



**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA**

January 9, 2019 – 11:00 a.m.
315 Court Street, 5th Floor
Board of County Commissioners Conference Room

THE PLANNING COUNCIL AND METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR PINELLAS COUNTY

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 14, 2018**
- 3. STATE BILLS OF INTEREST**
- 4. UPDATE ON POTENTIAL STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**
- 5. PINELLAS DELEGATION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**
- 6. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
- 7. ADJOURNMENT**

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Appeals: Certain public meetings result in actions taken by the public board, commission or agency that may be appealed; in such case persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decision made at a public meeting/hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purposes, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

**FORWARD PINELLAS
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
NOVEMBER 14, 2018**

Committee Members in Attendance:

Vice Mayor Doreen Caudell, City of Clearwater, Forward Pinellas Chair
Mayor Cookie Kennedy, City of Indian Rocks Beach, Forward Pinellas Treasurer
Mayor Doug Bevis, City of Oldsmar
Councilmember Brandi Gabbard, City of St. Petersburg
Commissioner Charlie Justice, Pinellas County

Also Present:

Whit Blanton, Executive Director
Sarah Caper, Principal Planner
Linda Fisher, Principal Planner
Tina Jablon, Administrative Secretary
Chelsea Hardy, County Attorney's Office
Darryl Henderson, Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce, VP Public Policy &
Economic Development
Brian Lowack, Intergovernmental Liaison, Pinellas County
Robyn Keefe, City of St. Petersburg
Michael Dema, St. Petersburg City Attorney's Office

The Forward Pinellas Legislative Committee met in the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners 5th Floor Conference Room.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Caudell called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and those present introduced themselves.

Whit Blanton explained that the Florida Legislature is holding an upcoming organizational session and committee assignments should be forthcoming. Staff will monitor the assignments and schedule appointments with the delegation members as appropriate. Staff is also still coordinating with local partners to align priorities and requests where possible.

2. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FLORIDA RIGHT TO FARM ACT

Sarah Caper introduced this item offering a brief synopsis of activities that lead to this point. Robyn Keefe and Attorney Michael Dema, from the City of St. Petersburg, updated the committee on the work done to date in collaboration with Forward Pinellas staff. The City is proposing amendments to the Act to facilitate local urban agriculture opportunities. They discussed the current barriers and the proposed amendments to the language in the Florida Right to Farm Act to address those barriers. The committee members discussed the possibility of potential push back and ultimately concluded there would likely be limited opposition. It was decided that the Forward

Pinellas and City of St. Petersburg attorneys would work together to craft suggested language. Linking to the USDA criteria for food deserts was discussed.

3. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Whit Blanton advised preliminary conversations have begun with members of the Pinellas Legislative Delegation regarding some of the potential priorities currently being followed and tracked by staff. Specifically, the indexing of the local fuel tax to inflation and enhancing the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) to allow flexibility for transit and parallel corridors.

After query by Whit Blanton about vacation rentals, Mayor Kennedy stated she would ultimately like to see the law rescinded. However, she agreed it was advisable to have draft language ready to be responsive to the direction taken by the legislators on the topic. Brian Lowack suggested a coordinated effort with other local governments to work towards one point that the collective group can rally behind, rather than just attempting to repeal the preemption. Mayor Kennedy will bring suggested language back to the committee for consideration and Forward Pinellas staff was directed to develop a one-page document on this item. Brian Lowack will follow the activities relating to this item and report back to the committee.

Whit Blanton reminded the group that there would not be a meeting in December. He stated he would email the group if any bills are filed related areas of interest currently being discussed by this committee prior to the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

SUMMARY

Several bills of interest have already been filed:

- **SB 68: Transportation Disadvantaged (Book).** Adding language stating that Community Transportation Coordinators (CTCs) shall plan for and use regional fare payment systems, if available and cost effective.
- **SB 70: State Funds (Passidomo).** Exempting the State Housing Trust Fund and Local Government Housing Trust Fund from a provision authorizing the Legislature to transfer unappropriated cash balances to the Budget Stabilization Fund and the General Revenue Fund.
- **SR 76: Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving (Simpson).** Creating a ban on wireless communication devices while driving, prohibiting a person from operating a motor vehicle while listening or talking on a wireless communications device for the purpose of voice interpersonal communication.
- **SB 78: Public Financing of Construction Projects (Rodriguez).** Prohibiting state-financed constructors from commencing construction of certain structures in coastal areas without first conducting a sea level impact projection study that must be approved and published.
- **SR 82: Vegetable Gardens (Bradley).** Prohibiting local governments from regulating vegetable gardens on residential properties.

- **HB 45: Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving (Slosberg).** Prohibits operation of motor vehicles while holding or touching wireless communications device.
- **HB 107: Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving (Toldeo with Grieco, Massullo, McClure, Stevenson).** Prohibits person from operating motor vehicle while using wireless communications device for purpose of nonvoice or voice interpersonal communication.
- **HB 145: Vegetable Gardens (Fetterhoff).** Prohibits local governments from regulating vegetable gardens on residential properties except as otherwise provided by law.

ATTACHMENT(S): None

ACTION: None required; informational item only; or as deemed appropriate by the committee

Legislative Committee – January 9, 2019

4. Update on Potential State Legislative Priorities



SUMMARY

At previous committee meetings, several potential areas of interest were discussed for state legislative priorities. Staff is in the process of collecting information from partner agencies and will share the information received with the committee when available.

Potential areas of interest to date include:

- Indexing local fuel tax to inflation
- Addressing short term rentals
- Amending Florida Right to Farm Act
- Enhancing the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) to allow flexibility for transit and parallel corridors
- Addressing distracted driving

Based on the current bills filed, another area of interest is protecting the affordable housing trust fund.

Updated information on the areas of interest will be provided at the meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S): None

ACTION: None required; informational item only; or as deemed appropriate by the committee

Pinellas Senators	Committee(s)
Jeff Brandes	Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice (Chair) Criminal Justice (Vice Chair) Appropriations Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Banking and Insurance Innovation, Industry and Technology Rules Joint Legislative Auditing Committee (Alternating Chair) Joint Legislative Budget Commission
Ed Hooper	Governmental Oversight and Accountability (Chair) Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services Health Policy Infrastructure and Security Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining (Alternating Chair) Joint Administrative Procedures Committee
Darryl Rouson	Banking and Insurance (Vice Chair) Appropriations Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services Health Policy

Pinellas Representatives	Committee(s)
Ben Diamond	Appropriations Committee Civil Justice Subcommittee Insurance and Banking Subcommittee Judiciary Committee
Nick DiCeglie	Civil Justice Subcommittee Health and Human Services Committee Justice Appropriations Subcommittee Local, Federal and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee State Affairs Committee
James "JW" Grant	Criminal Justice Subcommittee (Chair) Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee (Vice Chair) Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee Joint Administrative Procedures Committee Judiciary Committee Oversight, Transparency and Public Management Subcommittee

Chris Latvala	PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee (Chair) Education Committee (Vice Chair) PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee (Vice Chair) Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee Appropriations Committee State Affairs Committee
Wengay Newton	Business and Professions Subcommittee Children, Families and Seniors Subcommittee Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee State Affairs Committee
Chris Sprowls	Rules Committee (Chair) Appropriations Committee
Jennifer Webb	Commerce Committee Criminal Justice Subcommittee Gaming Control Subcommittee PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee