

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

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2014**

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

**SCRIPPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
JUPITER, FLORIDA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**1.A. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS:**

Commissioner Hal R. Valeche, Chair, Palm Beach County Commission  
Councilman Joseph Russo, Vice Chair, City of Palm Beach Gardens – Arrived later  
Mayor William Albury, Town of Mangonia Park – Absent  
Mayor James Dubois, Town of Lake Park  
Mayor Karen Golonka, Town of Jupiter – Arrived later  
Councilwoman Dawn Pardo, City of Riviera Beach – Absent  
John R. Smith, Governor's appointee

**ALTERNATE MEMBER:**

Councilman David Levy, City of Palm Beach Gardens

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:**

Robert Banks, Chief Land Use County Attorney  
Julie Burns, Deputy Clerk, Clerk & Comptroller's Office  
Patricia Weaver, Senior Administrative Assistant to Commissioner Hal R. Valeche

(CLERK'S NOTE: Mayor Karen Golonka joined the meeting.)

**2. APPROVAL OF MAY 15, 2014, MINUTES**

**MOTION to approve the May 15, 2014, minutes. Motion by James Dubois, seconded by David Levy, and carried unanimously. William Albury, Dawn Pardo, and Joseph Russo absent.**

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

Councilman David Levy said that Representative Carl Domino informed him that he and former Florida State University (FSU) President John Thrasher discussed possible plans for an FSU campus hospital and that he would discuss the matter with other representatives. He added that besides speaking with Representative Domino, he spoke with former Commissioner Karen Marcus.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Item 6. was presented at this time.)

**6. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BOARD UPDATE**

Shawn Rowan, Business Retention and Expansion Vice President for the Business Development Board (BDB), said that:

- In 2014, there were approximately 3,800 new and retained jobs among the companies that utilized the BDB's services.
- Five new life science-related projects being considered for relocation and expansion from the Town of Jupiter (Jupiter) to the City of Boca Raton would add approximately 500 new jobs.
  - The Life Sciences and Healthcare Industries Cluster Task Force (Task Force) was working on new strategic marketing plans for countywide life sciences.
  - A third-party marketing communications company was working with the Task Force to complete the first drafts on location branding.

Commissioner Hal Valeche said that a Joe DiMaggio clinic was being considered on the Avenir property located in the City of Palm Beach Gardens' (PBG) western boundaries.

## 6. – CONTINUED

Natalie Crowley, PBG Planning and Zoning Director, said that Avenir representatives were working on a revised proposal that included 4,600 homes and approximately one million square feet of office space for possible medical use.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Vice Chair Joseph Russo joined the meeting.)

John Smith said that the Avenir representatives should consider including some biotechnology tenants in their office space.

Vice Chair Russo noted that a City of West Palm Beach biotechnology-related company recently decided not to expand into PBG.

Mayor Karen Golonka said that Jupiter also lost the relocation of a small biotechnology company.

Mr. Rowan commented that the startup company relocated to New York.

Commissioner Valeche said that the company chose New York because its venture capitalist was probably located in New York City.

(CLERK'S NOTE: The numeric order of the agenda was restored.)

## 4. GUEST SPEAKER – DR. DAWN JOHNSON, SCRIPPS FLORIDA

Dawn Johnson, Senior Director for the Scripps Research Institute Florida (Scripps Florida) Operations, said that:

- Scripps Florida received \$38 million in grants this year. The \$400 million in grants to date did not include State funding.
- There were 26 patent applications this year and 100 to date.
- Approximately 39 license agreements were signed with Scripps Florida.
- A new business development initiative and four start-up companies looking to improve human health through biomedical research and drug discovery were underway with Scripps Florida.

#### 4. – CONTINUED

- Scripps Advance was a standalone company that bridged drug discovery innovation between Scripps Florida and Pharma Research and Manufacturers of America (Pharma), which represented leading research-based pharmaceutical companies wanting to fund specific projects.
- The projects would focus on cancer, biology, oncology, and infectious diseases.
- U.S. News & World Report ranked the Scripps Graduate School (SGS) as one of the top-ten schools for biology, organic chemistry, and biochemistry PhDs.
  - To date, there were 42 SGS graduate students.
  - Half of the SGS campus contained 200 postdoctoral trainees.
  - Florida Atlantic University partnered with SGS to offer a joint MD/PhD program.
- The Scripps Research Institute re-established a faculty council and balanced the council's representation between junior and senior investigators in California and Florida.
- Jim Paulson was Scripps Florida's acting president and chief executive officer. Eventually, the positions may be split to hire a president to handle the scientific aspect and a CEO to handle the business aspect.
- A Senate bill was previously enacted to increase the National Institute of Health's (NIH) funding; however, its status was unclear at this time.

Vice Chair Russo said that he questioned how Scripps Advance could develop its business model with the federal government cutting back on Pharma's funding and pressure on biotechnology companies to determine drug costs.

#### **4. – CONTINUED**

Ms. Johnson said that:

- NIH funding had not kept up with inflation.
- Pharma currently based its portfolio on the drugs covered under Medicare/Medicaid.
- Development of central-nervous-system drugs was dropped due to insufficient federal funding.
- Scripps Florida currently pursued funding through venture philanthropy, social networking, and crowd funding.
- Universities funded their independent research institutes from tuition; however, tuition dollars were insufficient to fund Scripps Florida due to its high indirect rates for buildings and salaries.
- The Disney Lab collaborated with the City of Jacksonville's Mayo Clinic to develop advances in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and frontotemporal dementia research. Dr. Matthew Disney was interested in opening his own research company possibly in Florida.

#### **5. GUEST SPEAKER – BARBARA NOBLE, MAX PLANCK FLORIDA INSTITUTE**

Barbara Noble, Max Planck Foundation President, said that:

- Since 1948, the nonprofit Max Planck Society has been one of the world's most prestigious research institutions.
- Currently, 83 institutes had plans to expand into South America.
- Max Planck helped develop polyethylene and polypropylene, decaffeinated coffee, magnetic imaging, and DNA forensics.

## 5. – CONTINUED

- Florida's Max Planck Institute for Neuroscience opened on December 5, 2012, and focused its work on the central nervous system.
  - The 100,000 square-foot building was gold-lead certified for maximum energy efficiency.
  - A 110-seat auditorium contained state-of-the-art streaming technology for bi-coastal and worldwide symposiums, lectures, events, and classes.
  - There were 114 staff with 135 new staff expected by March 2015.
  - The facility had a \$20 million annual operating budget with a funding model that included 19 external grants.
- In addition to being the Max Planck Foundation president, she was vice president for advancement of the neuroscience institute.
- The Max Planck Society was considered more of a philosophy than an organization because it believed in investing in its scientists and people.
- One of Max Planck's greatest breakthroughs was discovering the first black hole in outer space.
- Max Planck had the only high-speed, 3-D, AOD microscope in the country and 11 two-photon microscopes.
- Nine faculty members worked at the institute, and its third scientific director would begin before March 2015.
- Middle school, high school, and mentorship programs were offered to students, including those attending Title 1 schools. Each year the institute held a neuroscience discovery day.

## 5. – CONTINUED

- An International Max Planck Research School would launch soon.
  - Florida Atlantic University would partner with Max Planck to offer degrees, or students could choose the University of Bahn's Germany campus.
  - Graduate and post-doctoral students of the Max Planck Florida Scientific Fellows Program could study and train in Europe.
- National Public Radio broadcasted a story on the institute during the summer of 2014.

Vice Chair Russo said that past media coverage seemed to indicate that funding for Scripps Florida and Max Planck would end within the next five years.

Ms. Johnson stated that:

- Medical costs for Alzheimer's Disease were projected to cost \$3 trillion.
- Researchers were working on a cure; however, funding losses could jeopardize their efforts.
- A diagnostic test for ALS was nearing completion.

Ms. Noble noted that individuals with ALS did not lose their mental capacities; however, they lost most of their motor function.

Ms. Johnson said that one Scripps Florida researcher was investigating how to test an enamel model for diagnosing autism.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Mr. Smith left the meeting.)

Vice Chair Russo said that Scripps Florida and Max Planck's local presence would help sustain the county during the continued economic slowdown.

## 5. – CONTINUED

Ms. Noble said that staff embraced more collaborative opportunities.

Ms. Johnson added that staff would continue working with the BDB to get biotechnology and life science-related projects added to legislative agendas.

Mr. Levy said that almost every dollar invested in research was paid back multifold.

Ms. Johnson stated that the EIs Center of Excellence handled the educational aspect of autistic individuals. She added that Damon Page, Scripps Florida autism researcher, and another researcher differed in their scientific approaches about autism.

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7. **MEMBERS UPDATES** – None

8. **NEW BUSINESS** – None

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

10. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Commissioner Valeche said that the next meeting would be held in May 2015 to elect new officers.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

**At 3:00 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.**

APPROVED:

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Chair/Vice Chair