



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
CHARTER REVISION BOARD  
101 NE 3<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE, TOWER 101  
SUITE 1100 – 11<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025 – 5:30 P.M.**

**Cumulative Attendance  
January-December 2025**

Judith Stern, Chair	P	2	0
Michael Albetta	P	2	0
Mary Peloquin	P	2	0
Richard Weiss	P	2	0
Daniel McCawley	A	1	1

**Staff**

Junia J. Robinson, Charter Revision Board Liaison  
Paul Bangel, Senior Assistant City Attorney  
Gabrielle Bush, Assistant City Attorney  
Susan Grant, Acting City Manager  
Chris Cooper, Acting Asst City Manager  
Ben Rogers, Acting Asst City Manager  
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor  
Ashley Doussard, Director, Strategic Communications  
Cassandra Brown, Deputy City Clerk  
K. Cruitt, Prototype, Recording Secretary

**Guests**

Sabina Javellana  
Elijah Manley

**COMMUNICATION TO CITY COMMISSION**

**Motion** made by Mr. Weiss, seconded by Mr. McCawley to send a communication to the City Commission asking two questions:

1. Number one, are we working towards some sort of deadline that they have in mind as to when our work will be done?
2. Would they like all of our work to be presented at one time or would they like us to present one or more sections in incremental progress reports as we get through?

In a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**1st DRAFT**  
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In a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

## **I. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Stern called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **II. ROLL CALL**

Attendance was noted as listed above. A quorum was confirmed.

## **III. NEW BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTION**

Mr. McCawley introduced himself, detailing his background as a local resident, attorney, and youth sports coach, emphasizing his community involvement.

## **IV. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 02<sup>nd</sup> MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion** made by Ms. Peloquin, seconded by Mr. Albetta, to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2025 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

## **V. CHARTER REVIEW BOARD PUBLIC OUTREACH ASHLEY DOUSSARD, DIRECTOR STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Doussard introduced herself and outlined a public outreach plan, including:

- A dedicated webpage on Spotlightftl.com, similar to platforms used for past projects, to serve as the central information hub
- The use of flyers at city buildings with QR codes linking to the webpage
- News posts on the city website and social media campaigns, all directing traffic to the Spotlight FTL page
- Media outreach to local newspapers, TV, and radio stations
- Collaboration with civic associations, advisory boards, and committees
- Partnerships with stakeholders like the Riverwalk, Chamber of Commerce, and Downtown Development Authority
- The use of email distribution lists, including mayoral and commissioner newsletters
- The inclusion of information on the back of water bills
- The use of public outreach meetings, publicized through the aforementioned channels

Chair Stern suggested framing the City Charter as the City's "constitution" to enhance public understanding. Ms. Doussard agreed to draft explanatory language for Board review.

Discussion followed regarding optimal information dissemination channels, including the Council of Civic Associations, TRACOM Neighbor Support, and homeowner associations. Ms. Doussard offered to provide regular metric reports on outreach effectiveness. Mr. Weiss advocated for specific communication, suggesting concrete examples like the form

of government and real property disposal. Simplified language for accessibility was emphasized. Mr. Albetta proposed involving local schools and children in the education process. Mr. McCawley highlighted the necessity of education on City charter basics and governmental forms. Ms. Grant inquired about civics classes in schools, suggesting liaison with the Education Advisory Board.

**VI. REVIEW AND DISCUSS – ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES  
PURPOSE/DUTIES (NOVEMBER 2018, CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE  
MEETING) – JUDY STERN, CRB CHAIR**

Chair Stern then inquired about the availability of a document outlining the purposes and duties of advisory boards and committees, advising she believes most citizens have no understanding who can serve on boards and what their purposes are, suggesting the public may want to be more involved creating a broader pool of appointments.

Ms. Doussard questioned if Chair Stern was asking was to include an explanation of who can serve on a board or committee. She agreed to take further direction from the Board but felt that including it in the education portion might “muddy the waters a little bit and be a little bit confusing” suggesting they remain very focused due to the volume of information.

Chair Stern agreed, emphasizing the importance of educating the public on how the government operates.

**VII. PRESENTATION OF CHARTER REVISION BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS  
PAUL BANGEL, SENIOR ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY**

Mr. Bangel summarized the previous Charter Revision Board's recommendations, commencing with Article 8. He addressed revisions to 8.01 (Sale of City Personal Property), simplifying the sale process; 8.02 (Sale of City Property to Public Bodies), introducing the "paramount public purpose" requirement; 8.04 (Sale of Real Property to Private Parties), emphasizing the supermajority vote requirement; 8.09 (Leases and Use Agreements), highlighting the 50-year limit and business viability report requirement; and 8.21 (Disposing of Park Property), noting the referendum requirement for sales and the unanimous vote requirement for leases. Mr. Weiss clarified that the summary was not exhaustive, recommending full text review. Chair Stern provided historical context for recurring concerns regarding City property transactions. It was suggested by Ms. Peloquin that changes be clarified by juxtaposing old and new charter language.

Mr. Weiss initiated a discussion on how to proceed with the review of the previous work, emphasizing his openness to different approaches. Ms. Peloquin suggested tabling the decision until the next meeting, when the full board would be present and new leadership elected. She also suggested presenting completed sections to the City Commission incrementally rather than all at once. Mr. Weiss agreed and proposed asking the City Commission two specific questions: whether there is a deadline for the board's work and

whether they prefer a single presentation or incremental progress reports. Chair Stern clarified that the Board had worked within the previously established deadline of May 2024.

**VIII. PRESENTATION COST ASSOCIATED WITH REFERENDUM ELECTIONS  
DAVID SOLOMAN, CITY CLERK**

Ms. Brown, presenting on behalf of Mr. Soloman, provided a detailed breakdown of the estimated costs for different election scenarios, including the cost per ballot, the cost of additional pages, and the total estimated cost based on the number of registered voters. She also provided data on voter turnout in previous elections.

A discussion followed regarding the specific costs associated with each scenario and the factors that influence voter turnout. Mr. Weiss clarified that the timing of any referendum is ultimately up to the City Commission.

**IX. PUBLIC LAND - PAUL BANGEL, SENIOR ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY**

Mr. Bangel agreed to present summaries of other articles at the next meeting for the benefit of the new Board member.

**X. CHARTER REVISION BOARD DISCUSSION**

The Board agreed to review meeting dates at the next meeting to ensure they accommodate all members' schedules. Ms. Peloquin inquired about who sets the agenda, with Ms. Robinson clarifying the process.

**XI. PUBLIC INPUT – none.**

**XII. ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.