COLLIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) BOARD MEETING
Board of County Commissioner Chambers
3299 E. Tamiami Trail, Naples
9:00 a.m.
June 14, 2019
Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order**
   Councilman Buxton called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

2. **Roll Call**
   Mr. Ortman called roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

**Members Present**
Councilman Reg Buxton, City of Naples, Chair
Commissioner William L. McDaniel, Jr., Collier County BCC District 5
Commissioner Donna Fiala, Collier County BCC District 1
Commissioner Andy Solis, Collier County BCC District 2
Councilwoman Elaine Middelstaedt, City of Everglades City, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Burt Saunders, Collier County BCC District 3

Present via Teleconference
Councilman Erik Brechnitz, City of Marco Island

Arrived at approximately 10:30 AM:
Commissioner Penny Taylor, Collier County BCC District 4

**Members Absent**
Councilman Terry Hutchison, City of Naples

**MPO Staff**
Anne McLaughlin, MPO Executive Director
Eric Ortman, MPO Senior Planner
Karen Intriglio, MPO Administrative Assistant

**FDOT**
Wayne Gaither, FDOT
Victoria Peters, FDOT
Steven Andrews, FDOT

**Others Present**
Michelle Avola, Naples Pathway Coalition (NPC)
James Wood, Kimley-Horn, consultant to NPC
Rae Ann Burton, Citizen
Scott Teach, Deputy County Attorney
Trinity Scott, Collier County Transportation Planning (CCTP)
Lorraine Lantz, Collier County Transportation Planning (CCTP)
Matt Dockins, RK&K, consultants to FDOT
Joe Bonness, BPAC member
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   Commissioner McDaniel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

   *Commissioner Saunders made a motion to allow Councilman Brechnitz to participate by telephone due to exceptional circumstances. Seconded by Commissioner Fiala. Carried unanimously.*

4. **Approval of the Agenda, Previous Minutes, and Consent Items**

   A. April 12, 2019 MPO Board Meeting Minutes
   B. Approve Amendment 1 to Agreement No. 18-7408, 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), to Jacobs engineering Group, Inc.

   *Commissioner Fiala moved to approve the Agenda, Previous Minutes, and Consent Items. Seconded by Councilwoman Middelstaedt. Carried unanimously.*

5. **Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda**

   Rae Ann Burton expressed her concerns on issues facing Golden Gates Estates caused by developers; increased densities; loss of wildlife; unregulated growth; luxury housing priced out of range of working class; environmental impacts; loss of aquifers; too much, too dense, crime; loss of environmental quality; and quality of life. Quotes from 1999 NPG Florida Opinion Poll.

6. **Agency Updates**

   A. **FDOT**
      Ms. Peters provided updates:
      - Upcoming Public Hearing for Immokalee Rd. at Randall Blvd. Intersection Project Development & Environmental (PD&E) Study on Thursday, June 20 at the UF/IFAS Ext Office, 14700 Immokalee Rd., Naples beginning at 5:00pm with formal presentation starting at 6:00pm.
      - SR951 Resurfacing project (439555-1) from Judge Jolley Bridge to Fiddlers Creek Pkwy. Received Notice to Proceed (NTP) on 05/28/2019. Scope: milling and resurfacing, base work, shoulder treatment, drainage improvements, curb and gutter, sidewalk, guardrail, signing and pavement marking, signalization, and lighting. Approximately 3.031 miles.
      - US41 from SR951 to Rich King Greenway - Lighting Project (441088-1): Design/Build, work started on 01/18/19. Anticipate completion in Spring 2020. Contractor is Horsepower Electric; currently working on 100% plans. Light poles and light-emitting diode (LED) lights will be placed on north side of roadway. Pre-construction meetings are taking place.

   B. **MPO Executive Director**
      Ms. McLaughlin - no report other than what is in the agenda.

7. **Committee Chair Reports**

   7.A.1. **Citizen Advisory Committee Chair Report**

   Mr. Ortman, Senior Planner, presented the Chair Report provided in the packet.
7.B.1 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair Report

Lorraine Lantz presented the Chair Report provided in the packet. Noted that not having a quorum is unusual for the committee. Confirmed that changes suggested by the committee have been made in the Transportation Improvement Program. Noted that lengthy discussion held on reaffirming support for Local Agency Program (LAP) projects, including reimbursement of funds, better communication regarding MPO process, priority timing changes, Calling for Projects for new third year instead of fifth year and its potential problems with solutions. Committee discussion showed support for adding safety projects to SU.

7.C.1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Chair Report

Mr. Bonness, gave Chair Report included in packet. Regarding Naples Pathways Coalition’s (NPC) Paradise Coast Trail Vision, explained the vote in which six were in favor and three were opposed or abstained in support of the resolution. The committee member from Marco Island voted against the resolution because the NPC’s Vision does not include trail connections to Marco Island. Provided more detail on committee voting on Vanderbilt Drive sidewalk versus a pathway and deleting Immokalee Rd. project. Expanding SU project priorities – add safety based on bike/ped safety; return funding amount to original categories when feasible; have unfunded project list in-place.

Councilman Brechnitz asked why Marco Island excluded from Paradise Coast Trail Vision. Mr. Bonness, NPC received letters of objection from Conservancy raising issues that need to be worked out. Councilman Brechnitz, evaluating impacts on mangroves should be part of the feasibility study; a single letter from a private entity should not exclude Marco Island from feasibility study. Ms. McLaughlin recommended addressing the issue in more detail under agenda item 9E.

7.D.1 Congestion Management Committee Chair Report

N/A.

7.E.1 Local Coordinating Board (LCB)

N/A

8. Regular Board Action (Roll Call Required)

A. Approval of Amendment to Fiscal Year 2019 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Ortman introduced the topic.

Commissioner McDaniel moved Approval; Councilwoman Middelstaedt seconded. Roll call vote was taken with the motion passing unanimously.

Commissioner Solis Yes
Councilwoman Middelstaedt Yes
Councilman Brechnitz Yes
Commissioner McDaniel Yes
Commissioner Fiala Yes
Councilman Buxton Yes
Commissioner Saunders Yes

B. Adopt Fiscal Year 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Mr. Ortman presented the Executive Summary included in the packet.

**Commissioner McDaniel** – How often do we review this? I was looking at the interchange improvements. I think the partial interchange at Vanderbilt ought to be added into this, get it on the list. **Ms. McLaughlin** – The priority list in this year’s TIP is last year’s priority list. The list you’ll be adopting today will go into next year’s TIP. **Commissioner McDaniel** – It’s not on either list, this year’s or last year’s and if it’s not on a list, it’s not a priority. **Commissioner Solis** – We haven’t had any discussions about that. I requested at last meeting that we have a discussion whether it’s even feasible to do a partial interchange in that location. But I don’t think we can add something as a priority if we haven’t discussed about it. We need to understand the process for identifying priorities. **Ms. Mclaughlin** – We’ll go into more detail about the process later on the agenda. Projects have to be identified in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in order to be prioritized for the TIP. The Vanderbilt partial interchange was not recognized as a need in the 2040 LRTP. Priorities generally come from the LRTP’s Cost Feasible Plan. None-the-less, due to previous Board discussions on this topic, FDOT has included a feasibility study for the partial interchange in its large study for I-75 as a precursor to this MPO having to invest money in doing an Interchange Justification Report (IJR).

**Commissioner McDaniel moved approval; Councilwoman Middelstaedt seconded. Roll Call vote taken with motion passing unanimously.**

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9. Regular Board Action (No Roll Call)

**A. Adopt by Resolution 2019 Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) Priorities**

**Ms. McLaughlin** gave a brief presentation on the new TRIP priorities for 2019, which must be adopted by Resolution. Noted late arriving change - the County has removed Veteran’s Memorial Blvd. due to timing issue.

**Commissioner McDaniel:** when are these priorities picked? We haven’t had a joint meeting in a couple of years.

**Ms. McLaughlin** projects initiated by staff; ideally Boards would vote together in a joint meeting; but Boards are acting independently this year.

**Ms. Scott:** TRIP requires 50/50 match so won’t see a lot of annual changes unless the Annual Update and Inventory Report (AUIR) changes. Will cover in more detail in upcoming item 10A on the agenda. Did you have a specific project? Immokalee and Randall dropped off. **Ms. Scott,** It’s being funded by County Sales Tax referendum.

**Commissioner McDaniel moved approval. Councilwoman Middelstaedt seconded. Carried unanimously.**
B. Approve 2019 Congestion Management, Highway, Bridge and Transit Priorities

Ms. McLaughlin provided an overview of the 2019 Congestion Management, Highway, Bridge and Transit Priorities, reporting on advisory committee actions and recommendations. The Congestion Management priorities are new this year. Corkscrew Road has been added to the Highway Project Priorities for 2019 under the new category of Safety, noted Board’s previous approval of safety as a category. The 2019 Bridge project priorities remain the same as last year. County staff submitted new Transit Priorities for 2019 based on adopted plans.

Commissioner Fiala – Please remind us what “SU” stands for. Ms. McLaughlin – Surface Transportation-Urban funds, now known as the Surface Transportation Program (STP) Block Grant program allocated to the MPO due to its status as a Transportation Management Area (TMA). This is where the Board has a very direct say in prioritizing funds, but it is a cooperative process with FDOT.

Councilwoman Middelstaedt moved approval. Commissioner Solis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Approve 2019 Bike-Pedestrian Priorities

Ms. McLaughlin presented an overview of advisory committee recommendations regarding the 2019 Bike-Pedestrian Priorities, explaining that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee voted to eliminate the Shared Use Path on Immokalee Rd. which County staff concurs with. BPAC also voted to delete Vanderbilt Dr as a priority, but later included it as a bicycle lane instead of a sidewalk by a show of hands.

Ms. Scott gave a Powerpoint Presentation (available upon request) describing the right-of-way and drainage constraints that led to the design to add sidewalks to both sides of the roadway. The project in the current TIP is to construct the sidewalk on the east side of the roadway. There is no available ROW to add bike lanes or to widen the sidewalk. This section of roadway is signed at 35 mph. It is a very well used area from perspective of bikes and pedestrians.

Commissioner Solis – In order to put the bike lanes in, it would require additional ROW of both sides? Ms. Scott – Potentially. Probably a little more than 10’ on both sides, adding impervious surface, probably have to increase drainage. Would have to look at water quality again. It’s a big issue, this is a direct release into the bay. Commissioner McDaniel – In order to have it entirely functional, why don’t we add elevated sidewalk over the drainage. Ms. Scott – We are saying we are fine with sidewalk. If the Board wants to direct staff to change the Scope of the project, that will significantly change the project. Our recommendation is to continue forward with the project as described in the TIP.

Commissioner Solis moved approval. Commissioner Saunders seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Approve the Selection Committee’s ranking and authorize entering into negotiations with Tindale Oliver for a contract related to Request for Professional Services (RPS) Number 19-7562, “Collier County Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)

Mr. Ortman provided a briefing on the Request for Professional Services, and the Selection Committee’s ranking of the top three firms out of the four who submitted.

Commissioner Fiala questioned what Jacobs Engineering did right the first time and wrong the second time. Ms. McLaughlin reported that the Selection Committee felt that Jacobs Engineering had the strongest submittal, but when it came to the presentation, Tindale Oliver hit all the key points.

Commissioner Fiala moved approval; Councilwoman Middelstaedt seconded. Approved unanimously.
E. Adopt Resolution Supporting Naples Pathways Coalition’s Paradise Coast Trail Vision

Ms. McLaughlin introduced the Resolution supporting the Naples Pathways Coalition’s (NPC) Paradise Coast Trail Vision. Jim Wood, Kimley-Horne, consultants to the NPC, gave the presentation, which is included in the meeting packet. (All presentations are available upon request.). The Feasibility Study will bring a lot of clarity to answer the questions raised – available ROW, types of funding available, breaking the project down into phases. Concluded by addressing Councilman Brechnitz’s remarks made earlier. Intent is to build something that is part of a larger system. Not intended to be exclusionary in anyway. There are other facilities planned – paved shoulders, bike lanes for example – all the work done for the Bike/Ped Master Plan.

Councilman Brechnitz – With all the large developments going in, why wouldn’t it make sense to have a Shared Use Path along 951? A Feasibility Study should determine what’s feasible. Why eliminate it without studying the feasibility? Ms. McLaughlin – This was studied as part of the development of the Bike-Ped Master Plan. At the time it was determined to limit potential environmental impacts due to sensitivity of abutting lands. If the Board wishes to direct staff to look at it again, staff will do so and report back in the Fall, I would recommend that the Board put that responsibility on your staff for the time being rather than on the Naples Pathways Coalition. Councilman Brechnitz – We don’t know the extent of the impacts. We don’t know the mitigation. A feasibility study would tell us that. Ms. McLaughlin – Yes, but the Feasibility Study would have to expend a great deal of its resources on studying this, you can see that the rest of the Vision doesn’t go through environmentally sensitive land. Marco Island has not been excluded in the Bike-Ped Master Plan, it hasn’t been forgotten or ignored. We did have support from our advisory committees at the time. Not to say we couldn’t look at it again and we probably should. It’s just a caution that it would be expensive to review.

Commissioner Solis – Clarified that the Naples Pathways Coalition is going to engage in a study and it is their study, they are going to raise funds for it. This is an effort by the NPC to help us envision this interconnectivity. They are asking the Board to support just the vision of it. They are not asking us to include Marco Island in our Bike-Ped Master Plan. That’s our plan. This is their plan. They want to do it consistent with our Bike-Ped Master Plan.

Ms. Avola - Yes, the corridor we are showing is not intended to be the only trail within Collier County. We would like to see this come to fruition and everyone connect to it, but we don’t want it to be a twenty-five year environmental struggle with the Conservancy or any other entity. This is a very ambitious project for a small nonprofit to undertake. If it is successful, we’ll have an easier time overcoming some obstacles in the future and connecting the whole County. That’s our vision, but this is the first chunk. It falls in line with the Bike-Ped Master Plan.

Mr. Wood – This is not going to be done in isolation. Will involve MPO, County and other partners over time.

Ms. McLaughlin – I think what we’re going to find that the NPC is raising funds to help with a Feasibility Study but most likely will be seeking additional funds at some point; if they are asking for State and Federal funds at some point, it will become a County or MPO study if those funds are used.

Commissioner Fiala – Is there a study interested parties could read in anticipation of adding this connection to Marco Island in the future?

Ms. McLaughlin – I think MPO staff has to provide you with all the information we have available that we’ve received from the Conservancy.

Commissioner Taylor – Clearly this would qualify as a project for the use of TMA SU funds, but how would the resolution apply? We have to be clear what we are going to do here. Clearly this is a recreational trail. Environmental Justice is not part of it. We need to clarify the intent.

Commissioner McDaniel – What portion of the resolution do you specifically have heartburn over?
Commissioner Taylor – We have clear ranking criteria – does this fill an Environmental Justice need? This is a recreational trail, one of the benefits described is to attract tourism. There’s nothing wrong with that. There’s a reason for it. But there are very few working folks that may use it.

Commissioner McDaniel - Please define what you mean by Environmental Justice (EJ)? The environmental impacts will come from the feasibility study.

Commissioner Taylor – I understand EJ is two-fold. It has to do with the environment, but it also has to do with transportation and access to work. Can the Director explain in more detail?

Ms. McLaughlin – EJ does have two parts. First you have to identify communities having EJ concerns including having a large minority population, high rate of poverty, lack of car ownership among other factors. We’ve mapped that for Collier County. One, related to building transportation facilities such as freeways for example - you don’t put a lot of impacts on those communities without considering whether that’s a wise thing to do or not. Two, the flip side is providing equal access to the benefits of transportation infrastructure, such as the ability to move around safely by nonmotorized travel. We’ve captured that in the Bike-Ped Master Plan. Regarding the NPC’s Pacific Coast Trail Vision, as we gain more knowledge about what needs to be done on particular segments, we will have to discuss how we move those into the mix of other priorities identified in the Bike-Ped Master Plan. But because the corridors go through a very heavily urbanized area, commuters are going to use them. In fact, the case is made in the Bike-Ped Master Plan that in an urban area, a Shared Use Path serves a transportation function. The only recreational facilities in the Bike-Ped Master Plan are in those large, green swaths shown on the map.

Commissioner Taylor – If that’s the case, it solves that problem. If it’s transportation, it can be justified for using those funds [SU].

Ms. McLaughlin – That’s why the resolution says that to the extent the vision is consistent with the Bike-Ped Master Plan, the Board supports it.

Commissioner Saunders – Commissioner Solis is correct. We are simply supporting this concept. I don’t think we have to add anything to the resolution. I’ll make a motion to support.

Commissioner McDaniel – Second.

Councilman Buxton – It seems to me that the NPC is funding this. They’ve raised $60,000. I believe they need $150,000 or more. They haven’t asked us for any money. All they want is for us to say “OK, you can go ahead raising money.” That’s all they want from us. It’s not about environmental studies or anything else.

Commissioner Fiala – I do want us to study how Marco Island can be a part of this, not as part of this resolution, but study it on the side to put it in place for the future.

Commissioner McDaniel – I would like to see an inclusion of Marco Island in the process especially if they help with the funding. What is the significance of the green dotted line on the map? Ms. McLaughlin – It’s the Golden Gate Canal; proposed through public input; remains very hypothetical; we would have to look at adjoining land uses. Commissioner McDaniel - Second question, one part of the corridor connects up to Lee County, but the other corridor stops in Immokalee. What happened to the discussion of a multiuse path on SR82? Why is there no connection up into Hendry County and Lee County? There is a Shared Use Path proposed on SR82 now and it would be “low hanging fruit” to extend the corridor to include it.

Ms. Avola – Our study area, as the NPC – is limited to Collier County. We would like to connect with Lee County, but we are still in the preliminary stages of developing a Scope of Work for the feasibility study.
Mr. Wood – A key issue is how the study would be scaled, how it could be scaled-up to connect to other counties. At a minimum, the study needs to answer questions about available ROW and other costs within Collier County.

Commissioner Solis – I want to make sure what exactly we are talking about. This isn’t about any specific trail. NPC is proposing to do a feasibility study within corridors that are miles wide. You are looking at opportunities of what could be done. You are not speaking about specific trails now.

Mr. Wood – Correct. The feasibility study will start to depict potential alternative alignments, but not get out ahead of the next phase – environmental studies.

Councilman Brechnitz – The conceptual corridor is wide and general, but it does not include Marco Island which has 70,000 people living there during high season.

Councilwoman Middelstaedt - Neither is Everglades City included, but that’s ok.

Councilman Buxton – It’s been moved and seconded. Call for the vote.

Commissioner Saunders moved to adopt the resolution. Commissioner McDaniel seconded with direction to MPO staff to study potential connections to Marco Island. Motion passed 7:1, with Councilman Brechnitz voting against.

10. Presentations (May Require Board Action)

A. Joint MPO, FDOT and Local Agency Presentation on Project Programming

Ms. McLaughlin began the presentation with an overview of MPO plans, policies, procedures and annual production schedule. Ms. Peters presented on FDOT’s plans, policies and 5-year work program development process and timeline. Ms. Scott presented an overview of how the County identifies and prioritizes projects, and illustrated how the entire process – MPO, FDOT, County and Local Agencies – is reliant upon plans adopted by each governmental entity. Emphasized that the TIP must be consistent with the Statewide TIP. FDOT production report card discourages changes in first fiscal year of the TIP. Consider it locked in. Second year of the TIP is difficult to modify also. Third, fourth, fifth year have time to make changes and we should have that dialogue.

The MPO and FDOT portion of the presentation is included in the meeting packet. All presentations are available upon request.

Commissioner Solis – Projects on County CIP come through AUIR process? Ms. Scott - Yes and No, starts with LRTP. Some projects on CIP are outside of the first block in LRTP, will hold these aside until next LRTP update. Short range and long-range planning go hand in hand.

B. New Policies Regarding Project Prioritization and Programming

Ms. McLaughlin gave a report on discussions MPO staff has held with the Technical, Citizens and Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees (TAC, CAC, BPAC) on expanding project priorities to include safety projects and developing a mechanism to reconfirm local governing body support for projects prior to expenditure of any state or federal funds. Recommended expanding the lists of prioritized projects to include safety projects while maintaining the current 40/40/20 split over a 5-year period for budgeting purposes and requiring adoption of a resolution reconfirming support of a project by the local government the year prior to the year of expenditure in the TIP. Noted that Board may not feel that a change in policy is needed because better communication throughout the process would alleviate any need for a formal check-in point.
Commissioner Taylor – I think we need a check in point.

Commissioner McDaniel: I agree. Members change [on governing bodies], staff changes over time too. There is also a staff recommendation to continue with the 40/40/20 split. Ms. McLaughlin – Yes, there is quite a lot of fluctuation in SU box, as it fluctuates, staff would come up with language that will continue to budget according to the 40/40/20 split, keeping the 100% per year over a 5-year period. As funds fluctuate and money becomes available, we would have another list, similar to the unfunded priority list discussed earlier to draw projects from to spend the funds down. Keep the 40/40/20 split and start funding safety. Commissioner McDaniel – What do the percentages refer to? Ms. McLaughlin - 40% Congestion Management, 40% Bike Ped, 20% Bridge.

Commissioner McDaniel moved approval of staff recommendation. Councilman Buxton second. Passed unanimously.

B. FDOT Presentation on Old US 41 PD&E Study

Mr. Andrews, FDOT - gave a presentation on the Old US 41 Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study. The presentation is included in the meeting packet and available on request. The study will analyze safety, capacity improvement alternatives and multimodal alternatives on Old US 41 between US41 and Bonita Beach Road. Project goals include increasing roadway safety, providing accommodations for pedestrians and cyclists, and facilitating the movement of people and freight. The project number in the MPO’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is 4351101. The construction phase has not yet been programmed. The project website will be up and running soon. Please call me in the Bartow office with any questions.

Commissioner Taylor – A unified vision will require a great deal of compromise between the County and Bonita Springs. How do we accomplish this? Does the MPO need to get involved? Bonita Beach Rd. is also an issue. When should the Collier MPO approach the Lee County MPO?

Ms. Scott – Recommend allowing FDOT to gather data and come up with typical sections in order to have a very informed conversation with Lee County MPO. We know from our AUIR that the roadway is currently exceeding its Level of Service. We are currently building the Veterans Memorial extension which comes to Old 41. In another five years we’ll have another roadway that connects to this. When FDOT comes up with typical sections we’ll be able to come up with a solution that works for both entities. Bike/ped is very important to the County. At the time we met with Mr. Andrews, the County had not yet adopted a Complete Streets policy. Our Complete Streets policy differs from Bonita Springs. Bonita’s is more geared towards bike/ped and ours is geared towards all users, consistent with FDOT’s Complete Streets policy. This is one of the small pockets of industrial zoning and that is very important to us from an economic development standpoint. Tourism is also important, people want to be able to get from Vanderbilt Beach to Bonita by bike and we’re trying to accommodate all users.

Commissioner McDaniel – I agree with Commissioner Taylor. We need communication across County lines well in advance of plans for construction.

11. Distribution Items
   None.

12. Member Comments

Commissioner Solis – Would like to congratulate FDOT staff on completion of Trail Blvd sidewalk, it actually looks pretty good and people are using it.
Commissioner McDaniel – 1) I would like FDOT to look again at the intersection of SR82 and Corkscrew – we did an enormous amount of improvement to that intersection not long ago, but now traffic has to go beyond the striped line coming out of Corkscrew Rd. in order see the traffic to safely traverse the intersection. 2) Ms. Scott, south of the Immokalee bend coming onto Corkscrew Rd, I want the County to look at extending the double-laning up to the Sanctuary. We had a terrible accident there two days ago – someone pulled out of Wild Turkey and tried to pass a dump truck. Look into putting a double lane there that allows passing coming off that curve coming out of Cypress Swamp.

13. Next Meeting Date
   Regular Meeting – September 13, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

14. Adjourn
   With no further comments Councilman Buxton adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:00 p.m.