith and the Education Action Committee had the chance to review her memorandum and respond to the concerns listed therein. In response to Ms. McIntosh's inquiry regarding the date to reappear, Chairperson Jones noted she would be informed of the date and time her concerns would be brought back before the Trust.

Discussion ensued among Trust members and staff regarding protocol that required the President/CEO to review and respond to personnel issues prior to being presented for consideration by the Trust.

In response to Ms. Freemon's statement that any documentation received by the Interim President/CEO regarding Ms. McIntosh's concerns, Mr. Carr advised that he only recently received notice of the current issues contained in the memorandum, but that past concerns had been resolved.

Chairperson Jones requested Mr. Carr to provide a response to Ms. McIntosh regarding those current issues contained in her memorandum.

3. Community Economic Development Action Committee

Ms. Kovach provided an oral report on the status of the Community Economic Development Committee (CED) and advised that the report contained in the agenda package was from two months prior. She noted the Committee met last week and discussed new projects, which would be presented for consideration by the Trust.

Staff member Jacob Berry informed the Trust that a Forum had been scheduled for Saturday, January 28, 2006 at the Miami Dade College's North Campus.

Mr. Hardemon expressed concern with lack of cooperation from MMAP Trust staff members regarding the NW 18th Avenue Initiative. He noted steps to resolve those issues would be taken at the next Economic Development sub-committee meeting on February 3, 2006.

In response to Mr. Hardemon's request that the Housing Committee attend the February 3rd meeting, Chairperson Jones recommended he forward the housing issues that surfaced at the Economic Development meeting for consideration by the Housing Committee.

4. International Trade Committee

Not presented.

5. Action Committee – Staff Liaison Assignments

6. Legislative Action Committee

Mr. Robinson emphasized the Committee's need for an approved budget to fund the lobbyists' expenses. He noted a lack of quorum as the reason for the deferral of the committee's proposed budget at the previous three meetings.

Chairperson Jones recommended the proposed budget be considered for approval by the Executive Committee followed by ratification of the full Trust. He further recommended the proposed State lobbyist contract be heard by the Executive Committee for approval and then forwarded to the Trust for ratification.

Following discussion regarding the forthcoming State and Federal Legislative sessions, Chairperson Jones recommended the proposed Federal lobbyist contract also be presented for approval by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

7. Public Relations Action Committee

B. Units/Sections/Divisions

- 1. Fiscal Management**
- 2. MLK, Jr. Academy**
- 3. Teen Court**
- 4. Housing**
- 5. Economic Development**

II. PRESIDENT ITEMS

A. Information Items

- 1. Miami-Dade County Days in Tallahassee Cancelled**
- 2. Update Brownsville CDC/Tornado Rebuild Oral Presentation**

Mr. Larrie Lovett, Director, Brownsville Community Development Corporation (BCDC) appeared before the Trust and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to speak on this matter today. He provided a brief historical background and summarized the current status of the BCDC Tornado Rebuild project created to replace 14 homes destroyed by a tornado in 2003. Mr. Lovett stated the project had received the following funding: \$750,000 from Metro-Miami Action Plan Trust (MMA), \$420,000 from Miami-Dade Housing Agency (MDHA); and \$650,000 (\$150,000 specifically for property acquisition) from Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED). He noted approximately \$700,000 in gap funds was needed for project construction. He further noted BCC Commissioner Edmonson would host a meeting with the funding agencies to discuss gap funding issues on January 30, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioner's office on the 7th Floor of the Joseph Caleb Center (5400 NW 22nd Avenue). Mr. Lovett commented that representatives of Fannie Mae were contacted and a meeting was scheduled for 3:00 p.m. today to discuss funding options. In response to Mr. Wick's inquiry of the cost per unit, Mr. Lovett advised the total cost was \$190,000 per house and displayed drawings of the three model designs.

Chairperson Jones suggested representatives of the Brownsville CDC meet with Miami-Dade Housing and the MMA Trust Housing representatives to discuss gap funding. He advised that representatives of MMA Trust would attend the January 30th meeting and encouraged Mr. Lovett to explore alternatives to government funding.

B. Action Items

III. TRUST ITEMS

A. Informational Items

B. Action Items

NON-AGENDA ITEMS REPORT:

1. WORLD CONSTRUCTORS, INC.

Mr. Patrick Range, representing World Constructors, Inc., appeared before the Trust and provided a brief overview of the company's presentation on affordable housing within Miami-Dade County's inner city. He noted the program would address a number of economic development issues and asked the Trust to assist in identifying parcels of land appropriate for the development of affordable housing. Mr. Range called forth Mr. Jeannidis, World Constructors, Inc. to make his presentation.

Mr. Anastasios Jeannidis, President, World Constructors, Inc appeared before the Trust and provided a detailed description of the company's ready-to-build, Hurricane Proof, affordable housing system. He highlighted the following points:

- the building materials used were inexpensive
- the homes could be constructed within 30 days;
- the pre-fabricated system would withstand hurricane-force winds of up to 165 miles per hour;
- the manufacturing factory would be set up in Homestead; and
- the employees would be hired from the surrounding community.

Chairperson Jones recommended the MMAP Trust Legislative and Housing Committees collaborate on compiling data regarding the housing initiative for inclusion in the federal legislative package. Discussion ensued among Trust members regarding land within the county that could be purchased.

Ms. Lovin-Meighan provided an update regarding the World Constructors, Inc. proposal and advised that due to recent changes to the Board of County Commissioners, the original proposals were altered, and that she would provide an update at the next Trust meeting.

Mr. Crapp suggested that MMAP Trust President/CEO Randal Carr schedule a meeting with Mr. Range, the Housing Committee Chair, and the Legislative Committee Chair to discuss further these issues, in accordance with the Florida Government in the Sunshine law.

2. MEMBERSHIP/QUORUM ISSUES

Chairperson Jones recommended the Trust take immediate action concerning the removal of three members to whom letters had been sent regarding their lack of attendance at Trust meetings.

Discussion ensued among Trust members regarding membership requirements and quorum issues.

Chairperson Jones suggested the Trust revisit the current process governing membership and quorum requirements for possible adjustments. He instructed Trust members to present all items that required action to the Executive Committee for approval until the membership/quorum issue had been resolved.

3. PRESIDENT/CEO

Mr. Robinson stated for the record, that sixty (60) applications for the position of MMAP Trust President/CEO had been received, of which, fourteen (14) were from County employees and forty-six (46) from public citizens.

Hearing confirmation that all Nominating Committee members were present, Chairperson Jones advised that the Trust meeting would adjourn and following a break, the Nominating Committee would convene a meeting to review the applications received.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion to come before the Trust, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

John T. Jones, Jr., Chairperson
Metro Miami Action Plan Trust