

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

1:30 PM

NSU Art Museum - Horvitz Auditorium
1 E Las Olas Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District III

JOHN C. HERBST Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II

WARREN STURMAN Commissioner - District IV

GREG CHAVARRIA, City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

THOMAS J. ANSBRO, City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Commissioner John C. Herbst, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Vice Mayor Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Warren Sturman, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Also Present: City Manager Greg Chavarria, City Clerk David R. Soloman, City Attorney Thomas J. Ansbro, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[24-0275](#)

Communications to the City Commission - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

***Education Advisory Board (EAB)
February 29, 2024***

Communications to the City Commission

A copy of this communication is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis explained the genesis of the Commission's creation of the Chief Education Officer position and cited examples of the previous Chief Education Officer, Zoie Saunders, and Ms. Saunders' educational initiatives and contributions. He noted that the gains in education need to continue.

Though he does not support the position of a Chief Education Officer, Commissioner Herbst discussed his support of education and his role as a Commissioner in accomplishing education goals. He discussed the significant financial resources of the School Board of Broward County (School Board), the impact of Commission Members working directly with School Board members, and his involvement with the School Board in managing the joint use City Parks in District 1. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed her positive interaction with

previous Chief Education Officer Saunders, the responsibilities of the School Board, and the bridge provided by Ms. Saunders to optimize educational resources and achieve educational goals.

Commissioner Glassman echoed Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's comments and remarked on the importance of optimizing education in the City. He discussed previous Commissions' hands-off approach to education. Commissioner Glassman reiterated the importance of education and continuing the position of Chief Education Officer, noting it is a vital link to educational goals and said the return on investment is significant. He expounded on his perspective and the reinvigoration of the EAB. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mayor Trantalis commented on the EAB's efforts. There was no previous Staff position addressing education before the Commission created the Chief Education Officer.

Commissioner Sturman expounded on the importance of education, his support to continue the position of Chief Education Officer, the positive impact on the community and local businesses.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Janet Gualtieri, 106 Nurmi Drive, Education Advisory Board Vice Chair. Ms. Gualtieri spoke about the importance of the work started by Chief Education Officer Saunders and the need to continue education efforts, initiatives, and programs.

NEIGHBOR PRESENTATIONS

NP-1 [24-0337](#)

Christian Garay - Fort Lauderdale's only Historic Neighborhood - Sailboat Bend

Mayor Trantalis recognized Christian Garay, 1515 Arpeika Street, Sailboat Bend Civic Association (SBCA) President. Mr. Garay gave a Neighbor Presentation on a proposed master plan for the Sailboat Bend Historic Neighborhood and requested Commission support to funding its master plan. He expounded on related information, including the pursuit of master plans for other historic areas of the City. Mayor Trantalis commented on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman concurred with Mr. Garay's recommendations and noted discussions and with Staff towards assisting neighborhoods

with a vision for master plans and cited examples. He expounded on his perspective regarding the SBCA's efforts, recommended coordination with Himmarshee Street area revitalization efforts, and suggested neighborhoods follow the example of SBCA.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Cooper, Development Services Department Director. Mr. Cooper commented on previous Staff efforts to develop neighborhood master plans, which were not presented for Commission approval. Mr. Cooper discussed the needs related to a neighborhood master plan program, including developing specific criteria and funding. Mayor Trantalis commented on support for a program and inquired about the next steps. Mr. Cooper confirmed the ability to move forward with the SBCA master plan and explained related information, including \$25,000 in funding to hire a consultant. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on discussions with a neighbor regarding a previous master plan for the Davie Boulevard Corridor. She commented on the need for a fair way to fund a program of this type in all areas of the City. In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's questions, Mr. Cooper expounded on his viewpoint, including developing master plan criteria and guidelines for Commission approval, funding allocation, and updating previous master plans for Commission approval.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on how neighborhoods can begin to move forward with developing their neighborhood master plan. Commissioner Glassman commented on his support to move forward with the efforts implemented by the SBCA and recommended that neighborhoods do similar groundwork for Staff to move forward. Mayor Trantalis concurred and recommended that Staff develop criteria for neighborhoods that would trigger the City's involvement. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on previous master plans, both approved and unapproved by the Commission, and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. Cooper explained information related to the City's codified master plans. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Glassman confirmed his office would continue to work with the SBCA on this effort.

NP-2 [24-0349](#)

Neil D. Kolner - Leaded Fuel at FXE

Mayor Trantalis recognized Neil D. Kolner, 6310 NW 33rd Terrace. Mr.

Kolner discussed health concerns associated with aircraft use of leaded fuel at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE). He recommended the Commission update its policy and ban leaded fuel.

Mr. Kolner distributed a copy of a proposed resolution.

A copy of the resolution has been made part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis agreed with Mr. Kolner's concerns and said he would request City Attorney Thomas Ansbro to review the proposed resolution.

Mayor Trantalis requested this topic be added to an upcoming Commission Agenda for discussion. Further comment and discussion ensued.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [24-0276](#)

AECOM Presentation on the Development of Lockhart Park -
(Commission District 1)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Department Director. Mr. Williams provided an overview of this agenda item.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on the lack of parks in District 1 and confirmed similarities of the Lockhart Community Park (Park) sixty percent (60%) design (Plan) to the initial design of the Park developed by prior District 1 Commissioner Heather Moraitis, which included extensive community feedback.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Joe Webb, AECOM, Director of Park Planning. Mr. Webb narrated a presentation entitled *Lockhart Community Park - Commission Conference Meeting - April 2, 2024*.

A copy of the presentation is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Commissioner Herbst reiterated the similarity of the Park Plan to the plan developed by previous District 1 Commissioner Moraitis. He remarked on his viewpoint that the initial design layout of the Park remained the same with the exception of pickleball courts that replaced one of the initial multi-purpose playing fields. Commissioner Herbst commented on improved design facets of the Park Plan, including centralizing children's play areas for safety, addressing drainage needs, and cited examples.

Commissioner Herbst expounded on his viewpoint and next steps.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's questions, Mr. Webb explained information related to coordinating the Park Plan with the Development Review Committee (DRC) process and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval process. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman noted the importance of aligning these efforts.

Commissioner Glassman recommended replacing the former DRV PNK logo with the Chase logo in future presentations. He remarked on the Park's history and recommended incorporating a historical component within the Community Center. Commissioner Herbst agreed and cited examples.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. Webb confirmed all sixteen (16) pickleball courts would be shaded and include lighting integrated into the underside of the shade structures.

Commissioner Glassman commented on the estimate of costs of the pickleball courts and the Community Center listed in the presentation. In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Mr. Webb discussed aspects of the Community Center, noting it has a simple design and cited examples. Mr. Webb commented on costs associated with the pickleball courts and said that he would review and reconfirm.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding ensuring Park design coordination with the FAA to avoid any project delays, Commissioner Herbst noted that the Community Center was redesigned to a one-story building to address possible FAA concerns associated with Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) aircraft flight paths. Mr. Webb confirmed AECOM's awareness of those concerns and commented on related information, noting the current height of the Community Center is within related height restrictions. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Webb confirmed the interior height of the Community Center will be approximately thirty-two feet (32').

Mayor Trantalis commented on recent correspondence from Miami Beckham United (Inter Miami). Commissioner Glassman said the correspondence indicated the need for Inter Miami's involvement in approving the Park Plan design.

Commissioner Herbst remarked that reaching the sixty percent (60%) design phase was the appropriate time to involve Inter Miami. Mayor Trantalis concurred and commented on input from the prior City Attorney,

indicating that Inter Miami's design approval is no longer required because the completion date for the Park included in the Comprehensive Agreement had not been met.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on additional assertions in Inter Miami's correspondence, cited examples, and noted that the timing of the correspondence relates to the resumption of mediation related to the Park.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Commissioner Herbst said there would not be a Commission vote today on the Plan. There is only a need for Commission consensus on the Plan to allow AECOM to move forward.

Mayor Trantalis agreed with Commissioner Herbst's earlier remarks that the Park Plan is very similar to the initial Park Plan attached to the Comprehensive Agreement. He expounded on his perspective regarding the Plan and discussed the smaller size of the dog park area.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, Mr. Webb discussed the sizes of dog parks in other areas. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mr. Webb confirmed that AECOM Staff would revisit the dog park design. Commissioner Herbst commented on resident requests for additional dog parks and increasing the size of the Plan's dog park.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding overflow parking for Inter Miami games, Mr. Webb explained information related to the Park Plan design requiring necessary ingress and egress into the Park and confirmed that both parking lots are within walking distance of Chase Stadium. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' comments regarding the location of the play area for children, Commissioner Herbst remarked on efforts to ensure that those areas would not be located adjacent to major roadways. Mayor Trantalis acknowledged that need. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding the cost of playground equipment in the Park Plan, Mr. Webb explained the cost listed in the presentation is for numerous items required for the playground buildout

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the use of the Community Center and the need to be cognizant of its acoustics. Further comment and discussion

ensued regarding the Community Center. Mr. Webb confirmed that AECOM would address acoustic concerns in the Community Center.

Mayor Trantalis reiterated the need to include Inter Miami in discussions regarding the Park Plan design and commented on possible construction options.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed a Commission consensus to move forward.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question regarding organized sports activities on the Park fields, Commissioner Herbst said that the Parks and Recreation Department will be programming activities, cited examples, and expounded on related information.

BUS-2 [24-0219](#)

Discussion on Sponsorships - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Department Director. Mr. Williams provided an overview of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Todd Stilphen, Parks and Recreation Department Community Program Manager. Mr. Stilphen narrated a presentation entitled *City Of Fort Lauderdale Sponsorship Packet*.

A copy of the presentation is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's questions, Mr. Williams confirmed the application approval process would apply to all City events and explained related information.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Williams confirmed after the approval process is complete, Commission approval would be the final step in the sponsorship process.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Williams said that Special Events Staff would promote and solicit sponsorships and discussed related information. City Attorney Thomas Ansbro confirmed he would research ethics concerns and advise Commission Members about their ability to solicit sponsorships.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 912 SW 19th Street, River Oaks Civic Association President. Mr. Inserra provided his viewpoint on this Agenda item. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Brian Donaldson, 3321 NE 16th Street, former Budget Advisory Board Chair (BAB) Chair. Mr. Donaldson spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Commissioner Glassman discussed his perspective regarding the need for Staff members to have a definitive plan to aggressively market sponsorship of City events.

BUS-3 [24-0359](#)

School Resource Officer & School District Police Department Comparison Presentation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Police Chief (Chief) William Schultz. Chief Schultz narrated a presentation entitled *School Resource Officer & School District Police Department Comparison*.

A copy of the presentation is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the difference between Broward County and Palm Beach County's funding listed in the presentation.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Chief Schultz confirmed that both Miami-Dade County and Palm Beach County have their own School Resource Officer (SRO) Police Force. Chief Schultz explained how Broward County addresses the mandate for SROs and expounded on related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Nelson, 520 SE 5th Avenue. Mr. Nelson provided his viewpoint on this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the School Board of Broward County's (School Board) responsibility to fund SROs and its ability to fund its own police force, noting the increase in the School Board millage rate.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Suzanne Dean, 4801 NW 29th Avenue, and Chair of the Education Advisory Board (EAB). Chair Dean discussed her support of funding SROs. She remarked on the need for additional EAB appointees. Mayor Trantalis concurred and requested Commission Members nominate candidates for their respective EAB vacancies.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Chair Dean noted ten (10) EAB vacancies. Further comment and discussion ensued.

BUS-4 [24-0374](#)

Discussion on State of Florida Legislation Related to Public Camping

and Sleeping - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized City Attorney Thomas Ansbro. City Attorney Ansbro provided an overview of this Agenda item. He read language from recently enacted State legislation prohibiting individuals experiencing homelessness from camping and sleeping in public areas, which takes effect October 1, 2024 (Legislation). City Attorney Ansbro confirmed he will coordinate related efforts with the Broward County (County) Attorney and other County municipalities to develop a plan to adhere to the Legislation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Attorney Ansbro confirmed that legal action related to the Legislation could be taken. City Attorney Ansbro discussed options and responsibilities going forward.

Mayor Trantalis provided context related to this matter and explained discussions with the County to house people experiencing homelessness at the County Stockade (Stockade) location and provide needed social services, which was rejected by the County. He expounded on related information and remarked on the impact and consequences of this Legislation.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the City's involvement in previous civil litigation associated with homelessness and expounded on his perspective related to costs and legal fees incurred by the City. He noted that inmates released from the County Jail and patients discharged from Broward Health Medical Center (Broward General) are the City's primary sources of homelessness as those individuals come from other areas of the County. Staff is working to develop protocols to return individuals experiencing homelessness to their areas of origination. Mayor Trantalis expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst commented on the negative impact on residents from individuals experiencing homelessness and cited examples. He said homelessness is a regional concern and agreed on the need for a Commission Joint Workshop with the County and other County municipalities. Commissioner Herbst discussed the negative impact of using the County Stockade on District 1 neighborhoods and remarked on his perspective regarding housing individuals experiencing homelessness in other area municipalities. Mayor Trantalis agreed on the need for a regional effort and reiterated that City Attorney Ansbro will coordinate discussions with the County Attorney. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst discussed prior City efforts to identify a

designated central location to address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in a dignified manner. Mayor Trantalis commented on related efforts and feedback received from the federal court. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed her viewpoint and agreed that this matter is a regional issue requiring County-wide coordination with all stakeholders to address the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness, including related wraparound services.

Commissioner Glassman discussed the importance of this matter, noting that homelessness is a concern in each District, and cited examples of concerns discussed at the South Middle River Civic Association Meeting. He requested the City Manager, City Attorney, and the City's Homelessness Task Force focus on this matter and include related concerns that arise during the daytime. Staff should begin discussions with the County to develop a coordinated plan addressing requirements included in the Legislation before October 1, 2024. Commissioner Glassman cited examples of homelessness concerns in various areas of the City.

Commissioner Sturman commented on areas of concern in District 4 contributing to homelessness, including Broward General, the County Jail, and other areas. He remarked on the impact that this Legislation will have on determining a solution. Commissioner Sturman confirmed support from the North Broward Hospital District and noted his outreach to Broward County Sheriff Gregory Tony to meet to discuss protocols related to inmates released from the County Jail.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Nelson, 520 SE 5th Avenue. Mr. Nelson discussed his viewpoint on this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charles King, 105 N. Victoria Park Road. Mr. King discussed his viewpoint on this Agenda item. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman commented on homelessness concerns expressed by the Las Olas Boulevard merchants.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events.

Commissioner Herbst discussed concerns of District 1 residents about

the accumulation of trash in neighborhood canals. He remarked on the history of canal maintenance and residents' expectation that the City would maintain clean canals. Commissioner Herbst requested that City Manager Chavarria provide the Commission with a report on current Staff efforts to maintain residential canals, including frequency, distribution of cleaning efforts among neighborhoods, and how neighboring municipalities address. Commissioner Herbst expounded on his perspective, noting the importance of maintaining clean waterways and ensuring related funding is included in the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman commented on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) related to baseball field equipment needs for Osswald Park. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman asked for a copy of the MOU and requested that City Manager Chavarria and Parks and Recreation Department Staff address items included in the MOU for Osswald Park baseball fields.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on meetings that included Staff and area stakeholders to pursue economic recovery efforts in the Sistrunk Corridor area.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman commented on attending a deep-sea fishing excursion with youth from the Boys and Girls Club and the L.A. Lee YMCA/Mizell Community Center where the Marine Industries Association of South Florida shared future job opportunities available in the marine industry.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed neighbor concerns regarding ongoing work in the area known as Rock Pit Lake, citing air pollution concerns, the seven (7) day per week work schedule that begins at 7:00 a.m., and requested Staff address those concerns.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman requested City Manager Chavarria address an issue related to a nine-foot (9') variance associated with construction of a new home and provided the building permit number. City Manager Chavarria confirmed.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman noted the location and details of the Sprouts Market Mobile Food Pantry in District 3. She commented on the upcoming 100th Anniversary of Dillard High School being celebrated April 25-27, 2024, and confirmed she would send related information to each Commission Member.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the groundbreaking for a new

large multi-use development project in FAT Village and expounded on related information.

Commissioner Glassman discussed his walking tour of Flagler Village with the new Flagler Village Civic Association Board of Directors, Transportation and Mobility Department Staff, and Public Works Department Staff to address sidewalks, pedestrian access, and connectivity needs.

Commissioner Glassman concurred with Commissioner Herbst's comments regarding the need to clean up waterway debris and similar concerns at entrances to the City from Interstate 95 at Broward Boulevard and Sunrise Boulevard. He requested Staff pursue restoration efforts in Las Olas Isles related to utility undergrounding.

Commissioner Sturman encouraged City Attorney Thomas Ansbro to continue work on a public-private partnership (P3) ordinance.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's request, J. Scott Bayne, President of Fort Lauderdale Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 765, said he sent a draft ordinance amendment for the GERS pension system to Commission Members. The amendment would allow Staff with prior related service to buy into in the plan.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, City Manager Chavarria noted an upcoming meeting with Pension Board counsel and Staff to discuss and will return to the Commission with a recommendation. Commissioner Herbst reviewed the history of this effort and those involved, confirmed his support, and explained related information.

Mayor Trantalis announced the retirements of the following Staff members:

Debbie Bylica, Parks and Recreation Department Recreation Program Supervisor - 29 Years of Service;

Verna Kelly, Fort Lauderdale Police Department Administrative Assistant - 30 Years of Service; and

Stephen Rogers, Fire-Rescue Department Driver-Engineer 631 - 26 Years of Service.

Mayor Trantalis discussed requests that the City commit to planting a

minimum number of trees annually to meet the goal of growing its tree canopy. He expounded on the need to be strategic, discussed related information and cited examples. Mayor Trantalis recommended including related costs in the upcoming FY 2025 Budget.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Chavarria noted a Walk-On Agenda item at tonight's Commission Regular Meeting regarding an Event Agreement for Baptist Health IcePlex Grand Opening Celebration - (Commission District 2)

MGR-1 [24-0328](#)

City Commission Follow up Action Items - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

No discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m.