

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 3, 2022

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

BEN SORENSEN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District IV

HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II

ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III

GREG CHAVARRIA, City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, Interim City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Sorensen called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Commission Members Present: Commissioner Steven Glassman and Vice Mayor Ben Sorensen

Commission Members Not Present: Mayor Dean J. Trantalis, Commissioner Heather Moraitis, and Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie

Also Present: City Manager Greg Chavarria, City Clerk David R. Soloman, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau, and Interim City Auditor Patrick Reilly

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[22-0825](#)

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

*Budget Advisory Board (BAB)
City of Fort Lauderdale*

August 11, 2022

Communication to the City Commission

Motion made by Mr. Cammarata, seconded by Mr. Macellari, to recommend the City fund the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Huizenga Park Improvement Project for up to 7 years, and \$5 million. City funds shall not exceed 33% of the total project for capital improvements excluding restaurant, and to match the State for the amount of years to be green space. In a roll call vote, motion passed 6-1 with Mr. Lowe opposed.

Motion made by Mr. Patel seconded Mr. Lowe to approve the budget as currently proposed by the City Manager. In a roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

Laura Reece, Office of Management and Budget Director, discussed the BAB's recommendations to limit City funding for the DDA's Huizenga Park Improvement Project (Project) to one-third (1/3)

and other limitations related to the expenditure of City funds.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's request, City Manager Chavarria provided a high-level overview of funding mechanisms and the process. City Manager Chavarria said that \$5,000,000 is budgeted for the Project, and a related agreement is being developed. Ms. Reece explained that the funding would be approximately \$730,000 per year over seven (7) years.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on his understanding that BAB, Staff, and the Commission are aligned regarding the investment in the Project. Ms. Reece confirmed.

City Attorney Boileau confirmed BAB recommendations had been incorporated in the agreement and confirmed City funding would not exceed thirty-three percent (33%).

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Budget Advisory Board Vice Chair Jeff Lowe remarked on feedback from several people working and living in the downtown area who support the Project's openness and greenspace but indicated that the restaurant was a stumbling block and not necessary.

Vice Mayor Sorensen remarked on feedback regarding the proposed restaurant, indicating it would assist in sustaining ongoing operations. Commissioner Glassman concurred.

Commissioner Glassman commented on the importance of regular meetings among DDA and Riverwalk Trust representatives as the Project moves forward.

*Board of Adjustment (BOA)
September 14, 2022*

Communication to the City Commission

Motion made by Mr. McGinley, seconded by Mr. Wolfe to request the City Commission fill the vacancies on the Board. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

City Clerk David Soloman noted that the final full-time position on the BOA was filled at the September 22, 2022, Regular Commission

Meeting. There are currently three (3) alternate positions open on the BOA.

Vice Mayor Sorensen and Commissioner Glassman remarked on the ability to fill alternate positions. City Clerk Soloman said he would confirm whether those alternate vacancies were consensus appointments. Further comment and discussion ensued.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [22-0928](#)

City Sponsored Events 4th Quarter 2022 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Chavarria provided an overview of this Agenda item as outlined in the Commission Agenda Memorandum and confirmed Staff's commitment to accountability and transparency.

Vice Mayor Sorensen discussed his support of Staff's efforts to improve the process and Commissioner Glassman concurred.

BUS-2 [22-0889](#)

Evaluation of the Potential Hardy Park Historic District - (Commission District 4)

Trisha Logan, Development Services Department Historic Preservation Planner, provided an overview of this Agenda item as outlined in the Commission Agenda Memo.

Ms. Logan narrated a follow-up presentation to the May 3, 2022, Neighbor Presentation by Reed Tolber regarding his proposal to create the Hardy Park Historic District.

A copy of the presentation is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding Broward County's (County) use of the former Coca-Cola Bottling Plant Building (Building), Ms. Logan said she is unaware of the County's intended use of the Building and remarked on related details. She explained details associated with adhering to related criteria and options moving forward to designate Hardy Park as a Historic District and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the timeline for Commission action to establish Hardy Park as a Historic District.

City Attorney Boileau commented on the timeline related to providing notice for Commission action on this topic and recommended

Commission action at the October 18, 2022, Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Glassman recommended the presence of Mayor Trantalis prior to Commission action. Vice Mayor Sorensen concurred.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, Ms. Logan explained that all impacted buildings associated with this Agenda item are individually designated historic and protected under Code. When established as a Historic District, the same standards would apply, and there would be no additional benefits.

Vice Mayor Sorensen recognized Michaela Conca, Broward Trust for Historic Preservation President. Ms. Conca spoke in support of designating Hardy Park as a Historic District.

Vice Mayor Sorensen recognized Reed Tolber, 700 S. Andrews Avenue. Mr. Tolber spoke in support of designating Hardy Park as a Historic District.

Vice Mayor Sorensen said there would be additional discussions at the October 18, 2022, Commission Conference Meeting.

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

[22-0981](#)

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

Theresa Grimes v. City of Fort Lauderdale
Case No.: CACE 21-020984 (09)

Vice Mayor Sorensen noted the lack of a quorum required to hold the Executive Closed-Door Session (Session) this afternoon and discussed rescheduling the Session during the Regular Commission Meeting when a quorum is present. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Attorney Boileau provided his viewpoint and options, including rescheduling the Session at tonight's Regular Commission Meeting.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

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

Commissioner Glassman provided an update regarding the Fort

Lauderdale Aquatic Center (Aquatic Center) that included a recent soft opening to ensure a successful formal ribbon cutting and remarked on pending work.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions regarding an update on the Aquatic Center, City Manager Chavarria confirmed a recent soft opening and commented on related details. Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Department Director, provided an update and confirmed he would give a specific date for the ribbon cutting ceremony anticipated after the first of the year. City Attorney Boileau commented on details regarding the Aquatic Center's public-private partnership (P3) comprehensive agreement. Outside counsel was hired to assist, and Staff is reviewing the draft comprehensive agreement document.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions, City Manager Chavarria explained details related to emergency and strategy management team meetings and efforts to address emergency procedures in preparation for Hurricane Ian, including how the City is assisting Fort Myers Beach in recovery efforts.

City Manager Chavarria explained Staff efforts associated with official communication updates to the community and coordination with Broward County (County) and cited examples.

Vice Mayor Sorensen urged residents to sign up for City Emergency Alerts on the City website and commented on the signup procedure. City Manager Chavarria explained the types of resident emergency communications during a declared emergency and cited examples.

Vice Mayor Sorensen noted the impact of the Hurricane and challenges related to providing drinking water to residents in the impacted area and the need to prevent a similar situation in the City. City Manager Chavarria confirmed the need to move forward expeditiously with the construction of the new water treatment plan to ensure adequate drinking water. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding information available to the public during a declared emergency, City Manager Chavarria explained Staff is trained in Federal Emergency Management Agency Incident Command System (FEMA ICS) procedures that the City follows. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding official updates from the City to prepare residents during emergencies.

Vice Mayor Sorensen discussed recommendations for the City's website

to inform residents about emergency resources, preparedness, processes, and procedures. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Manager Chavarria confirmed details noted by Vice Mayor Sorensen are available on the City's website and would send those links to the Commission.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question, City Manager Chavarria explained details associated with assisting the Fort Myers Beach area to address damage from the Hurricane. Public Safety Staff is in close contact with FEMA and the Florida Department of Emergency Management to assist with efforts in Fort Myers Beach. He expounded on details related to City resources and services deployed in the Fort Myers Beach area. He explained efforts to assist City Staff and their family members impacted by the Hurricane.

Vice Mayor Sorensen remarked on his support of the recent City Staff Virtual Town Hall Meeting (Town Hall Meeting). City Manager Chavarria explained details of the Town Hall Meeting, including its primary message in support of employees and the importance of collaboration. City Manager Chavarria discussed the positive feedback received and confirmed additional Town Hall Meetings going forward.

City Manager Chavarria explained details regarding the implementation of the cloud-based ERP System (System). The System centralizes all accounts and transactions, allowing for greater transparency and accountability that quickly answers inquiries with real-time data. He expounded on what the System offers, including a vendor portal to conduct business online.

Vice Mayor Sorensen remarked on his optimistic viewpoint regarding the System and expounded on his perspective that the System advances financial reporting, transparency, and accountability and improves the speed of City government that is in line with private business. Commissioner Glassman concurred.

Vice Mayor Sorensen requested the City website include timelines, final renderings, and related information for large City initiatives such as the Swimming Hall of Fame and Tunnel Top Park. Commissioner Glassman requested War Memorial Auditorium also be included. City Manager Chavarria confirmed.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions regarding drop-off points and Boat Show logistics, City Manager Chavarria confirmed Staff would address and provide related information. Vice Mayor Sorensen

recommended including a diagram of the Boat Show and related information on the City's website. City Manager Chavarria confirmed that Staff is working on finalizing that information.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's request for an update on Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Substation 88, Alan Dodd, Public Works Director, said a project manager is working on the scope of work documents and would provide a further update.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question regarding efforts to address 911 Emergency Services, City Manager Chavarria confirmed Staff is continuing to explore this topic. The Broward County Sheriff's Office 911 Emergency Call System (911 Service) has upgraded training, pay, and resources. Staff is assessing those improvements and performance to determine progress.

Vice Mayor Sorensen confirmed support for determining improvements to 911 Service. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Manager Chavarria confirmed he would return to the Commission with Staff's analysis of 911 Service in November 2022. Vice Mayor Sorensen recommended a quarterly review of the 911 Service.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on the dock rental Ordinance previously removed from an Agenda and his understanding of this topic. He recommended that future Ordinance updates or changes include the support of stakeholders, including neighborhoods and the Marine Industry Association. City Manager Chavarria confirmed.

Anthony Fajardo, Assistant City Manager, confirmed Staff would work closely with the Marine Industry Association, neighbors, and stakeholders for a balanced approach. He explained that Ordinance language conflicts with the Unified Land Development Regulations (ULDR) associated with dock rentals and needs to be addressed. Changes to the Ordinance will include community outreach. City Attorney Boileau confirmed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's request for an update on mangrove planting for improving waterways and ways to fund, Mr. Fajardo provided an update on related efforts. He confirmed Staff had prepared a related memorandum. Mr. Fajardo explained challenges related to determining locations due to conflicts with existing City facilities and potential upgrades to seawalls and other structures.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Chavarria announced he would be out on Friday, October 7, 2022, and Monday, October 10, 2022, and Mr. Fajardo would be Acting City Manager on those dates.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.