



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**DRAFT  
MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
MARINE ADVISORY BOARD  
FORT LAUDERDALE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT  
528 NW 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET, STATION #2  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33311  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024 – 5:00 P.M.**

**Cumulative Attendance  
January-December 2024**

Steve Witten, Chair	P	4	0
James Harrison, Vice Chair	P	2	2
Tyler Brunelle	P	4	0
Robyn Chiarelli (6:21-7:26)	P	2	2
Jason Dunbar	P	1	0
Barry Flanigan	P	4	0
Robert Franks	P	3	1
Elisabeth George	P	4	0
Brewster Knott	A	3	1
John Lynch	P	3	1
Norbert McLaughlin	P	4	0
Noelle Norvell (dep. 8:01)	P	2	2
Ed Rebholz	P	4	0
Bill Walker	A	3	1
Robert Washington	P	3	1

As of this date, there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

**Staff**

Andrew Cuba, Marine Facilities Manager  
Jonathan Luscomb, Marine Facilities Supervisor  
William Schultz, Chief of Police  
Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Director of Public Works (Sustainability)  
Robert Dunckel, Assistant City Attorney  
Karen Cruitt, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Communications to City Commission**

None.

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Vice Chair Harrison stated that while he had not fully understood this issue when it arose at the March 2024 meeting, he now had a better grasp on the situation. He felt the subject properties should be treated the same as properties on Cordova Road and should not be penalized because they have another piece of waterfront property. He did not believe it was right for the City to force owners to pay for improvements to the City seawall or they would not be allowed to build a dock.

Vice Chair Harrison added that he also felt sheet pile was "the way to go" regarding seawall improvements, and concluded that treating the properties the same as those on Cordova Road would be for the good of the City.

Chair Witten advised that the discussion of the Seawall Ordinance may come back as a formal Agenda Item at a later date. Mr. Brunelle recommended that the Board see a list of the properties identified as being affected by this issue.

#### **VI. Dock Waiver – 1801 SE 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue / Craig & Debra Heslin**

Alejandra Giraldo, representing the Applicants, showed a PowerPoint presentation on the request, which would install a boat lift extending 64 ft. 8 in. into the waterway. The property line is submerged and is 75 ft. on the north side and 65 ft. on the south side of the property. There is an existing dock which extends 63.8 ft. into the waterway, for which the Applicants received a waiver in 2011.

Ms. Giraldo continued that extraordinary circumstances for the site include the submerged property line, the width of the waterway, and a high level of boat traffic in the area.

Attorney Dunckel asked if the requested length would be measured from the platted property line. Flávio Coronel, also representing the Applicants, stated that the measurement is from the wet face of the seawall. Attorney Dunckel explained that the length for which the waiver is sought must be measured from the property line. It was clarified that the distance from the wet face of the seawall to the property line is another 3 ft., which would mean the request should be for 67 ft. 8 in.

**Motion** made by Vice Chair Harrison, seconded by Ms. George, to approve the plan as offered, with the addition of 3 ft. to the 64 ft. 8 in., making it 67 ft. 8 in. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

#### **VII. Dock Permit – 1025 Cordova Road / Tracey & Wallace Williford**

Ms. Giraldo, representing the Applicants, stated that this request is for private use of public property. The Applicants have a 20 ft. boat. She reviewed plans for a 45 ft. long 8 ft. wide dock.

Chair Witten commented that this measurement should also be made from the property line rather than from the wet face of the seawall.

There being no questions from the Board at this time, Chair Witten opened the public hearing. As there were no individuals wishing to speak on the Item, the Chair closed the public hearing and brought the discussion back to the Board

**Motion** made by Mr. Franks, seconded by Mr. Lynch, to approve.

Chair Witten asked if there are any concerns with the Application's proximity to the bridge. It was clarified that there was no issue.

In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

### **VIII. Presentation – Mike Lambrechts / Introduction and Discussion of Chief Waterway Officer (CWO)**

Chair Witten introduced Mike Lambrechts, who has proposed to the City Commission that the position of a Chief Waterway Officer (CWO) be created for Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. Lambrechts explained that he serves as vice chair of the Coastal Conservation Association of Florida, which is a 19,000-member statewide organization. They are responsible for millions of dollars' worth of habitat restoration projects throughout Florida over the last 10 years.

Mr. Lambrechts advised that he shares the Board's concerns regarding water quality in Fort Lauderdale. He emphasized that there may be actions the City can take to address this issue, pointing out that the City's waterways warrant an exclusive position similar to Miami's Chief Bay Officer position. This led to the proposal to create a CWO for Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. Lambrechts stated that CWO would be a Staff level position which would report to the City Manager rather than to any single Department. He felt the position could pull several entities together, such as Code Compliance, the Police Department, Public Works, and contractors who perform services on the waterways.

A CWO would also collaborate with state and other agencies on permitting. Mr. Lambrechts stated that there is no single City employee at this time who represents Fort Lauderdale's interests in water quality as strongly as possible. The CWO would act as the City's voice for water quality to the State Legislature as well.

Mr. Lambrechts continued that there are areas in the New River and other City waterways which are high in *e. coli* bacteria; however, the City is not taking any steps to identify or address the source of these bacteria. He also noted that there is no true accountability