

PAC AGENDA – SUMMARY AGENDA ACTION SHEET

DATE: March 2, 2026

ITEM	ACTION TAKEN	VOTE
1. <u>CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS</u>	<p>The PAC held its March 2, 2026, meeting in the Palm Room at 333 Chestnut Street, Clearwater.</p> <p>The Chair, Andrew Morris, called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. and the members introduced themselves.</p> <p>Committee members in attendance included: Andrew Morris, Derek Kilborn, Luis Garcia, Danielle Stewart, Cecilia Chen, Frances Leong Sharp, Wesley Wright, Gil Martinez, Whitney Clark, Marshall Touchton, Adrian Young and Christina Porter (late arrival 1:36 p.m.)</p> <p>Forward Pinellas staff included: Rodney Chatman, Emma Wennick, Linda Fisher, Nicole Galasso, Nousheen Rahman and Tina Jablon.</p> <p>Others in attendance included: Jordan Elmore, City of St. Petersburg; Cheryl Bergailo, City of St. Petersburg; Lauren Wolf, City of Clearwater.</p>	
2. <u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 2, 2026 PAC MEETING</u>	Motion: Frances Leong Sharp Second: Cecilia Chen	11-0
3. <u>REVIEW OF FORWARD PINELLAS AGENDA FOR MARCH 11, 2026 MEETING PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS</u> A. <u>Countywide Plan Map Amendments</u> 1. Case CW 26-04 – Pinellas County	Motion: Derek Kilborn Second: Marshall Touchton	12-0
4. <u>PLANNING TOPICS OF INTEREST</u> A. <u>PAC Orientation Presentation</u>	Emma Wennick offered an orientation presentation to the PAC members with the goal to ensure PAC members understand their advisory role and responsibilities, as well as the broader regional planning context in which they operate. She provided an overview of Forward Pinellas, the Countywide Planning Authority, and the role of the Planners Advisory Committee within the countywide planning framework. She helped	

	<p>familiarize the members with the Countywide Plan, the Countywide Plan Map amendment process, applicable rules and procedures, and the collaborative relationship between Forward Pinellas and the local governments.</p> <p>Additionally, she highlighted key projects, milestones, and ongoing initiatives to provide context for current priorities and emerging issues.</p>	
<p>B. <u>PAC Enrichment Activity</u></p>	<p>Tina Jablon hosted a Jeopardy game that allowed the PAC members to participate in a friendly competition while gaining knowledge about the Planners Advisory Committee, Forward Pinellas, the Countywide Plan and other topics.</p>	
<p>C. <u>Legislative Update</u></p>	<p>Linda Fisher reminded the PAC members that the 2026 Legislative Session will conclude on March 13th. She advised that the last two weeks of session always brings a flurry of activity and alerted the members about several significant preemption bills that have gained traction. These bills cover topics such as accessory dwelling units (SB 48), transit-oriented development (HB 1183/SB 1342), minimum regulatory standards for residential development, and mandatory private-sector reviews of development applications (HB 927). Revisions to last year's SB 180 are also being considered (SB 840). Ms. Fisher also updated the members on the one bill proposing a referendum to eliminate non-school property taxes for homesteaded properties that passed a significant milestone (HJR 203).</p> <p>Other bills discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 948/HB 1143 Florida Starter Homes Act • HB 399 which states "Notwithstanding any provision of a county charter, the exclusive method for the transmittal and adoption of an amendment to the future land use element of a comprehensive plan must be by affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the governing body present at the hearing." • SB 208/HB 399 Infill & Compatibility 	

	<p>Lastly, Ms. Fisher announced that Forward Pinellas has contracted with a lobbyist team at The Southern Group to assist with following bills of interest and allowing staff to be more proactive in responding to them. Additionally, The Southern Group will support crafting any necessary amendments to the Special Act that may be required in the event of the merger of the Pinellas, Hillsborough and Pasco metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). This would be necessary to reestablish the Pinellas Planning Council board composition which is now stated to consist of the MPO board.</p>	
<p>5. <u>OTHER PAC BUSINESS/PAC DISCUSSION AND UPCOMING AGENDA</u></p> <p>A. <u>Upcoming Land Use Cases & Pre-App Meetings</u></p>	<p>Upon call by the chair for any upcoming cases to be discussed, none were heard.</p>	
<p>B. <u>Interesting Topics from Your Planner's Notebook</u></p>	<p>Rodney Chatman began this discussion by summarizing the governor's interest in regulating data centers. He then inquired as to any developer interest in establishing a new data center in Pinellas County. One PAC member indicated that they have a meeting scheduled to discuss a potential data center project in their community.</p> <p>Mr. Chatman advised the PAC members that staff would be asking the Forward Pinellas Board to establish a subcommittee of its members to evaluate the Special Act in the context of the potential merger of the MPOs. He stated that anything resulting would be brought back to the PAC for its consideration in the coming months.</p>	
<p>6. <u>INFORMATIONAL ITEMS</u></p> <p>A. <u>CPA Actions and Forward Pinellas Administrative Review Items</u></p>	<p>Rodney Chatman advised the PAC members that there were two public hearings held by the Countywide Planning Authority on February 17th and both Pinellas County cases were unanimously approved. Forward Pinellas staff processed two Tier I amendments in February for the cities of Tarpon Springs and Largo. There were no map adjustments processed during the noted time period.</p>	

<p>B. <u>SPOTlight Emphasis Areas Update</u></p>	<p>Rodney Chatman advised the PAC that Forward Pinellas has a coordinated strategy with Pinellas County Economic Development to ensure our county remains a competitive destination for high wage employers. The target employment policies of the Countywide Rules work in concert with Penny for Pinellas funding and Pinellas County has committed over \$90 million to assist in the construction and redevelopment of industrial (manufacturing & flex) and office buildings. The application period for Round 8 of the Pinellas County Employment Sites Program is now open and will close on Friday, March 27, at 4 p.m.</p>	
<p>7. <u>UPCOMING EVENTS</u></p>	<p>The Chair highlighted the upcoming events of interest.</p>	
<p>8. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u></p>	<p>There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.</p>	

Respectfully Submitted,

PAC Chair

Date