

City of Fort Lauderdale

City Hall
100 N. Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
www.fortlauderdale.gov



Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

1:30 PM

City Commission Conference Room

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER Mayor - Commissioner
ROMNEY ROGERS Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District IV
BRUCE G. ROBERTS Commissioner - District I
DEAN J. TRANTALIS Commissioner - District II
BOBBY B. DuBOSE Commissioner - District III

LEE R. FELDMAN, City Manager
JOHN HERBST, City Auditor
JONDA K. JOSEPH, City Clerk
CYNTHIA A. EVERETT, City Attorney

Meeting was called to order at 1:38 p.m. by Vice-Mayor Rogers.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Vice-Mayor Romney Rogers, Commissioner Bruce G. Roberts, Commissioner Dean J. Trantalis and Commissioner Bobby B. DuBose

Not Present: 1 – Mayor John P. “Jack” Seiler (arrived at approximately 1:53 p.m.)

Also Present: City Manager Lee R. Feldman, City Auditor John Herbst, City Clerk Jonda K. Joseph, Assistant City Attorney Cynthia A. Everett and Sergeant At Arms Sergeant Jeff Brull

No public comments were submitted by email for this meeting.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Events and Matters of Interest

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events and matters of interest. (Mayor Seiler arrived during Commissioner Roberts’ announcements of events and matters of interest.)

Community Reinvestment Act

Commissioner Trantalis was interested in a program discussed at a recent Broward League of Cities luncheon, where municipalities can leverage their funds on deposits in banks. The banks would establish programs to assist disadvantaged people in buying homes. The City Manager explained that the program is the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). It is required of national banks. The City is currently seeking responses in a request for proposals (RFP) for the City’s depository of funds. The RFP asks responders to detail how their CRA program would impact the City. It is a rating element in the RFP process. Responders have not provided very much detail; therefore, he intends to request more. Vice-Mayor Rogers indicated that it is a national program. Typically, the bigger banks would satisfy the requirement by buying tax credits for affordable housing, however, that should not be the only tool. Commissioner Trantalis wanted the City to be proactive in this program.

A1A Improvements North of Sunrise Boulevard

Vice Mayor Rogers asked the City Manager to check with the Florida Department of Transportation on the number of parking spaces that will be lost. The City Manager indicated that he will be exploring a parking option with Birch State Park. Commissioner Roberts noted that irrigation infrastructure is being added as a result of a citizen’s idea at a recent community outreach meeting. At the conclusion of discussion on the quiet zones, the City Manager reported on the parking reduction of 49 spaces overall including all spaces on the west side between 14th and 18th. Both Commissioner Trantalis and Mayor Seiler felt alternative parking needs to be found. Revenue from these spaces will also be lost. He suggested meeting with Florida Department of Transportation and Birch State Park representatives.

Street Resurfacing

In response to Commissioner Roberts who cited the Middle River area, the City Manager indicated that staff met with the contractor and knows which areas need to be corrected. The resurfacing will extend

the life of the roadway, but major imperfections will not be corrected. Vice Mayor Rogers felt it may be necessary to reevaluate the project. Perhaps the City should consider waiting until there is funding to repave. The City Manager explained that a major dip in the surface would require excavation and roadway rebuilding. Commissioner DuBose thought the assessment of which roads would qualify for this process should take into account whether there is a major deviation. Commissioner Roberts pointed out that people backing out of their driveway are making divots in the surface. He also was uncertain that the project is accomplishing what the City wanted. Mayor Seiler wanted to put the project on hold and re-evaluate it. Commissioner Roberts noted another example where areas in front of two houses did not get resurfaced but the rest of the street was resurfaced. Vice-Mayor Rogers concluded the thickness is insufficient.

Public Works Director Hardeep Anand reviewed slides showing what microsurfacing should accomplish. The slides are attached to these minutes. Mayor Seiler felt it would be helpful to educate the public on the purpose of the project, particularly that it would extend the life of the roadway and not necessarily improve the surface. There have been complaints from all Commission districts. Commissioner Roberts felt it may be advisable to re-evaluate the project. When an entire street is not done, it causes controversy in the neighborhood. Anand indicated that information has been posted on the City's website including a YouTube video. Staff has met with the contractor. The number of inspectors has been doubled. The contractor has been requested to increase the number of superintendents so that punch list issues can be addressed and a street is accepted before the contractor proceeds to another street. In answer to the divot situation mentioned by Commissioner Roberts, Anand indicated it should only take a couple hours to settle, therefore those situations are not normal. Anand mentioned that sometimes the coloration issue could be attributed to rain which will be addressed with the contractor. A punch list is being developed, but from an expectation standpoint, more community outreach will be done. Vice-Mayor Rogers requested that information be provided to the homeowner association presidents. Mayor Seiler also suggested contact with the Council of Civic Associations.

Commissioner Roberts wanted to resolve outstanding issues with the project thus far before proceeding. Commissioner DuBose agreed. Vice-Mayor Rogers wanted to also look at situations where only segments of a street are included. The City Manager explained how the decision was made with respect to scope of work. Commissioner Roberts reiterated an example made by Commissioner Trantalis in his neighborhood where a dead-end street in front of four homes was not resurfaced. He felt that it was worse when part of a street was left but the resurfacing extended to the intersection. Mayor Seiler requested this matter be scheduled for an update at the September 3 meeting.

Beach Renourishment

Commissioner Roberts elaborated on the delay on this matter that may likely result in the work occurring during the season. He asked other members of the Commission to reach out to County Commission members for assistance in the work that must be coordinated between the two staffs. Commissioner DuBose was concerned that delay could impact funding. During discussion that continued on this matter, the City Manager expressed concern that the agreements are not finalized in time for the City to effectively deal with them and then the reason that renourishment does not occur is centered on the City.

Quiet Zones

Commissioner Roberts asked that the City Manager look into whether any smaller crossings should be closed. The City Manager advised that there are traffic counts on all of them. The City may wish to enhance the pedestrian crossing on some which would need to be budgeted. Both Commissioner

Roberts and Vice-Mayor Rogers commented on other particulars that should be considered during the process.

Smoking on the Beach

The City Attorney reported on the research conducted by her office in response to Commissioner Trantalis' request with respect to limiting smoking on the beach. The Florida Legislature could be lobbied.

Nextdoor Software; Crime Reduction

Commissioner DuBose asked that it be publicized more if possible as it is becoming a helpful crime reduction tool. A general discussion ensued on various aspects, including the community crime meetings.

Riverwalk Lighting

Vice-Mayor Rogers was concerned that a list of light outages on the Riverwalk had been provided to staff a few months ago, but according to Ron Centamore, who worked on this with him, nothing has been done and he was told there is no funding. The outages are due to bulbs being broken, missing or not working. In August every light between River House and the Cheesecake Factory was out. On another occasion every light between Esplanade and the Symphony House was out. These areas are working now, but it is something to consider.

Boat Show; Las Olas Association

Vice-Mayor Rogers indicated that the Las Olas Association would like the City to publicize that they will be providing a hospitality tent experience on Las Olas for the boat show. Mayor Seiler felt this should be tied in with the boat show kickoff. He will also include it at the press breakfast.

Downtown City Park

In response to Vice Mayor Rogers, the City Manager advised that there is a plan for enhancements to the downtown city park. He also mentioned that the elevator was out of service. The City Manager understood it was put back into service.

School Resource Officer Agreement with School Board

In response to Mayor Seiler, the City Manager advised that the City is waiting for the School Board to address the City's comments that primarily center around allowing officers to leave the school grounds to patrol the area around the school for juvenile issues such as truancy. He understood that the School Board is not willing to reimburse the City for that time. The City would like a contract in place before the school year begins. The School Board would like a uniform agreement for every city so that all cities are treated the same. There are probably about six or seven affected cities. His position is that the compensation should be the same for all cities but terms of the agreement could differ. There is reimbursement of about 20 percent. Mayor Seiler noted that he along with the City Manager and Police Chief were given assurances that the contract would be finalized yet the officers started the school year without a contract. The City Manager noted that the meeting took place in June. Mayor Seiler asked that the City's desire for a contract to be in place be expressed to members of the School Board if any commissioner has that opportunity. Discussion turned to the history on this topic. Commissioner Trantalis agreed with Commissioner Roberts that with the City paying 80 percent, officers could simply

be instructed to make the patrols on that part of their time. Commissioner DuBose emphasized the importance of having officers in the schools. In response to comments from Commissioners Trantalis and Roberts, the City Manager explained that was done last year with respect to Fort Lauderdale High School toward the end of the school year. The City has not yet received reimbursement for last year. Commissioner DuBose encouraged the Commission to spend a day with a school resource officer to get a clear picture.

Police and Fire Rescue Dispatch; Transition

Mayor Seiler had received complaints from police officers and firefighters about the quality of communications. The City Manager provided a status report. Commissioner Roberts asked that the issues be prioritized based on importance and that the City not wait for responses to all of them. Mayor Seiler asked the Commission be kept informed.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 14-0911 PROPOSED LIEN SETTLEMENTS (SPECIAL MAGISTRATE AND CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD CASES)

Commissioner Trantalis noted his standing objection to banks delaying foreclosures until the market improves and the properties are not brought into compliance. The City Manager elaborated on the position he has taken with recent buyers. Discussion ensued concerning the various scenarios that occur and the potential for subjectivity.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Raymond Cox, address not provided, advocated for the homeless including public restroom facilities.

There was no one else wishing to speak.

CF-2 14-0996 EMERGENCY PURCHASE - PERSONNEL SERVICES, COUNTY TELETYPE OPERATORS

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Raymond Cox, address not provided, suggested a purchase instead of rental and better planning in general. He was concerned about the difficulty in obtaining information on City business. Cox departed from discussing the item and Mayor Seiler explained that discussion should be on the item of business before the Commission.

There was no one else wishing to speak.

The City Manager explained that this was part of the communications system transition. The City needs to staff for this function. Until staff is hired, the City will utilize Broward Sheriff's Office employees. This arrangement will continue month to month until staff is hired. An additional five have been requested in the upcoming budget proposal. He elaborated on their duties for Commissioner Trantalis.

CF-3 14-0940 CENTRAL BEACH MASTER PLAN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATES - BEACH REPORT

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Raymond Cox, address not provided, felt that the homeless are harassed and not allowed on the beach.

Economic Development Administrator Don Morris highlighted information in Commission Agenda Memorandum 14-0940. He went on to discuss the timeline in more detail.

L.F. Rosenthal, 1237 NW 4 Avenue, advocated for more focus on ways to increase the City's revenue. He hoped that there is a plan for rapid transit to the beach. He questioned the lack of marketing for the beach.

There was no one else wishing to speak.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 14-0925 ACTIVATING RIVERWALK RECOMMENDATIONS - URBAN LAND INSTITUTE LOCAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Dr. Charles Bohl, chair of the Technical Assistance Panel for the Urban Land Institute, reviewed information in their report that was provided as Exhibit 1 to Commission Agenda Memorandum 14-0925. It is attached to these minutes.

In response to Vice-Mayor Rogers, Bohl offered suggestions on activating spaces under bridges. The City could experiment without major cost; for example, kiosks and temporary structures, and appropriate staffing.

Vice-Mayor Rogers asked about signage. Bohl suggested a visual queue or walkway leading to the Riverwalk so that people cannot help but find their way instead of signage. Vice-Mayor Rogers asked about the need for knowing the length of Riverwalk so that an individual knows how long it would take to walk it. Bohl explained that if there is something of interest, people may not necessarily walk the Riverwalk but rather experience something of interest. The goal is for people to discover the Riverwalk.

Commissioner DuBose raised the idea of inviting simple passive space. Commissioner Trantalis agreed; commercialization should only be occasional. Commissioner Roberts raised the idea of ad hoc spontaneous activation with musicians. It would have to be somewhat regulated. Mayor Seiler felt the Riverwalk's size would accommodate multiple ideas.

In response to Commissioner Roberts, Bohl explained in some places where seasonal flooding would not affect any habitable space; it could just be allowed and the space would not be used during those periods. If everything is fortified against water intrusion, the Riverwalk's character will be changed.

Returning to the point of commercialization, Bohl explained it should only be allowed in selected places so that people can stop and eat for example. For the future of the Riverwalk, it is a very important property.

Vice-Mayor Rogers asked if Riverfront Plaza was studied. Bohl indicated that there was discussion, but it is worthy of its own panel. It could be a more active connection.

In conclusion, Mayor Seiler appreciated this approach and liked the recommendations. He would like to see this issue remain on the front burner. The report is an excellent roadmap. He suggested a

workshop including all of the stakeholders in the next 60 days. Commissioner Trantalis commented on how the report will be helpful in showing developers the goal for the area. Both Vice-Mayor Rogers and Commissioner Roberts mentioned the need to look at the City's ordinances relating to development. Mayor Seiler suggested an evening meeting perhaps on a Thursday on the Riverwalk at one of the museums, Performing Arts Center, Stranahan House or the library. Vice-Mayor Rogers asked that operational functionality be a topic on the workshop agenda.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Raymond Cox, address not provided, advocated for the homeless.

L.F. Rosenthal, 1237 NW 4 Avenue, requested a copy of the report so that he could make his comments in written form.

Art Seitz, 1905 North Atlantic Boulevard, noted places of interest in other parts of the world. He also referred to the report's mention of bicycle corridors and his interest in an A1A greenway with connectivity to the Intracoastal Waterway. He liked the approach of using the Urban Land Institute and encouraged bringing experts together to get the brightest ideas. He encouraged the Commission to listen to the ideas expressed by the chair of the Beach Redevelopment Board. He hoped this approach could be applied to development ideas for public spaces in the beach area.

At Commissioner Trantalis' request, the City Manager provided a verbal status report on the Bryant Homes restaurant. Commissioner Trantalis requested a timetable be provided at the next meeting. He wanted to see it activated by next year. The City Manager touched on a marketing concept for the site and suggested it might be helpful to discuss it in that light. Vice Mayor Rogers commented on the high number of people who are attracted to that area of the Riverwalk and also emphasized the need for attention to it.

Genia Ellis, representing Riverwalk Trust, commented that small kiosks are being considered so that people can eat or drink casually. She mentioned some other features that are available on the Riverwalk now. The Shippey House should be activated or moved. She agreed that the report is a great roadmap.

There was no one else wishing to speak.

The Commission recessed and convened as the Community Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors at 4:43 p.m. The Commission then reconvened the conference meeting with Agenda Item BD-1 at 1:05 a.m. in the City Commission meeting room on the first floor of City Hall

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

BD-1 14-0966 COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION AND MINUTES
CIRCULATED - period ending August 14, 2014

Budget Advisory Board

Capital Asset Replacements: The Board recommends that the City Commission set a goal of a 2.5 percent annual contribution to the Capital Projects Fund. Motion passed unanimously.

Term Limits Extension: The Board requests that the City Commission consider amending the current Ordinance to extend the maximum term for BAB members from six (6) consecutive 1 year terms to nine (9) consecutive 1 year terms. Motion passed 5-1.

This item was deferred to the upcoming joint workshop.

Central City Redevelopment Advisory Board

Motion made by Vice Chair Harmeling and seconded by Member Greenbaum to request a joint workshop with the City Commission in mid to late September, 2014 to discuss general priorities for the redevelopment area moving forward. Motion passed unanimously.

This item was deferred to September 3, 2014.

Community Appearance Board

Motion made by Mr. Yianilos and seconded by Ms. Hansen that the following be read as a communication to the City Commission: Dear Mayor Seiler and Commissioners: As the Chair of the Community Appearance Board (CAB), I would like to take a moment to thank the City of Fort Lauderdale staff for their service and dedication to this Board. The annual event was on May 9, 2014 and was another successful display of city projects and urban design excellence. Laura Gambino, the Community Appearance Board Liaison, coordinated the event. She was assisted in various ways by Videographer Ron Lyons, Petula Burks, David Rubin and Patricia Smith. We would like to recognize Laura and the team for all their hard efforts in making the WOW program and the Annual CAB event a success in 2014. Please acknowledge them for their hard work and continued dedication to this citywide program.

This item was deferred to September 3, 2014.

Economic Development Advisory Board

Motion made by Mr. Denison and seconded by Mr. Mihaiu that the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) requests permission and support from the City Commission to send a welcome letter to new businesses that includes the names of advisory board members and their respective businesses. In a voice vote the motion passed unanimously. Motion made by Ms. Dickey and seconded by Mr. Costello to request the City Commission all the formation of an advisory board sub-committee to research and discuss Economic Development business initiatives such as a revolving loan fund and crowd funding. Discussion ensued. In a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

This item was deferred to September 3, 2014.

Audit Advisory Board

Motion made by Richard Owen to the City Commission: The Audit Advisory Board wishes to advise the Commission on the pending transition of the City Accounting and Financial Management to an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software application that addresses the lack of capacity and structural ability found in the current antiquated Financial Accounting and Management Information System (FAMIS). Finance and Information Technology are the primary departments responsible for this migration.

An ERP system will allow the City to upgrade the integrity of its financial management system and allow for seamless interaction with analytical tools allowing for a more sophisticated review of data. In addition, a greater range of management activity can be generated from such a system.

The Audit Advisory Board strongly supports this transition. However, in order to take advantage of the system's robust nature, an appropriate level of manpower is required to assure proper implementation of each feature. Too often, cities make the mistake of financing large capital investments in hardware and software without the necessary support staff required to adequately address its operation.

Critical financial processes within the City must continue operating while the new system is being brought on-line. While this certainly requires an investment in training, more importantly, appropriate staff levels must exist to allow the system to be integrated into City operations and assure optimal operational integrity and control of the City's financial system. Without fostering a workable understanding of the software among its users, the ability to maximize our investment is challenged.

For that reason, the Audit Advisory Board highly recommends that the appropriate resource commitment be made for this project. Only by providing the necessary financial support can we be assured of a successful implementation.

Seconded by Roger Ally. Motion passed 3-0

The City Manager explained that the Board wanted to make sure that the Commission is aware of the need for additional staffing to properly implement, which will be proposed through the budget. In response to Commissioner DuBose, the City Manager advised that additional staffing will not be proposed in the 2015 budget.

BD-2 14-0967 BOARD AND COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Please see regular meeting item R-3.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

None

The City Attorney requested a closed door session for September 3, 2014 to discuss Robert Albanese v. City of Fort Lauderdale Case No. 10-14243.

There being no other business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 1:10 a.m.