



Location: 102 Sunset Lane, Shalimar FL 32579

Date: June 25, 2021

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Board Approved: 6.17.22

Executive Session Minutes

Executive Committee Members Present:

Beth Brant, Gubernatorial Appointee, Private Sector (Poly, Inc.)-Chair
Don Edwards, Private Sector, Renasant Bank, Vice-Chair
Bev Sandlin, Northwest Florida State College President's Appointee
Michele Burns, CareerSource Okaloosa Walton
Ray Sansom, Private Sector, Rader Group, Treasurer
Louis Svehla, Walton County Commissioner's Appointee, Secretary

Board Members Present:

Anthony McKinney

Coalition Staff Present:

Amy Minkewicz, Finance Director (via phone)

Public Present:

None

I. Call to order – Beth Brant, Chair

Beth Brant, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:37am

Chair Brant provided information that the ELC had retained the services of Gray-Robinson, a law firm located in Tallahassee, FL, for the purpose of managing and defending against claims filed by Leaf and Looney.

Chair Brant provided the board with Statement of Position for each claim as prepared by Gray-Robinson., which are considered personal and confidential and not for distribution at this time. The board members took the time to read each Statement prior to discussion. (Note, individual copies of Statements were shredded post meeting.)

The board discussed the position statements provided to them regarding the two cases and the strategy for each of the claims. Discussion involved information regarding to the ELC's \$10,000 deductible regarding the claims and that the claims will be treated together in regard to single deductible payment. Discussed the fact that if we had not moved in this direction (retaining legal firm recommended by insurance carrier) that the ELC could be liable for all legal expenses associated with the claims in the future. Retaining Gray-Robinson limits our total exposure to the single \$10,000 deductible.



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Chair Brant distributed a Mandatory Document Retention Notice to each board member. A similar document had been provided to Leaf and Looney via delivery service. Each board member signed a copy of the Notice and returned it to Chair Brant for retention by the Agency. The notice sets out the stipulations of what documents each member is required to keep for the purpose of the claims, as well as Florida Sunshine Laws.

Chair Brant presented a Facebook post that was posted by L'Ann Grace. The post discussed the allowing of former Executive Director Black to enter the ELC offices to retrieve her personal effects. The post then made several untrue accusations regarding the process of her retrieval of items. Additionally, there were several videos and pictures posted along with the text of the post.

Discussion ensued between the Board members that there was a feeling of uneasiness moving forwards as it appeared that members of the Board, as well as employees, felt as if they were being stalked. It was asked if a restraining order could be ordered for the safety of the Board. Chair Brant replied that you could not have a restraining issue ordered if you do not know who is responsible. Additionally, members discussed that if those who are posting this false information are identified whether personal libel/slander case could be filed. Chair Brant responded that it would be up to everyone individually to file such a claim if they saw fit.

Chair Brant presented a letter and pictures that had been mailed to her. She said that other similar letters had been mailed to Black, Brenda Houchins (former ELC volunteer and friend who helped Black pack her personal effects) and Joyce Chastain. The letters had been created using ELC printer (verified by IT contractor) and mailed in ELC envelopes. In addition, they had been postmarked using the ELC postage machine. The board discussed how this was a violation of the personal usage of ELC equipment. Chair Brant said that they were conducting an internal investigation, along with the ELC's IT Consultant, and that they may be close to determining who was responsible.

Discussion was held regarding the discipline that would need to be enacted once the individual(s) were identified. Question was asked whether criminal charges could be filed. Chair Brant stated that she did not know, but that nothing was off the table.

Following this presentation of information, the board discussed what the next steps were for all items that had been discussed. It was decided that the internal investigation involving the letters and postage machine should continue forward. It was made clear that the State is aware of everything that is occurring. The board discussed the potential of sabotage being conducted by Leaf and potentially other current and former employees.



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The board was told that the claims were currently sitting with Human Resources Commission and that anything that could occur in the future would be based on their ruling. Were told that if the claims were dismissed, that nothing further would happen with the claims. If the Commission felt that the claims had merit, it would be up the claimants to act on that ruling and pursue further legal action.

Discussion continued regarding the fact that the claims had no merit and that there was strong belief by legal representation that the claim should be denied by the Commission.

The question was posed regarding the payment of accrued PTO for former Executive Director Black. It was noted that the item would need to be addressed in open session.

II. Motion to Adjourn the Executive Session

Beth Brant, Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:45am

Motion Result:	Motion to Adjourn at 9:45am
	Unanimous
Motion -	Louis Svehla
Second -	Ray Sansom

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth Brant, Board Chair