



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**DRAFT
MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
MARINE ADVISORY BOARD
FORT LAUDERDALE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
528 NW 2ND STREET, STATION #2
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33311
3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024 – 5:00 P.M.**

**Cumulative Attendance
January-December 2024**

Steve Witten, Chair	P	3	0
James Harrison, Vice Chair	P	1	2
Tyler Brunelle	P	3	0
Robyn Chiarelli (6:08-7:18)	P	1	2
Barry Flanigan (arr. 5:10)	P	3	0
Robert Franks	P	2	1
Elisabeth George	P	3	0
Brewster Knott	P	3	0
John Lynch	A	2	1
Norbert McLaughlin	P	3	0
Noelle Norvell	A	1	2
Ed Rebholz	P	3	0
Bill Walker (arr. 5:26)	P	3	0
Robert Washington	A	2	1

As of this date, there are 14 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Andrew Cuba, Marine Facilities Manager
Jonathan Luscomb, Marine Facilities Supervisor
Sergeant Travis O’Neil, Marine Unit Supervisor
Marco Aguilera, Code Compliance Officer
Robert Dunckel, Assistant City Attorney
Steven Glassman, Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner
Ashley Cacicedo, District 2 Outreach Coordinator
Karen Cruitt, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to City Commission

None.

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call

for the Coast Guard, and advised that Coast Guard Officers may be present on Marine Unit vessels to assist with enforcement.

VII. Dock Permit – 919 Cordova Road / William S. & Linda S. Tretheway

Jena Robbins, representing the Applicants, stated that the seawall at this location has been rebuilt to current standards. There was an existing dock on the property which was demolished prior to work on the seawall. The subject property has 75 ft. of shoreline and City seawall. The Applicants wish to rebuild the dock to a length of 65 ft. It will be a separate structure from the seawall. Ms. Robbins noted other dock permits granted to properties along Cordova Road.

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 Ms. George, seconded by Mr. Rebholz, to approve. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously (11-0).

The following Item was taken out of order on the Agenda.

IX. Dock Permit – 1326 Ponce de Leon Road / William J. Jr. & Anne Scherer

Ms. Robbins, representing the Applicants, stated that a boat lift and dock existed at the subject property prior to seawall reconstruction. They would like to replace both items within the same footprint. The request is for a 35 ft. by 6 ft. dock as well as a boat lift, with stairs to be constructed on the landward side of the seawall cap. All structures will be independent of the seawall. The four-post boat lift will be used for a vessel no larger than 44 ft.

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. Rebholz, seconded by Mr. Knott, to approve. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously (11-0).

VIII. Dock Permit – 1320 Ponce de Leon Road / William & Anne Scherer

Ms. Robbins continued that this property lies directly south of 1326 Ponce de Leon Road, for which a permit was just approved by the Board. The SE 10th Street Bridge is located in front of this property. Before the seawall's reconstruction, the Applicants also had a previously existing dock. Their request is to install a new dock that will adhere to a 5 ft. setback. The new dock will be 36 ft. long and 6 ft. wide, which is shorter than the previous structure. Stairs would be constructed on the landward side of the seawall.

Attorney Dunckel advised that he was recently informed that a 25 ft. separation is required between the bridge and any marginal dock. The Applicant's plans show roughly 14.5 ft. of separation. Tyler Chappell, also representing the Applicants, replied that he has constructed other docks near City bridges without issue as long as they comply with side yard setbacks.

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

X. Industry Expert – Rock the Ocean & Tortuga Music Festival / Chris Stacey, Founder

Chair Witten introduced Chris Stacey, founder of Rock the Ocean, which has been in operation for over 10 years. He is also the founder of the Tortuga Music Festival. He reviewed the fan survey from last year's Festival, which indicates that the average attendee spends roughly \$1300 in the City. The economic impact of the 2023 Festival was approximately \$123 million for the weekend.

Most fans were present specifically to attend the Tortuga Music Festival, and 78% were visitors to Broward County. The majority of those visitors stayed for three or more nights in hotels or rental houses. Mr. Stacey noted that nearly 20% of attendees used the Water Taxi to access the event, while 32% walked from their hotels.

Ms. Chiarelli asked if the Festival's producers take any advance steps to promote ride-sharing or use of a form of transportation other than cars. Mr. Stacey replied that Water Taxi use is encouraged and promoted on social media and fan communications, and attendees are discouraged from bringing cars if possible.

Mr. Stacey recalled that the 2023 Tortuga Music Festival was challenging, as Fort Lauderdale experienced extremely severe flooding immediately prior to the event. Roughly 56% of 2023 attendees were returning fans, most of whom expressed satisfaction with the overall experience, even during a difficult year.

The Festival creates approximately 1000 full- or part-time jobs, with an economic impact of nearly \$101.4 million in Broward County alone. This is done at virtually no cost to the City, as the Festival pays for all City elements it uses, including Police and Fire/Rescue, parking, lifeguards, beach usage and cleanup, and other services. The Festival occasionally receives some funding from the City's Beach Business Improvement District (BID).