



**DRAFT
MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
MARINE ADVISORY BOARD**

**FORT LAUDERDALE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT – STATION #2
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE 528 NW 2ND STREET, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33311
3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.**

**Cumulative Attendance
January-December 2023**

Steve Witten, Chair	P	5	0
James Harrison, Vice Chair	P	4	1
Michael Boyer	P	4	1
Tyler Brunelle	P	3	0
Robyn Chiarelli (6:14-8:12)	P	3	2
Barry Flanigan	P	5	0
Elisabeth George	P	5	0
Brewster Knott	P	4	1
Norbert McLaughlin	P	5	0
Noelle Norvell	P	3	2
Ed Rebholz (arr. 7:00)	P	2	0
Robert Washington	P	2	0

As of this date, there are 12 appointed members to the Board, which means 7 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Andrew Cuba, Marine Facilities Manager
Jonathan Luscomb, Marine Facilities Supervisor
Sergeant Travis O'Neil, Fort Lauderdale Police Department
Bob Dunckel, Assistant City Attorney
Carla Blair, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to City Commission

Motion made by Vice Chair Harrison, seconded by Mr. Rebholz, to send this communication to the City Commissioners, representing our thoughts, along with the idea that we would like to be involved:

The Marine Advisory Board is formally recommending a one-year moratorium on the City issuing any and all waivers for docks, structures, pilings, and/or boat lifts extending into the waterway beyond Coon on the New River.

In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously (11-0).

Motion made by Mr. Flanigan, seconded by Mr. Brunelle, approving the waiver as to the lack of a principal structure and permitting a boat lift. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 9-3 (Ms. George, Ms. Norvell, and Mr. Washington dissenting).

VII. Dock Waiver – 321 N. Birch Road / Lee J. Engler – Trustee of the Lee J. Engler Qualified Personal Residence Trust & Patti A. Engler, as Trustee of the Patti A. Engler Qualified Personal Residence Trust (PH 03), Brenda Lapointe (#901), Robert J. & Mary K. Berard (PH 01), & Robert & Lisa D. Verdun (#803) / 321 N. Birch Road, PH 3

Steve Tilbrook, representing the Applicants, showed a PowerPoint presentation on the request, which is made by four slip owners who reside at 321 N. Birch Road. The Application requests the removal of two permitted boat lifts and their replacement with two floating docks. The Applicants and their representatives have worked closely with their neighbors, who have submitted a letter of no objection to the removal of a pier.

Jena Robbins, also representing the Applicants, showed several photographs of the site, which currently includes a concrete dock, a seawall, two finger piers, and both single mooring piles and triple pile clusters, as well as a no-profile boat lift. The finger piers extend 25 ft. from the property line and the boat on the lift is approximately 55 ft. from the property line. The mooring piles extend a maximum of 75 ft. into the waterway.

Ms. Robbins continued that there are four slips on the subject property, as well as a 4 ft. wide marginal dock and 4 ft. wide finger piers. The boat lift which extends 55 ft. from the property line was approved by Resolution in 2021. Another boat lift was also approved by Resolution in the same year. The mooring piles and triple pile clusters were permitted by Resolution in 2014.

The Applicants request a waiver to remove the existing finger piers and install two floating docks which are roughly 50 ft. long and 8 ft. wide. The existing finger piers pose a safety hazard and would be removed and replaced by the floating docks.

There is one 20 ft. long finger pier on the north side of the subject property, which was proposed as a fixed finger pier. The Applicants are willing to remove this structure in order to improve navigation in the area. Ms. Robbins showed a rendering of the proposed changes overlaid on existing conditions at the site. The waiver is requested for the two floating docks to extend a maximum of 57 ft. from the property line. The Intracoastal Waterway is approximately 562 ft. in width at the subject location, which means the proposed structures are well within the 25% extension limit.

The waiver is requested because all proposed structures will not exceed 25% of the width of the waterway and will not impede navigation. The floating docks are necessary to safely moor the residents' vessels, particularly during high winds, excessive waves, and other severe weather events. The floating docks will be concrete breakwater docks, which will help mitigate excessive wave action. The Applicants would prefer these docks

to their boat lifts, as there have been incidents in which individuals were injured when they fell between the docks and the boats. The floating docks are consistent with other previously authorized structures.

Multiple residents from within the same building as the Applicants have provided letters of support, as has a neighbor to the south.

Ms. George commented that she did not object to the Application, but noted that the building has only existed on the site since 2020. She requested additional information regarding the 2014 approval of mooring piles at 75 ft. into the waterway. Mr. Tilbrook advised that the project took several years to implement due to litigation from neighboring properties. The permits were granted after the litigation was resolved.

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

Tim Goligoski, vice president of the Florida Apartments, Inc., a seven unit cooperative located north of the subject property, noted that the Applicants have agreed to remove the existing finger pier as part of the Application. This is the result of discussions between the cooperative board and the Applicants' representatives.

Mr. Goligoski distributed photos of the area, pointing out that north of the subject property, there is a large bend in the waterway. He identified the finger pier the Applicants have agreed to remove, concluding that residents of his cooperative do not oppose the Application as long as that structure is removed.

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

Mr. Cuba advised that he would need a new plan from the Applicants which shows the removal of the finger pier prior to submission of the Application to the City Commission.

Motion made by Vice Chair Harrison, seconded by Ms. George, to approve with the condition that the finger pier be removed. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously (12-0).

~~VIII. Dock Waiver – 435 Bayshore Drive / William Prescott~~

This Item was removed from the Agenda.

~~IX. Dock Waiver – 900 / 340 NE 20th Avenue / Michael Binder; F&B Waterfront, LLC~~

Chair Witten noted that the Applicant of this Item is requesting the installation of a wooden dock extension and four mooring piles.