



A Board Meeting of the Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, Inc. (RCI) was held on Thursday, March 24, 2011, at 12:00 PM, at the Northeast Florida Regional Council, 6850 Belfort Oaks Place, Jacksonville, Florida, 32216.

Mr. Boyle called the meeting to order with the following members present (in person and via phone). The meeting was a workshop, as there was not a quorum.

Doug Conkey, Dawn Emerick, Willie Gonzalez, Linda Myers, Bob Page, Harold Rutledge and Quint White.

Staff: Margo Moehring and Angi Giles

Chair Boyle welcomed all in attendance. Since Mr. Boyle attended electronically via telephone, he asked Ms. Moehring, as Executive Director, to chair the meeting on location.

Minutes – The minutes were reviewed and no changes were requested. No action taken on the minutes at this time.

Ms. Moehring stated that several items were approved via electronic polling, which included changes to the bylaws and extending the Board Members terms.

Mr. Tom Crawford: It was suggested that Mr. Tom Crawford, who was a member of the Affordable Housing Committee, be invited to join the RCI as an affordable housing expert. No objections were expressed.

Public Input: Ms. Moehring informed the members that the Public Input phase is completed. Staff conducted Town Hall meetings in all 7 counties. Staff also met with Ronnie Ferguson from Jax Housing Authority. 14 pages of public comment have been generated and summarized by staff. The group discussed what the Vision should cover and agreed that 3 areas to enhance are: agriculture, the St. Johns River and working waterfront. No change to the original scope of the Vision, with a focus on growth and development, was supported.

Draft First Coast Vision: Ms. Moehring informed the members that a copy of the Draft FCV would be given to the First Coast Consortium for their review and comment. She stated that the 2nd draft would consider all comments but be a more marketable document. Discussion involved organized implementation and the need to keep public interest up. Jim Sellen has said that well-supported and understood Visions can become self-fulfilling prophecies. Discussion followed regarding making sure the local governments were kept involved and that RCI has their “buy-in” for the Vision.

Design Challenge: Ms. Moehring stated that we have asked the creative community to create an image for the Vision.

Fundraising Update: Ms. Moehring informed the members that we have had several sponsors: Everbank, JTA, Rayonier/TerraPointe and Nassau County have either pledged or already given a sponsorship.

Next Steps: Ms. Moehring stated that we are on track and will next be doing a press release for the Design Challenge. The Draft FCV will be sent to the First Coast Consortium members; a design challenge winner will be chosen. Efforts should be concluded in September. We need lots of Board Member Participation in June, so that implementation plans can be made.

The group discussed the changes to growth management under consideration and the potential impacts on regions. An update was requested at the June meeting to summarize the changes once the legislative session is finished. The group further discussed implementation strategies, and suggested that the "face" of First Coast Vision would be better received if it was perceived as coming from the non-profit RCI than a government entity. Margo was asked to produce a draft implementation strategy for the Board's consideration at the June meeting.

The next meeting dates are scheduled for June 23, 2011 and September 22, 2011.

There being no further items to discuss, the workshop adjourned at 1:06 pm.