

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 21, 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

CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, Interim City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Trantalis explained the format of the meeting, appropriate decorum and how members of the public can view and participate.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Commissioner Heather Moraitis, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie (arrived at 1:53 p.m.), Vice Mayor Ben Sorensen, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[22-0591](#)

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

***Historic Preservation Board (HPB)
June 6, 2022***

Communication to the City Commission

Motion made by Mr. Rosa, seconded by Mr. Schiavone:

A Communication to the City Commission to recommend that the City Manager direct staff to move forward with an amendment to Section 47-27.7 of the Unified Land Development Regulations (ULDR) to require additional notice for historic designation applications prior to the historic preservation meeting to include a sign notice and an additional mail notice sent to the registered agent. In a voice vote, the motion passed 7-0.

Trisha Logan, Development Services Department Historic Preservation

Planner, explained the Historic Preservation Board (HPB) is requesting to require sending an additional mail notice to the registered agent listed for a property under consideration by the *HPB* for historic designation. HPB also requests posting a sign notice in advance of the related HPB meeting, alerting the public that a property is under consideration by the *HPB* for historic designation. Further comment and discussion ensued. There was consensus to work on implementing HPB's recommendations.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [22-0380](#)

Quarterly Investment Report for Period Ending March 31, 2022 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Susan Grant, Finance Department Director, presented a report on the City's Investment Portfolio for the period ending March 31, 2022.

Kyle Jones, PFM Group Managing Director, provided a market update for the period ending March 31, 2022.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [22-0603](#)

Las Olas Mobility Plan Financial Methodology Study - (Commission Districts 2 and 4)

Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility (TAM) Department Director, narrated a presentation entitled *Las Olas Mobility Plan (Project) Update*.

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

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions regarding a parallel path for *Sospiro Canal Bridge* funding, Mr. Rogers confirmed and explained work with Alan Dodd, Public Works Director, to request bridge funding opportunities from the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Andrew Burnham, Stantec Water Management Vice President, reviewed funding strategies as part of the evaluation of the potential *Project* included in the presentation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the term of an assessment, Mr. Burnham confirmed the \$956 per parcel assessment would be over a term of thirty (30) years at a four percent (4%) interest rate. Mr. Burnham expounded on related details.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions, Mr. Burnham clarified details related to the total cost of the *Project* on Las Olas Boulevard from Andrews Avenue to the beach, which excludes the cost associated with the *Sospiro Canal Bridge*. Further comment and discussion ensued on the updated full cost analysis and the twenty percent (20%) inflation factor.

Mr. Burnham noted funding included in the presentation is solely through an assessment. Vice Mayor Sorensen remarked on possibly bifurcating the project and utilizing grant funding opportunities.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions regarding the \$104,200,000 *Project* cost including \$7,100,000 in Community Investment Plan (CIP) funding, Mr. Rogers said it does not. Staff is reviewing existing CIP projects in various departments to cross-reference and determine those projects that overlap.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' questions, Mr. Rogers clarified details regarding determining the \$104,200,000 cost and the impacted neighborhood areas. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding bifurcating portions of the project, assessments and related details.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the completion of *Tunnel Top Park* and the area being useable by the end of 2022, Mr. Rogers said it is dependent upon the contractor, and noted there are contract incentives for the Park to be completed by November 2022.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mike Weymouth, 600 Sagamore Road, *Las Olas Company* President. Mr. Weymouth provided his perspective in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Fertig, 511 Poinciana Drive, on behalf of the *Idlewyld Improvement Association*. Ms. Fertig discussed concerns regarding this Agenda item and the *Idlewyld Improvement Association's* opposition to a special assessment.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Tricia Halliday, 60 Nurmi Drive. Ms. Halliday echoed Ms. Fertig's comments and discussed concerns related to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Janet Gualtieri, 106 Nurmi Drive. Ms. Gualtieri discussed her perspective and the need to understand financial details related to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Fred Brodsky, 11 SE 23rd Avenue, on behalf of *Seven Isles Homeowners Association*. Mr. Brodsky spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Suzee Bailey, 105 Nurmi Drive. Ms. Bailey spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jerry Bailey, 105 Nurmi Drive. Mr. Bailey spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charles B. Ladd, 442 NE 7th Avenue. Mr. Ladd discussed his viewpoint regarding this Agenda item.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Rogers confirmed the entire project plan from Andrews Avenue to the beach was approved and bifurcated at 12th Avenue.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Debby Eisinger, 31 Hendricks Isle, *Hendricks Isle/Isle of Venice Neighborhood Association* President. Ms. Eisinger spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jacquelyn Scott, 1626 SE 1st Street. Ms. Scott spoke in support of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Nancy Thomas, 1924 SE 24th Avenue. Ms. Thomas discussed her viewpoint regarding this Agenda item. Mayor Trantalis commented on the history of this item. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions, Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, provided an update regarding the status of the *Southeast Isles Stormwater Project*, which is one of the seven (7) priority neighborhoods for stormwater improvements. It is scheduled in the CIP for construction to begin in 2025. He expounded on additional area infrastructure projects. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the possibility of assessments, municipal service taxing units and related information.

Vice Mayor Sorensen remarked on the process to date, opportunities moving forward, and community engagement related to this Agenda item. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the *Project* presentation, design and evaluation process, bifurcating portions of the *Project*, and the timeline moving forward.

Commissioner Glassman discussed his perspective and numerous questions for City Attorney Boileau regarding assessments versus other funding options. He confirmed favoring bifurcation and expounded on his viewpoint and understanding of neighbor feedback. He requested additional information of other areas in the City that had been assessed for improvements. Commissioner Glassman remarked on his support of moving forward as quickly as possible from the West and the need for a traffic study in the area of 16th Avenue.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on aspects of the 1995 assessment for *Galt Ocean Mile* area improvements. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective, including the need to address safety concerns and the installation of crosswalks on Las Olas Boulevard. He remarked on the cost of the *Project* and the need to reevaluate assessments.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on his support of moving forward with the *Project* from Andrews Avenue to 17th Avenue, further evaluation of design and exploring funding options.

Commissioner Glassman confirmed support of moving forward with design of the western portion of the *Project*. He remarked on the need for additional discussion on the project with neighbors from Sospiro Canal Bridge east. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed consensus to move forward and utilize the budgeted funding to take the necessary steps in order to make the western portion of the project shovel ready.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on efforts with City Manager Lagerbloom and Mr. Rogers regarding funding the two (2) crosswalks along Las Olas Boulevard regardless of funding for the eastern portion of the *Project*.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding applying for federal funding when the *Project* is shovel-ready, Mr. Rogers said Staff would begin to research related efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner McKinzie inquired about the removal of bike lanes on Las Olas Boulevard and discussed related repercussions. Further comment

and discussion ensued.

Mr. Rogers noted working with City Manager Lagerbloom to draft a Commission memo highlighting *Project* vision plan takeaways from last year to refresh the Commission and memorialize the next steps.

BUS-2 [22-0599](#)

Discussion on Future Development of Lockhart Park - (Commission District 1)

City Manager Lagerbloom provided an overview of this item and remarked on meetings with Inter Miami representatives Jose Mas and Pablo Alvarez in which an architectural concept rendering was reviewed and proffered as an example of a concept compliant with the comprehensive agreement for the development of the park portion of the site. City Manager Lagerbloom said that City recreation fields would be artificial turf versus natural grass.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained details related to the concept rendering, confirmed he is waiting for an estimate of associated costs, and commented on related details. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding amenities for the City's portion of *Lockhart Park*, concept designs, and current parking on the south portion of the site.

Mayor Trantalis said parking issues should not prevent moving forward on activating and constructing the park portion of the site. He commented on the need to identify and pursue the next steps, including understanding the base design. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Attorney Boileau said the expiration date for the comprehensive agreement is July 17th or 18th, 2022, and noted an addendum could be done to extend the timeframe.

Commissioner Moraitis remarked on the need to include naming the site in an amendment to the comprehensive agreement. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding related details.

Commissioner Moraitis discussed using *Parks Bond* funds to pay for additional high school football stadium needs, additional seating and a press box.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, Stephanie Toothaker, Esq., on behalf of *Inter Miami*, confirmed consent to calling the entire site *Lockhart Park* and the soccer stadium *AutoNation Stadium at Lockhart Park*. Ms. Toothaker commented on an on-site meeting with the Broward

County School Board regarding the needs of the high school football stadium. She explained estimated costs were in the millions and confirmed she is continuing to work with Staff. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed July 5, 2022, as the goal for Staff to reach a consensus for a baseline concept design to compare with Exhibit Four (4) of the conceptual rendering included in the comprehensive agreement. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Fertig, 511 Poinciana Drive. Ms. Fertig discussed her perspective regarding the high school stadium at *Lockhart Park* and noted the need for more bleachers. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Marilyn Mammano, 1819 SE 17th Street. Ms. Mammano commented on *Inter Miami's* default under the comprehensive agreement and the need to properly zone City parks as parks, including the park portion of *Lockhart Park*.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Nancy Thomas, 1924 SE 24th Avenue. Ms. Thomas concurred with Ms. Mammano's comments. Further comment and discussion ensued.

BUS-3 [22-0585](#)

Discussion - PDD Ordinance - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Anthony Fajardo, Development Services Department Director, provided details and context to this Agenda item. There have been ongoing requests from interested parties to increase the overall Ordinance height limitation. He requested Commission feedback regarding this topic. Mr. Fajardo noted the previous Commission direction for the *Tavistock Group (Tavistock)*, the applicant for Pier 66 redevelopment, to gauge community feedback. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman noted details in the Commission Agenda Memo indicating an amendment to the Ordinance would impact the entire City.

Stephanie Toothaker, Esq., on behalf of *Tavistock*, commented on her understanding of virtual community outreach meetings and related feedback. She requested the opportunity to continue to work with Staff to return to the Commission with a complete package for consideration.

City Manager Lagerbloom commented on his perspective and Staff

developing an Ordinance amendment through the DRC process for Commission consideration, which would trigger protocols for neighbor outreach.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the need for a Commission discussion on this topic.

Ms. Toothaker commented on previous efforts and the height calculations of other projects. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Bill Cole, 1942 Admirals Way, *Harbour Inlet Association* Board Member. Mr. Cole opposed this Agenda item and said he is unaware of neighborhood outreach to *Harbour Inlet* residents.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Marilyn Mammano, 1819 SE 17th Street, on behalf of the *Harbordale Civic Association*. Ms. Mammano discussed her viewpoint regarding this Agenda item and her understanding of neighbor outreach and the opposition of neighborhoods adjacent to Pier 66. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Fertig, 511 Poinciana Drive. Ms. Fertig spoke on the history of this topic and her viewpoint regarding the Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Nancy Thomas, 1924 SE 24th Avenue. Ms. Thomas spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on her support of Staff determining whether there is community support.

Mr. Fajardo explained the need for Commission feedback regarding Staff moving forward with community outreach before moving forward with the Ordinance amendment process. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the need for community input regarding an Ordinance amendment.

Commissioner Glassman discussed his viewpoint and support for moving forward with the *DRC* process. He expounded on a similar situation and community feedback for a development on the barrier island. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding *Planned Development Districts (PDD)* zoning height limitations and remaining flex units. Commissioner Glassman remarked on safeguards and

community outreach built into the process.

Vice Mayor Sorensen confirmed his support for robust community engagement.

Commissioner McKinzie confirmed the need for thorough community outreach.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, Mr. Fajardo expounded on details related to density and units per acre, the maximum of either fifty (50) units per acre per *PDD* or the maximum density of the underlying zoning. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding criteria in the current Ordinance.

Commissioner Moraitis remarked on the support of community outreach and the need to clarify information related to density concerns.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

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

Commissioner Moraitis discussed recent State legislation passed allowing local governments to prohibit certain smoking devices with filters in public parks or on a public beach. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding exceptions, enforcement, and the City drafting an Ordinance. City Attorney Boileau confirmed Staff would draft a related Ordinance.

Vice Mayor Sorensen discussed aspects and modifications to the Tree Ordinance associated with costs and requirements involving suspended paving systems in residential areas. City Attorney Boileau remarked on the need to work with the consultant and Dr. Gassman to address Ordinance changes. Further comment and discussion ensued on the process moving forward.

Vice Mayor Sorensen inquired about the Commission implementing a youth advisory committee and discussed related benefits. City Manager Lagerbloom said he would work with City Attorney Boileau to research implementing a youth advisory committee. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, City Attorney Boileau provided an update on the Ordinances addressing panhandling and canvassing and explained related details and challenges. A revised Ordinance can

be expected following the Commission Summer Break. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the City's position in support of a tunnel for the *New River* crossing for commuter rail service and the Broward County Commission's discussions and differences of opinion regarding the next steps moving forward.

Mayor Trantalis requested Commission feedback regarding having a straw poll on the November 2022 ballot to determine community support for the local preferred option for a tunnel or a bridge for the *New River* crossing. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding ballot wording, details and aspects of the tunnel and bridge options, timelines, and discussions with County Staff and County Commissioners.

Mayor Trantalis discussed concerns regarding inconsistent trash pickup in neighborhoods. City Manager Lagerbloom noted the current vendor would not be renewing its existing contract next year.

Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, remarked on vendor issues, including personnel, vehicle maintenance issues, and capacity for running routes. He remarked on efforts to rectify vendor problems and said a solicitation for a new vendor is nearing completion. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding communicating with residents about efforts to address this issue.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.