

# City of Fort Lauderdale

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## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, November 16, 2021**

**1:30 PM**

**City Hall - City Commission Chambers  
100 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301**

### **City Commission Conference Meeting**

***FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION***

***DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor***

***HEATHER MORAITIS Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District I***

***STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II***

***ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III***

***BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District IV***

***CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager***

***JOHN HERBST, City Auditor***

***JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk***

***ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney***

## CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Trantalis announced details regarding the meeting format, including how members of the public can view and participate.

## QUORUM ESTABLISHED

**Commission Members Present:** Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie, Commissioner Ben Sorensen and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

**Excused:** Vice Mayor Heather Moraitis

**Also Present:** City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau and City Auditor John Herbst

## Agenda Discussion

City Manager Lagerbloom noted Commissioner McKinzie's request to defer the Leaf Blower Agenda item to a future Conference Meeting. The deferment is requested due to accommodate attendance of *Leaf Blower Working Group* members currently out of town. Discussion ensued on a deferral date for the Leaf Blower Agenda item, either December 7, 2021 or December 21, 2021. December 21, 2021 was confirmed as the Agenda item deferral date.

City Manager Lagerbloom commented on additional scheduled meetings today. Further comment and discussion ensued.

## COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[21-1104](#)

Communications to the City Commission - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

***Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)  
October 25, 2021***

**Communication to the City Commission**  
*The Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) provides the following  
Communication to the City Commission:*

*The Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) believes it important for the Board, Commission, and City Administration to be better informed on the detrimental impacts of climate change on the insurance and mortgage markets in South Florida, the consequential implications for businesses and homeowners in the City, and the potential impact on City tax revenue.*

*The SAB requests that the City Commission allow a presentation at a future City Commission Conference Meeting or Commission Workshop on the subject of the effects of climate change on the sale of real estate and insurance rates.*

*This subject supports the following strategic connections:*

*Comprehensive Plan*

- Policy CM 4.2.3: Continue to foster effective collaborations, partnerships (including P3), and coordination with national, state, regional, and local partners to identify risks, vulnerabilities, and opportunities associated with coastal hazards and the impacts from sea level rise.*

*Additionally, the SAB requests that the City Manager direct city staff to assist with the planning and organization of the presentation.*

**Motion**

*A motion was made by Mr. Cylke and seconded by Ms. Mazza to advance the above Communication to the City Commission. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

Glen Hadwen, Public Works Department Sustainability Manager, explained the SAB had reached out to individuals in both the financial industry and the risk industry to discuss anticipated changes in the insurance industry and the real estate industry.

A representative the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) spoke to the SAB regarding the new rate structures for flood insurance to accurately reflect risk, and related changes in Florida. This has been a SAB topic of discussion they have been discussing with individuals from the federal government and others doing modeling of flood risk at the local level.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the opportunity of a presentation to focus on specific aspects versus a high-level overview of general trends, Mr. Hadwen confirmed he would address Mayor Trantalis' request at the upcoming SAB meeting and arrange a speaker to present to the Commission.

Mayor Trantalis suggested scheduling this topic in January 2022 Conference Meeting. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed it would be scheduled after the first of the year.

***Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)  
October 25, 2021***

**Communication to the City Commission**

*The Sustainability Advisory Board sends the following communication to the City Commission: As plans for the Community ArtsPark (formerly known as the One Stop Shop site) continue to come to fruition, the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) recommends that the City Commission acknowledge and support the potential developer's commitment to leave at least 76% of the site as undeveloped green space, to protect the five largest trees on the property, to comply with the City's Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance, and to include these commitments in any comprehensive agreement reached with the developer.*

*Given that the project is located on City owned property, the SAB also recommends the City requires the developer to utilize LEED or LEED equivalent building practices for any structure to be built upon the site. These recommendations are consistent with the purpose and duties of the SAB with regards to environmental sustainability; to identify and recommend affordable strategies associated with climate change and conservation; and to encourage developers to practice environmental conservation and sustainable building practices.*

*These recommendations will also help the City achieve its tree canopy goals within five (5) years as stated in the Comprehensive Plan.*

**Motion**

*A motion was made by Ms. Mazza and seconded by Mr. Dutton to advance the Communication. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.*

Mayor Trantalis requested City Attorney Alain Boileau consider items included in this communication when preparing the comprehensive agreement for the *One Stop Shop*.

Commissioner Glassman noted the premature nature of this request. At this time, there are only conceptual plans for the *One Stop Shop* Project and there is no site plan. He requested input from City Attorney Boileau. City Attorney Boileau confirmed, noted site plan requirements are Code driven and said SAB LEED recommendations might not be included in the Comprehensive Agreement.

Commissioner Glassman questioned requiring SAB recommendations in all development projects, not only to the One Stop Project. Mayor Trantalis said they should.

Mr. Hadwen explained Staff is guided by the State that has a requirement that government buildings are built to green buildings standards, but government buildings are not required to achieve LEED Certification. Additionally, there is another standard called the Florida Green Building Council, which has a local standard that could be used instead of LEED.

## **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

### **BUS-1** [21-1127](#)

Leaf Blower Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis noted this Agenda item was deferred to the December 21, 2021 Commission Conference Meeting. Commissioner McKinzie requested rescheduling this Agenda item to December 7, 2021, to accommodate attendance by members of the *Leaf Blower Working Group*. Mayor Trantalis said this Agenda item would be deferred to December 7, 2021. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed.

## **CITY COMMISSION REPORTS**

### ***Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events and matters of interest.***

Mayor Trantalis remarked there is no recycling program for commercial businesses and requested Commissioner Glassman raise this topic at his *Broward League of Cities Solid Waste Working Group (SWWG)* Meeting.

Commissioner Glassman inquired if there is an appetite for this from commercial businesses.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the significant amounts of recyclable materials from bars and restaurants that are not being captured for recycling. He commented on the ability of these establishments to work towards achieving a program to address.

Commissioner Glassman confirmed he would raise this topic at the next *SWWG* Meeting.

Commissioner Glassman congratulated everyone associated with *Las Olas Oceanside Park* known as the *Loop* that was voted *Best Outdoor Space in Fort Lauderdale Magazine* by the readers in its *2021 Reader's Poll*.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the process for the City to proceed with projects and funding associated with the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJ Act)* recently signed into law in Washington, DC, City Manager Lagerbloom commented on his understanding of City infrastructure needs. City Manager Lagerbloom anticipates forthcoming guidance from the federal government and envisions a multi-step application process. Tonight's Commission Regular Agenda includes an item approving federal lobbyists in Washington, DC that Staff would utilize to address federal funding for Commission priorities. Staff would be active with these lobbyists to validate *IIJ Act* opportunities and procedures available to the City to be brought forward to the Commission.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed Florida State Senate Bill 224 (SB 224) that is circulating in committees in Tallahassee, allowing home rule addressing smoking in public places in municipalities. He inquired whether there was Commission support with a Resolution.

Daphnee Sainvil, Government & Economic Development Manager, explained details associated with SB 224 sponsored by Senator Joe Gruters, which was heard in the Senate Community Affairs Committee during Committee Week and unanimously approved. It would allow local governments more regulatory authority to regulate smoking on public beaches and parks owned by a city or county. There is a companion bill sponsored by Representative Randy Fine, Florida House of Representatives House Bill 105, that has not been heard in committee and Staff is closely monitoring.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Sainvil confirmed this would come up in the Regular Legislative Session.

Mayor Trantalis requested City Attorney Boileau prepare a Commission Resolution in support of both legislative bills addressing smoking in City parks and areas of the beach prior to the beginning of the Regular Legislative Session. City Attorney Boileau confirmed and discussed portions of the beach the City could regulate smoking. Further comment and discussion ensued on the areas of the beach the City could regulate, and examples were cited. Commissioner McKinzie requested additional clarity. Commissioner Sorensen requested Staff provide a map indicating areas of the beach under the City's control.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's request for a progress/timeline update for utility undergrounding in Harbor Beach, Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, confirmed through the City Manager's Office, Staff would provide a written status update on undergrounding projects being considered and the related process.

Mayor Trantalis commented on several ribbon cuttings for affordable housing projects achieved through the City of Fort Lauderdale Housing Authority and thanked them for efforts to provide a great product helping alleviate the housing shortage.

Mayor Trantalis noted successful implementation of successful COVID-related protocols allowing the return of the public to entertainment venues.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his participation on the panel at the *Real Deal Real Estate Showcase* along with Miami Mayor Francis Suarez, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine, West Palm Beach Mayor Eva Williams and Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer. Discussions included trends and direction regarding the future of the real estate market and was attended by over 4,000 people.

Mayor Trantalis noted a moving *Veterans Day Ceremony* at the *Alexander Ramsey ("Sandy") Nininger Jr.*, statue on *Riverwalk* and thanked all veterans for their service.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

City Manager Lagerbloom announced the Community Redevelopment Agency Board Meeting would follow the Commission Conference Meeting, followed by the Shade Meeting review of unsolicited proposals. The Commission Executive Closed-Door Session would begin at 4:30 p.m. or shortly thereafter.

Mayor Trantalis recessed the Conference Meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the Conference Meeting at 3:38 p.m. to begin the Shade Meeting followed by the Executive Closed-Door Session.

**EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION - 4:30 P.M. OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE**

[21-1131](#)

The City Commission will meet privately pursuant to Florida Statute, Section 286.011(8) concerning:

Fort Lauderdale Food not Bombs et al. v. City of Fort Lauderdale  
Case No.: 15-60185-CIV-AMC

Mayor Trantalis announced details of the Executive Closed-Door Session, including those attending and the matter for discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 5:16 p.m.