

**OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE  
BIOSCIENCE LAND PROTECTION ADVISORY BOARD  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2012**

**THURSDAY  
1:30 P.M.**

**MAX PLANCK ROOM 2010  
JUPITER, FLORIDA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.A. Roll Call**

**MEMBERS:**

Commissioner Karen T. Marcus, Chair, Palm Beach County Commission  
Councilman Shelby Lowe, Vice Chair, City of Riviera Beach  
Mayor William Albury, Town of Mangonia Park – Alternate Sarita Johnson  
Mayor James Dubois, Town of Lake Park  
Mayor Karen Golonka, Town of Jupiter  
Joe Russo, City of Palm Beach Gardens – Alternate Mayor David Levy  
John R. Smith, Governor's appointee

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:**

Dominique Marseille, Minutes Clerk, Clerk & Comptroller's Office  
Patricia Weaver, Administrative Assistant to Commissioner Karen T. Marcus

(CLERK'S NOTE: Commissioner Marcus expressed condolences to Mr. Robert Friedman's family.)

**2. WELCOME**

Commissioner Marcus asked participants to introduce themselves.

Commissioner Marcus welcomed Scripps representative Dr. Dawn Johnson and asked her to update the board on current endeavors, later in the meeting (page 8).

**3. APPROVAL OF MAY 17, 2012, MINUTES – Page 4**

**4. UPDATE FROM THE COUNTY**

Assistant County Administrator Shannon R. LaRocque-Baas presented the following update:

- An active item was the Scripps Tenant Academic Medical Center.
- She had traveled to Tallahassee to testify on the certificate for an appeal hearing which was still in progress.
- A recommendation from an administrative judge about the appeal was expected in early 2013.
- A ruling would go to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). The agency would render its recommendation on whether to approve the appeal.

**5. UPDATE FROM THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (BDB)**

Shawn Rowan stated the following:

- Somahlution, a bioscience company, had announced its relocation to Jupiter in the beginning of July 2012.
  - The Town of Jupiter and the State provided an incentive package for the company to relocate.
  - The company had committed to creating 25 new jobs in the County, and 21 job positions had already been filled.
  - The company would provide contract research.
  - Somahlution obtained licensed technology from Harvard University, and would conduct research on preservation solutions for the heart.

## 5. – CONTINUED

- The BDB and the World Stem Cell Summit (WSCS) planned to produce a summit to be held at the Palm Beach Convention Center, December 3, 2012 through December 5, 2012.
  - The BDB and the Convention Visitor's Bureau (CVB) were joint summit sponsors.
  - The event was expected to bring 1,200 to 1,500 attendees, representing pharmaceutical companies and research institutes.
  - A postcard was proposed by the BDB to WSCS organizers, offering tours of real estate properties and cultural amenities.
  - Host hotels for the convention were the Breakers and the Marriott.
- On October 30, 2012, through November 1, 2012, the Southeast Bio Investor Forum (SBIF) was to be held at the Breakers Hotel.
  - The annual forum expected 400 attendees.
  - The forum's intent was to bring together venture capital, early stage investment, early stage companies in venture, and companies seeking venture capital.
  - In 2011, the Southeast forum attracted nearly \$1.7 billion in venture funding for its companies that presented at the conference.
- The BDB was currently working with four life-science companies outside and within Palm Beach County.

Commissioner Marcus asked Mr. Rowan whether the Bioscience Land Protection Advisory Board (BLPAB) members and elected officials could attend the WSCS, to advocate support of bioscience and research companies, through setting up a booth with information on what PBC had to offer for companies.

## 5. – CONTINUED

Mr. Rowan stated that currently he could not respond to Commissioner Marcus's inquiry, but when the BDB and CVB knew what their sponsorship would entail by working with the genetics policy institute, he would provide the board and the County with an answer. He added that the BDB's sponsorship came with passes to attend the WSCS and the BDB's intent was that the PBC commission and the BLPAB would receive them.

Town of Jupiter Mayor Karen Golonka stated that in 2011, a bus tour was conducted with venture capitalists and real estate individuals.

Mr. Rowan said that:

- The Southeast investment forum was held throughout the southeast United States in a different location every year.
- The tour that Mayor Golonka discussed was possibly the BDB's annual site selection consultant familiarization tour.
- Another site selection familiarization bus tour was scheduled at the end of February into the beginning of March 2013.
- The BDB was considering a bus tour for the SBIF, to allow attendees to observe Palm Beach County's vibrant business community and environment.

## 6. UPDATE STATE FUNDING CORP – None

Commissioner Marcus stated that there was no presentation, since representation for the State Funding Corp could not attend the meeting. She added that the BLPAB received an annual report, on the progression of the State Funding Corp, by email.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Item 3 was taken at this time.)

## 3. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 17, 2012, MINUTES

**MOTION to approve the May 17, 2012, minutes. Motion by Mayor David Levy, seconded by Councilman Shelby Lowe, and carried unanimously.**

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Max Planck Presentation**

Dr. David Fitzpatrick of the Max Planck Institute while giving a power point presentation to the BLPAB, stated that:

- The Max Planck Society (MPS) was Germany's most successful research organization and held an exceptional track record of scientific achievement in the disciplines of Medicine, Oncology, Evolutionary Biology, Genetics, and Neuroscience.
- There were 84 institutes headed by 279 directors and 17 Nobel Peace Prize laureates.
- The society published 13, 000 scientific publications per year and had an annual research budget of \$2.8 billion.
- The sole Max Planck Institute in the United States was the Max Planck Florida Institute (MPFI) in Jupiter, Florida.

(CLERK'S NOTE: A video was played from former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, depicting how the Max Planck Institute came to reside in Florida.)

- Funds for the MPFI were provided through contributions from the State of Florida, the County, Florida Atlantic University (FAU), and the Town of Jupiter.
- The MFPI anticipated an annual budget of \$17 million from external grant funding, philanthropy, technology transfer, and the MPS.
- The MPFI planned to hire 180 employees, which included 11 lead scientists.
- Opening ceremony for MPFI was scheduled for December 5, 2012, and an open house was planned for December 8, 2012, to provide the opportunity for MPFI to celebrate with the local community.

## 7.a. – CONTINUED

- The MPFI would bring a science fair, battle of the brains project, poster contest to county schools, and panel discussions on careers in biotechnology with Palm Beach State College.
- The MPFI's focus was on the brain and the key to diagnosis treatment for neurological and psychiatric disorders.
- The MPFI attempted to answer basic questions on neural circuits including the wiring diagram of the brain, neural code, and neural circuit construction.
- A new light-based technology allowed scientists to understand neural circuits and networks in the brain, through visualizing neuron structure, function, and activity.
- Scientists at MPFI, Scripps, and FAU staff worked together to build the neuroscience community through shared infrastructure, brainstorming dinners, joint seminars, and collaborative research.
- The scientists at MPFI partnered with FAU to build training programs for college students to learn about the sciences.
- The MPFI coordinated a symposium where scientific investigators from Latin America discussed MPFI and the Jupiter neuroscience community.
- The MFPI had an undergraduate research program, summer internships for the county's high school students, and a brain bee with questions in neuroscience for high school students.

A question and answer session evolved and Dr. Fitzpatrick stated the following:

- The MFPI scientists worked with animal models including mice and ferrets to research brain disorders.
- The MFPI scientists dealt largely with molecular biology to observe the chemical and electrical communications in the brain.

## 7.a. – CONTINUED

- Neurological scientists were researching the recovery environment of the brain after a stroke occurred.
- A public relations effort about the quality of Palm Beach County's educational system, and family life, needed to be spread in the science community to attract scientists to the County.
- Local scientists stayed connected with the academic world through the Internet, seminar series, and symposiums to allow other scientists to visit the MFPI.
- The MPFI needed more facilities to accommodate scientists and interns, who stay in the area for months at a time.
- A series of science lectures were done by the MFPI in the Town of Palm Beach by Max Planck directors.
- He would serve as a contact person for board members to have MFPI scientists speak to residents in their local communities, and inquiries could be made through email.

Dr. Johnson stated that securing local housing for visiting scientists was a concern for Scripps as well.

Commissioner Marcus stated that the BLPAB would try to identify space that could be used for visiting scientists and interns. She asked board members to bring back, at the next scheduled meeting, collaborative information on housing opportunities for the bioscience companies.

Mr. Rowan stated that the BDB used testimonials in their marketing materials, and they held sessions with companies that recently relocated to the area to identify attractions for them.

**7.b. SCRIPPS UPDATE**

Dr. Johnson informed the board that Scripps faculty members were added to the company that did scientific work in the areas of infectious disease, human immunodeficiency virus, and metabolism.

Commissioner Marcus suggested that perhaps the next board meeting could be held at the Scripps facilities to allow participants/attendees to be updated on recent developments.

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Village of North Palm Beach**

Commissioner Marcus stated that the Village of North Palm Beach had requested to be scheduled on the next agenda. She said that the Village's discussion would take place.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**10. MEMBER'S COMMENTS**

**a. Town of Jupiter**

Mayor Golonka stated the following:

- The Town of Jupiter (Jupiter) had spent \$3.2 million of the money it had committed toward bioscience startup companies.
- Approximately 12 companies had received loan guarantees from Jupiter and at some point that money would return.
- Currently, Jupiter had received \$1.3 million in repaid funds from companies.
- Jupiter would continue to broaden available funds for bioscience and high tech companies that may benefit the area.
- An annual report would be created to show the BLPAB, the benefits to the area, of funding the program.

## **10. – CONTINUED**

### **b. Town of Mangonia Park**

Sarita Johnson of the Town of Mangonia Park stated that Mayor William Albury wanted to continue being a member of the board, but had schedule conflicts.

## **11. NEXT MEETING – November 15, 2012 – Scripps**

Commissioner Marcus said that a new schedule would be discussed at the November 2012 meeting.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

At 2:51 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

(CLERK'S NOTE: A tour of the Max Planck facility followed adjournment.)