

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 1, 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, City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

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

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie, Vice Mayor Ben Sorensen and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis (arrived at 2:23 p.m.)

Commission Members Not Present: Commissioner Heather Moraitis

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

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[22-1063](#)

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

Board Of Adjustment (BOA) Meeting October 12, 2022

Communication to the City Commission

*Motion made by Chair Nelson, seconded by Mr. McGinley to:
Request the City take a look at the height and zoning requirements in the annexed areas to more accurately reflect current building construction techniques. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.*

Chris Cooper, Development Services Department Director, explained this communication is a request to the Commission to address height requirements in annexed areas of the City. Mr. Cooper requested Commission direction regarding Staff's pursuit of community outreach to determine support for a zoning change that would modify building height measurement requirements in the annexed areas consistent with height requirements in the City and Broward County.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's questions, Mr. Cooper explained the annexed areas, including Riverland Road and the Melrose areas. Mr. Cooper reiterated the BOA communication request was to decide which building height requirements to follow in the annexed areas. Commissioner McKinzie remarked on the need to measure building height consistently.

Vice Mayor Sorensen agreed on the need for Staff to pursue community outreach and follow up with the Commission. Commissioner Glassman concurred. City Manager Chavarria confirmed.

NEIGHBOR PRESENTATIONS

NP-1 [22-0945](#)

Dennis Ulmer - Honoring our Veterans

Vice Mayor Sorensen recognized Dennis Ulmer, 1007 NW 11th Place. Mr. Ulmer gave a neighbor presentation on the importance of honoring veterans on Veterans Day, November 11th.

NP-2 [22-1001](#)

Roderick Newkirk - Affordable Housing Resources

Vice Mayor Sorensen recognized Roderick Newkirk, 605 N. Andrews Avenue. Mr. Newkirk gave a neighbor presentation regarding the need for affordable housing for low-income residents and requested information regarding affordable housing opportunities. Commissioner McKinzie remarked on the lack of affordable housing. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Sorensen recommended Mr. Newkirk work with Chris Cooper, Development Services Department Director, to coordinate Staff resources. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Chavarria remarked on the need for landlords to provide affordable housing inventory.

NP-3 [22-1070](#)

Warren B. Pinder - Street Name Change in Honor of Coach Marcia S. Pinder

Vice Mayor Sorensen recognized Warren Pinder, 360 Utah Avenue. Mr. Pinder gave a neighbor presentation in support of a secondary street naming of Northwest 24th Avenue to Coach Marcia Pinder Lane from Sunrise Boulevard to Dillard Panther Lane in recognition of her outstanding work with the Dillard Girls Basketball team. George Pinder spoke in support of this initiative.

Vice Mayor Sorensen agreed that the Commission should consider this secondary street naming.

Commissioner McKinzie supported this initiative and remarked on the support of the neighborhood and others.

Commissioner Glassman confirmed his support. In response to

Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. Warren Pinder explained community efforts toward this secondary street naming.

Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, explained the two (2) ways to achieve a secondary street naming and discussed related details.

Vice Mayor Sorensen confirmed a consensus to move forward with this secondary street naming initiated by the Commission.

In response to City Manager Chavarria's request for clarification, Mr. Rogers confirmed the secondary street naming would be the segment of Northwest 24th Avenue from Sunrise Boulevard to Panther Lane. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mr. Rogers said he would keep the Pinder family updated.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [22-1093](#)

Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Projects - Status Update - (Commission Districts 2 and 3)

Clarence Woods, Area Manager Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Agency (NWPFH CRA), reviewed CRA projects listed in *Exhibit 2 - In Progress Incentive Projects as of 10/25/22*.

Commissioner McKinzie clarified details associated with Junny's Restaurant project delays and recommended Staff assistance going forward.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions, Mr. Woods explained the distribution of \$500,000 in scholarship funds for the Broward College CRA project at the L.A. Lee YMCA (YMCA). This scholarship funding will be distributed in two (2) \$250,000 tranches during the first and second semesters in 2023.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on details related to CRA projects behind schedule and explained his viewpoint, including additional funding needs of the Thrive Development Group.

Mr. Woods remarked on discussions with Anthony Fajardo, Assistant City Manager, to rename *Exhibit 3 - Assigned - Not Started Initiative Projects* to *Exhibit 3 - Predevelopment Projects*. Mr. Woods expounded on related details.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the 909 Project and the need to ensure CRA project information is accurately updated. Mr. Woods confirmed.

Commissioner Glassman discussed questions and concerns regarding the project information presented and cited specific examples. Mr. Woods provided related updates. The Molly McGuire Project is ready to begin construction, and the West Village Project will have its groundbreaking tomorrow. The Wright Dynasty, LLC Project needs additional funding due to price escalations. Efforts are ongoing to secure additional funding, including an additional \$500,000 from the CRA, which will be followed by the project's groundbreaking. The Victory Entertainment Complex is currently in the development review process and additional information will be provided.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the total investment amounts for CRA projects assigned but not started. Mr. Woods noted that some projects have multiple-year funding commitments where applicants want to move forward when all funding is available, cited examples, and explained related details. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the \$20,000,000 bank loan included in backup information, Mr. Woods explained it would go to the following projects: 909 Sistrunk Boulevard; West Village-The Adderley; The Aldridge and The Laramore mixed-use project; Victory Entertainment; and Sistrunk View.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the sunset date of the CRA, Mr. Woods confirmed the CRA sunsets in November 2025. The City has set up a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization to complete CRA projects.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to improve streetscapes and roadways. Mr. Woods explained community outreach efforts related to the creation of a CRA cultural arts destination, which would enhance streets and roads. He remarked on existing funding to address these items that are part of the Thrive Progresso project. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Woods explained efforts to ensure approved CRA projects move forward, including monitoring CRA project milestones. Further comment and discussion ensued.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [22-1020](#)

Tunnel Top Art Update - (Commission District 4)

Joshua Carden, Cultural Affairs Officer, gave an update on the public art project and the James Winder Laird Trust (Trust) donation for Tunnel Top Park. Mr. Carden narrated a presentation entitled *James Winder Laird Trust Gift at Tunnel Top Park*.

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

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. Carden confirmed discussions with the Trust to spend a portion of its donation for artwork at additional City locations. Mayor Trantalis concurred.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his vision for Tunnel Top Park as an arts park destination and acknowledged the related efforts of Bonnie Barnett. Commissioner Glassman concurred and remarked on his perspective regarding artwork placement at Tunnel Top Park and related engineering needs that would include the involvement of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions, Mr. Carden recommended that the escrow agreement include ten percent (10%) funding for maintenance of the artwork collection. Mr. Carden said he made a presentation to the Public Art and Placement Advisory Board (PAPAB). The PAPAB recommended the Commission accept the Trust's gift and work with the PAPAB to acquire future pieces. He expounded on details related to engineering studies needed to ensure the viable installation of the artwork at Tunnel Top Park. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Carden continued the narration of the presentation.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Melinda Bowker, 511 SE 5th Avenue, Downtown Fort Lauderdale Civic Association (DFLCA) President. Ms. Bowker confirmed that a majority of the DFLCA supported accepting the terms of the Trust and remarked on the need for artwork maintenance.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Bonnie Barnett, Bonnie Barnett Fine Art President. Ms. Barnett discussed support of this Agenda item and expounded on information related to the acquisition of Marc Quinn's artwork.

City Manager Chavarria confirmed a Walk-On item for this Agenda item would be added to tonight's Commission Regular Meeting Agenda.

BUS-2 [22-1022](#)

Las Olas Marina Construction Update - (Commission District 2)

Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, narrated a presentation entitled *Las Olas Marina Construction Update*.

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

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the outstanding community outreach efforts of Staff and Suntex and commented on positive feedback received from The Boat Show attendees.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Anthony Matthew, 110 SE 4th Court. Mr. Matthew discussed solar-related opportunities available. Mayor Trantalis recommended Mr. Matthew contact the applicant, Suntex. Commissioner Glassman concurred. Further comment and discussion ensued.

BUS-3 [22-1068](#)

Aquatic Complex Update - (Commission District 2)

Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Department Deputy Director, and Laura Voet, Aquatic Complex Manager, narrated a presentation on the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex renovations.

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

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the status of the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF) east and west buildings, Mr. Williams confirmed several meetings with ISHOF's partners to address contract and finance-related items, which are expected to be brought forward to the Commission.

Commissioner Glassman noted the Commission had approved the interim agreement and remarked on the need to vet details to protect the City from associated cost risks.

Commissioner Glassman discussed his positive perspective regarding the Commission's collective efforts to revitalize public spaces in the City, cited examples, expounded on related details, and acknowledged and thanked the outgoing Commission Members.

Vice Mayor Sorensen concurred and discussed the City's Parks Bond

funding initiative in partnership with Broward County Schools for joint use parks. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding other Commission initiatives.

BUS-4 [22-1075](#)

EMS Advisory Committee - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Fire-Rescue Department Deputy Fire Chief Chantal Botting explained the genesis, background, and goals of the EMS Advisory Committee (EMSAC) initiative.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question, Deputy Chief Botting remarked on Commissioner Glassman's recommendation to form an EMSAC, allowing the community to have a voice and provide recommendations on emergency medical services. She discussed related details and resources.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on his perspective and support of an EMSAC leading the efforts to address community needs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman explained the reasons he advocated for the EMSAC, including expertise available in the community and emergency response time service concerns.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Chavarria confirmed a resolution would be brought forward establishing the EMSAC.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's request, Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, provided a progress update on Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Substation 88, which will be a prefabricated building. Staff is in the procurement phase with a Request for Proposal (RFP) to obtain a contractor for site preparation. Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, discussed the fire station that is part of an unsolicited proposal for a new parking garage. Staff has been negotiating details of a comprehensive agreement. If the comprehensive agreement is approved by the Commission, the applicant will submit documents to the Development Review Committee (DRC).

Commissioner McKinzie remarked on the lack of emergency medical service coverage in District 3 and discussed City-owned land on Northwest Ninth Avenue that could provide an opportunity for an EMS substation or Fire Station.

Deputy Chief Botting confirmed the Fire-Rescue Department's

dedication to protecting the entire community and would supply data to support additional resources needed at that location. City Manager Chavarria said the EMSAC, and the Fire-Rescue Department would work together to analyze needs for incorporation into a future Community Investment Project (CIP).

Fire-Rescue Department Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr commented on EMSAC membership that would include a representative from each Commission District.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on EMSAC benefits to the community, including providing a better understanding of Fire-Rescue Department efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized William Brown, 112 N. Birch Road, Central Beach Alliance (CBA) President. Mr. Brown confirmed his support of establishing an EMSAC and explained his involvement with this effort. Further comment and discussion ensued.

BUS-5 [22-1097](#)

Planned Development District Height Amendment - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis inquired about Commission Members expressing their opinions about this Agenda item to the community prior to coming before the Commission for a vote. City Attorney Boileau explained the Commission is not prevented from discussing their positions but should reserve judgment until the presentation of evidence should this be a quasi-judicial agenda item.

Commissioner Glassman concurred with Mayor Trantalis' concerns and remarked that a decision on this Agenda item should include the incoming Commission Members. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Sorensen remarked on the Commission request for Staff to obtain feedback from the community regarding this Agenda item. He concurred with Commissioner Glassman regarding including the incoming Commission Members in these discussions.

Chris Cooper, Development Services Department Director, presented an update on the results of Staff's public outreach efforts related to increasing the height limit of a Planned Development District (PDD). Staff is requesting Commission input regarding embarking on a formal process to amend the PDD Ordinance.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Cooper remarked on the benefits of increasing the height limit in a PDD to allow unique

development, including consideration of the context of a proposed project and additional aspects reviewed during the Development Review Committee (DRC) process.

Mayor Trantalis cited an example of a project with an increased height limit on the barrier island, allowing a more slender tower that maintained views.

Commissioner McKinzie concurred with the recommendation to allow the incoming Commission Members to provide input on this topic.

Mayor Trantalis recognized William Brown, 112 N. Birch Road, Central Beach Alliance (CBA) President. Mr. Brown spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Fred Nesbitt, 3900 Galt Ocean Drive, Galt Mile Community Association President. Mr. Nesbitt spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Len Abrams, 2200 S. Ocean Lane, Point of Americas Condominium Association President. Mr. Abrams spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Perry Sclafani, 3309 NE 40th Street, Bermuda Riviera Homeowners Association President. Mr. Sclafani spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Peloquin, 2510 NE 12th Court, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations (CFLCA) President. Ms. Peloquin discussed her perspective and confirmed the CFLCA's upcoming vote on this Agenda item at its meeting on November 9, 2022.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jacquelyn Scott, 1626 SE 1st Street, Colee Hammock Homeowner's Association President. Ms. Scott spoke on her viewpoint of this Agenda item and concurred on the need for new Commission Members to participate in a decision.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Steve Ganon, 2517 N. Atlantic Boulevard, Lauderdale Beach Homeowner's Association President. Mr. Ganon spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Joanne Robinson, 1997 Admirals Way, Harbour Inlet Association President. Ms. Robinson spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Lisa Malcolm, 1900 Admirals Way. Ms. Malcolm spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Miranda Lopez, 3031 NE 21st Street. Ms. Lopez spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Brian Donaldson, 3321 NE 16th Street, Birch Park Beach Homeowner's Association President. Mr. Donaldson spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Williams, 2807 NE 26th Place, Coral Ridge Association President. Mr. Williams spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Dr. Warren Sturman, 520 SE 5th Avenue. Dr. Sturman spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Fertig, 511 Poinciana Drive, on behalf of the Idlewyld Improvement Association. Ms. Fertig spoke in opposition to this Agenda item.

City Attorney Boileau clarified his earlier comments regarding Commission Members discussing an Agenda item with the community and clarified Commission Members could discuss their opinions regarding legislative matters. Commission Members should reserve judgment on quasi-judicial agenda items until evidence has been presented.

Mayor Trantalis acknowledged community feedback in opposition to this Agenda item and remarked on his perspective not to commit additional City resources. Further comment and discussion ensued.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events and matters of interest. Below are some of the major highlights.

Commissioner Glassman will host an upcoming Transportation and Mobility Department Meeting regarding its proposed design ideas for east-west crosswalks associated with efforts of the Las Olas Mobility Working Group. Simone Biles will be participating in the upcoming christening of Celebrity Cruise Line's latest addition to its fleet, Celebrity Beyond, at Port Everglades.

Commissioner Glassman thanked the outgoing Commission Members

for their work and service and wished good luck to all those participating in the upcoming Special Elections on November 8, 2022.

Commissioner Glassman commented on rescheduling the first Commission Meeting in July 2023 and would discuss at a later Commission Meeting.

Vice Mayor Sorensen remarked on the success of The Boat Show. He requested everyone support Veterans Day events in the City.

Vice Mayor Sorensen acknowledged and thanked all Commission Members for their support during his time serving as a Commission Member.

Commissioner McKinzie thanked Commission Members and Staff for their support and remarked on moving forward to represent the City as a Broward County Commission Member.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on upcoming events recognizing the contributions of community members. Commissioner Glassman will be presented with the Business Community Ally Award (Vision Award) from the GLBX (Gay and Lesbian Business Exchange) of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce. Fort Lauderdale Police Department Chaplain Ron Perkins will be honored at the Prayer Breakfast at the Global Event Center.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Chavarria discussed a Broward County (County) Workshop where the City shared its approach to defining a tunnel as the local preferred alternative (LPA) for the New River Crossing. The approach includes using a consultant in coordination with the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to identify a tunnel as the LPA and Transportation and Mobility Department Staff submitting a federal grant application for a tunnel to reconnect communities as the LPA.

City Manager Chavarria provided an update on the new Police Headquarters. An audit of the construction cost estimates is nearing completion, followed by contract negotiations and a determination of gap funding sources.

City Manager Chavarria remarked on the recent ending of turtle nesting season, and sixty-nine (69) of seventy-two (72) violations had complied. Staff is working with all stakeholders to address related concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.