

**MINUTES OF THE MARINE ADVISORY BOARD  
 100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE  
 COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – EIGHTH FLOOR  
 FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA  
 THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017 – 6:00 P.M.**

**Cumulative Attendance  
 May 2017 - April 2018**

<u>Board Members</u>	Attendance	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
F. St. George Guardabassi, Chair	P	2	0
Grant Henderson, Vice Chair	P	2	0
Jimi Batchelor	P	2	0
Cliff Berry II	P	2	0
Zane Brisson	P	2	0
George Cable	P	2	0
Joe Cain	P	1	1
Richard Graves	P	1	1
John Holmes	P	2	0
Ted Morley	P	1	0
Roy Sea	A	1	1
Doukas Siotkas	A	1	1
Ed Strobel	P	2	0
Bill Walker	A	1	1
Jim Welch	P	2	0

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

**Staff**

- Andrew Cuba, Manager of Marine Facilities
- Jonathan Luscomb, Supervisor of Marine Facilities
- Sergeant Todd Mills, Marine Police Staff
- Division Chief Stewart Ahearn, Fort Lauderdale Fire Department
- Laura Reese, Budget Manager
- Brandy Leighton, Engineering Department
- Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Communications to City Commission**

**Motion** made by Mr. Strobel, seconded by Mr. Berry, that more investigation needs to be done on the equitability of the City's proposed dredging program, possibly looking into other funding sources, with consideration that waterfront homeowners already pay substantially more property taxes than their non-waterfront counterparts. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Mr. Strobel suggested that funding for a dredging program could come from the taxes already being paid by waterfront property owners, or from the City's General Fund. It was also stated that waterfront property owners already pay a larger amount per person for their properties. Mr. Cain proposed that only the properties located along canals in need of dredging be charged the assessment. It was suggested that the City's canals be considered "wet streets."

Mr. Welch pointed out that while some canals may not currently require dredging, it has been an issue regularly discussed by the Board during his tenure. He recalled that most Board members had agreed in the past that sporadic dredging was insufficient, and that dredging should be deeper.

Ms. Reese noted that dredging is never a top priority for use of monies from the General Fund, as these funds are more typically used for bridges and streets. Under the City's current tax structure, the General Fund includes roughly \$8 million per year. Mr. Burton added that opinions are likely to differ from one canal to the next regarding whether or not a specific canal is in need of dredging.

The **motion** was restated as follows: **motion** made by Mr. Strobel, seconded by Mr. Berry, that more investigation needs to be done on the equitability of this proposal, possibly looking into other funding sources, with thought put into the fact that the waterfront homeowners already pay substantially more property taxes than their non-waterfront neighbors. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

It was determined that the **motion** would be sent as a communication to the City Commission.

The following Items were taken out of order on the Agenda.

**XII. Waiver of Limitations – Daniel Middleton & Carol Wechsler / 2541 NE 22 Terrace**

Bill Hammel, representing the Applicant, stated that the request is for a dock and boat lift behind a residential home. There is also a floating dock on the property, which is used by paddleboarders and canoers.

While a seawall is usually in place behind a house and distance is measured from the property line to the furthest piling, in this case the property line extends further inland than is typical. The seawall is constructed from rocks rather than concrete. For these reasons, the distance from the property line to the pilings requires a waiver, as it is less than 25 ft. The waterway at the subject location is very wide.

Mr. Cuba observed that there are five separate measurements of the requested distance, with the maximum being 13.92 ft. beyond what is allowed by Code. No feedback from neighboring properties was received.

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

**Motion** made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Holmes, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

#### **VII. Waiver of Limitations – Walter Cassell / 333 Sunset Drive**

Walter Chappell, representing the Applicant, recalled that a previous request came before the Board for an adjacent property to the east at 353 Sunset Drive. The request for 333 Sunset Drive would add finger piers to an existing marginal dock. He showed a PowerPoint presentation, noting that the existing dock currently includes 12 slips. On the south side, the maximum vessel size allowed would be 50 ft.

The proposed layout has been slightly revised to occupy a smaller footprint. All areas shown are encompassed within the property's submerged land lease. There are 27 waiver requests for 13 mooring piles, 13 finger piers, and one floating dock, ranging from 12 ft. to 36.7 ft. Extraordinary circumstances include failure to receive 30% of the waterway, which is over 300 ft. wide. Perpendicular docking will allow for safer mooring during high wind events. The Applicant has received three letters of support from surrounding neighbors.

Mr. Chappell clarified that there will be a total of 22 slips on the property. There are no pilings outside the finger piers. Only boats that are 30 ft. to 50 ft. in length may dock at the facility. The property is owned by a condominium association, and slips will be rented only to unit owners.

There being no other questions from the Board at this time, Chair Guardabassi opened the public hearing.

Grace Fang, private citizen, stated that she serves on the board of the nearby Riviera Towers condominium. She was supportive of the projects at both 333 and 353 Sunset Drive.

As there were no other individuals wishing to speak on this Item, Chair Guardabassi closed the public hearing and brought the discussion back to the Board.

Mr. Berry asked if the subject property would require any additional dredging. Mr. Chappell replied that while the property at 353 Sunset Drive would need dredging, the property at 333 would not.

**Motion** made by Mr. Cain, seconded by Vice Chair Henderson, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.