

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

1:30 PM

The Parker

707 Northeast 8th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District III

JOHN C. HERBST Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II

WARREN STURMAN Commissioner - District IV

GREG CHAVARRIA, City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

D'WAYNE M. SPENCE, Interim City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Commissioner John C. Herbst, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Vice Mayor Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Warren Sturman and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Also Present: City Manager Greg Chavarria, City Clerk David R. Soloman, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne M. Spence, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[23-0866](#)

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

***Board of Adjustment (BOA)
August 9, 2023***

Communication to the City Commission

A copy of the BOA Communication to the City Commission is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis read the BOA Communication to the Commission. Anthony Fajardo, Assistant City Manager, explained the history, background, and details related to how grade for fences and walls are measured. Mr. Fajardo confirmed the manner in which the Ordinance is written is working.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [23-0693](#)

Quarterly Investment Report for Period Ending June 30, 2023 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Linda Short, Finance Department Director, introduced representatives of PFM Asset Management and Portfolio Strategies Group.

Gray Lepley, Portfolio Strategist, Portfolio Strategies Group, provided an overview of the City's portfolio based on market performance. Ms. Lepley confirmed City's highly diversified portfolio outperformed its benchmark

and discussed related information.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's question regarding where the City is positioning itself in terms of duration on the fixed income side, Ms. Lepley explained the City's defensive posture to mitigate increased interest rate risk. She noted the potential for one (1) more interest rate increase but noted the likelihood that this would be the end of this rate hike cycle and basically now neutral in terms of duration.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [23-0649](#)

Presentation - Electric Vehicle Charging Ordinance Concepts - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Stefan Perritano, Public Works Department Sustainability Coordinator. Mr. Perritano provided an overview of this Agenda item and narrated a presentation entitled *EV Ready Report*.

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

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions regarding conduits and retrofitting existing buildings for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, Mr. Perritano explained the high costs of wiring buildings. Those costs depend on the structure and would be determined building-by-building. Installing conduits during construction reduces retrofitting costs. Commissioner Sturman remarked on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions, Mr. Perritano commented on possible EV incentives that Staff would develop following Commission direction. Mr. Perritano noted Development Services Department (DSD) considerations, including reducing the required length of the parking spaces, reducing the number of parking spaces per development in highly developed areas, and tandem parking. He discussed factors involved with the numerous ways to retrofit existing buildings, supplying adequate electricity and equipment necessary for EV charging stations. Currently, Staff is considering multifamily and commercial buildings for the ordinance. Mr. Perritano explained the types of pay models for EV charging stations and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on his concerns about mandating this type of policy on the private sector, the cost impact on multifamily housing, and expounded on his viewpoint.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question regarding the type of support from the State of Florida (State), Mr. Perritano explained it is not financial. The State supports moving in the EV Ready direction, specifically the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Florida Department of Agriculture. FDOT is implementing EV charging stations on highways. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Perritano confirmed the State is number two (2) per capita in the nation for electric vehicle ownership. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis expounded on his viewpoint, noting the growth of EVs and possible ways the City could incentivize EV charging stations that would provide an amenity to developments.

Commissioner Sturman recommended that buildings be EV Capable and allow the market to determine the amount of EV charging stations needed. He remarked on the availability of Tesla EV charging stations at the Galleria Mall. Mr. Perritano commented that shopping areas include Tesla EV charging stations as an amenity to attract customers and noted related details.

Mayor Trantalis requested Staff to return to the Commission with a refined plan.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Dr. Nancy Gassman, Public Works Department Assistant Director - Sustainability Division. Dr. Gassman explained EVs will be an aspect of what is needed to reach carbon-neutral goals and cited an example. She remarked on the community recognizing the City's efforts to become sustainable. The City having EV Ready or EV Capable buildings is one way to attract residents, which will illustrate the City's identity and its efforts to achieve its carbon-neutral goal.

Commissioner Glassman commented on the City's commitment to Net Zero, confirmed his support of moving forward with an ordinance for EV Ready buildings to attain that goal, and expounded on related details.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on his perspective regarding requiring the private sector to implement EV capability. The City should lead by example, retrofit all its public parking lots, making them similarly equipped.

Dr. Gassman noted the higher cost of retrofitting existing development, and the Transportation and Mobility Department's (TAM) proactive efforts to add EV Capable parking spaces. She remarked on related conversations with Ben Rogers, TAM Department Director, regarding future transitioning. Dr. Gassman discussed the City of Coral Gables' ordinance, which staggers EV Ready efforts over time, adapting to current EV needs, transitioning to tomorrow, and managing a fully saturated EV market. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Dr. Gassman said the City's new developments would be under the same mandates included in an ordinance for the private sector. She noted that EV Capable parking spaces will be available at the new Police Headquarters Garage and noted that EV Ready and EV Capable guidelines have yet to be determined.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Dr. Gassman confirmed adequate Commission direction to return to the Commission with a draft ordinance.

BUS-2 [23-0724](#)

Customer Service Center Consolidation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Keith Farrell, Office of Management and Budget. Mr. Farrell provided an overview of the proposed second phase of consolidating all Department Call Centers into a Central Customer Service Center. Mr. Farrell narrated a slide presentation entitled *CUSTOMER SERVICE CONSOLIDATION*.

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

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question regarding calls to DSD, Mr. Farrell explained that initially, there would be a small amount of routing, and the goal of DSD is for any Customer Service Agent to answer any questions.

Commissioner Sturman commented on ensuring the community is well informed about the one point of contact for all Customer Service needs. Mr. Farrell confirmed the one-point-of-service model is scalable and would be available for Staff and residents during States of Emergency.

BUS-3 [23-0729](#)

Special Events Presentation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Aricka Johnson, Office of Management and Budget - Structural Innovation Manager. Ms. Johnson remarked on Staff

efforts to reduce the impact of third-party hosted Special Events on residents and neighborhoods.

Ms. Johnson narrated a presentation entitled *Third-Party Hosted Special Events*.

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

Commissioner Glassman commented on the \$2,000,000 fee charged by the City of Miami to host the Miami Ultra Music Festival, which includes a ticket surcharge. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Ms. Johnson said the City charged a beach usage fee totaling \$11,000 for the 2023 Tortuga Music Festival.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Johnson explained her understanding of the ticket surcharge fees associated with the Ultra Music Festival.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions regarding fees for neighborhood-sponsored events, Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Department Director, noted that this discussion involves Special Events that are open to the general public that include food and music. Block parties or events at Park Pavilions do not go through the outdoor Special Event process.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's remarks regarding the Audacy Beach Event not being included in the list of Special Events, Mr. Thornburg explained this list is intended to determine appropriate event fees for Special Events and is not a comprehensive list.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's questions regarding fees for nonprofit events such as Relay for Life, Mr. Thornburg said Staff has yet to address fees for nonprofit special events due to the previous history of some event promoters pursuing nonprofit organizations to represent them in the process. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his perspective and the need to separate nonprofit organizations from charitable organizations. Mr. Thornburg confirmed, expounded on related details, and cited examples.

Ms. Johnson continued narrating the presentation.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding fees charged for Special Events, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence explained that

revenue received by the City is classified as regulatory and license fees. Regulatory fees cannot exceed the cost of City services provided for the event. License fees collected by the City are allowed and are market-based.

Commissioner Sturman commented on his perspective regarding the number of Special Event attendees and related fee amounts listed in the presentation. Ms. Johnson noted the number of attendees and associated fees are included in existing Ordinances but could be updated.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the number of attendees for marathon events on the barrier island, Ms. Johnson noted this information is included in the application. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mr. Thornburg explained minor events listed in the presentation have no road closures or alcohol. Minor events go through the same Staff review process but can be approved at the administrative level. He explained the differences and details associated with minor, intermediate, and major events.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his concern regarding using the Ultra Music Festival as a benchmark, the need to be mindful of significant fee increases, and the importance of the City being able to attract Special Events and benefiting from the economic impact. Ms. Johnson concurred and explained this presentation is an effort to show a wide variety of events and modeling structures, both low and high-end. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis expounded on his viewpoint regarding significant fee increases on charitable events.

Commissioner Glassman commented on the Tortuga Music Festival, neighborhood feedback, and the impact of Special Events on First Responders. He discussed the need to understand and find a balance regarding the mission of Special Events and the impact of significant fees on small nonprofit organizations. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Ms. Johnson noted that changes to existing fees would not impact current multi-year agreements until they expire.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question, Ms. Johnson said the City's Agreement with the Tortuga Music Festival expires in 2026, and the City's Agreement with Audacy Beach Event expires in December 2023.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question regarding multiple major special events, Mr. Thornburg explained there is no policy in place, and is Staff driven. Staff encourages event coordinators to look at other dates. He remarked on the impact of the Tortuga Music Festival's month-long setup and breakdown on other barrier island events and expounded on details. He noted that Staff is seeking direction and remarked on previous Commission discussions.

Commissioner Glassman explained his viewpoint and discussed the need to holistically consider approving Special Events on the beach.

Ms. Johnson continued narrating the presentation.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the importance of pursuing sponsors for Special Events produced by the City and expounded on his perspective.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Johnson confirmed Staff would follow up based on Commission input. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on concerns regarding the impact of increased fees on residents and community organizations that want to produce Special Events and explained related details. Mr. Thornburg concurred and noted that current fees sometimes prevent participation. Further comment and discussion ensued. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on the ability of Staff to work towards a solution.

Mayor Trantalis recognized William Brown, 112 N. Birch Road, Central Beach Alliance (CBA) President. Mr. Brown cited examples of the importance of addressing special events on the barrier island that impact residents and businesses throughout the City. He specifically noted concerns about Spring Break and a Special Event scheduled on March 9, 2024. Mr. Brown urged the Commission to direct Staff to appropriately charge Special Event fees to organizations that sponsor Special Events on the beach that receive large revenue streams from the event and cited an example. He expounded on his viewpoint and concerns.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding Staff considering a surcharge of Special Event tickets, Mr. Thornburg confirmed Staff had considered this option and remarked on input from a previous City Attorney. Mayor Trantalis recommended further consideration and review of pursuing this option. Mr. Thornburg confirmed he would follow up with

the Office of the City Attorney.

Commissioner Herbst commented on the coordination of Special Events by Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale, Inc. (Riverwalk) and requested their input.

Mayor Trantalis recognized a Eugenia Ellis, Riverwalk President. Ms. Ellis discussed her perspective regarding Special Events, noted they are economic engines for the City, and expounded on her viewpoint.

BUS-4 [23-0873](#)

Discussion - Rescheduling City Commission Meeting Dates for 2024 Holidays - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the 2024 Commission Calendar, Commissioner Glassman suggested rescheduling the January 2024 Commission Meetings to January 9, 2024, and January 23, 2024. Commissioner Glassman also recommended rescheduling the November 5, 2024, Commission Meeting to November 7, 2024, to avoid a Commission Meeting on Election Day 2024. Commissioner Sturman agreed.

Interim City Attorney Spence that the City's organizational meeting following the 2024 City Election would be at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, followed by the Commission Conference Meeting and Commission Regular Meeting.

City Manager Chavarria confirmed his understanding regarding the updates to the 2024 Commission Meeting schedule.

BUS-5 [23-0812](#)

Las Olas Mobility Presentation - (Commission Districts 2 and 4)

Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, provided an overview of this Agenda item and narrated a presentation on the Las Olas Mobility Plan (Plan).

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Robyn Lefcourt, 2617 Delmar Place, on behalf of the Seven Isles Homeowners Association. Ms. Lefcourt discussed concerns regarding the Plan's vision, scope, and cost.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 901 SW 19th Street. Mr. Inserra spoke in opposition to aspects of the Plan.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Eilyn Bogdanoff, Esq., Becker & Poliakoff, P.A., One East Broward Boulevard, and on behalf of Brizaga. Ms.

Bogdanoff requested clarification of the previously awarded Request for Proposal (RFP).

Commissioner Glassman said the Commission approved the conceptual Plan for the eastern and western portions, and funding for the design of the western portion was included in the FY 2023 Budget. Funding for the design of the eastern portion will be in FY 2024.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Chavarria confirmed the RFP included both the east and west portions of the Plan. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Tom Godart, 330 Isle of Capri. Mr. Godart spoke in support of moving forward with the Plan.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Fertig, 511 Poinciana Drive, on behalf of the Idlewyld Improvement Association. Ms. Fertig discussed concerns related to the Plan and read from a document she submitted to City Clerk Soloman.

A copy of the document has been attached to these Meeting Minutes.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Susan O'Malley, 113 Nurmi Drive. Ms. O'Malley discussed concerns related to neighborhood engagement associated with the Plan. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Michael Schneider, 139 Fiesta Way. Mr. Schneider spoke in opposition to the Plan, citing concerns regarding the eastern portion.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on the need for a clear understanding of details related to the Plan. In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Rogers explained his recollection. The opinion of the City's Procurement Staff was that the solicitation was focused on the west portion of the Plan. On July 5, 2023, the Commission approved both consultants that responded to the RFP. The RFP included additional language for additional work to be added to the scope, and Staff added the eastern portion of the Plan. Both firms who responded to the RFP submitted supplemental information for the eastern portion of the Plan. Mr. Rogers noted the need for Commission direction, which would allow Staff to move forward and expounded on related details.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on concerns. Mayor Trantalis

concurred and said Commission Members could discuss those concerns following public input.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions regarding the prior Commission's approval of the Plan from the beach to Andrews Avenue, Mr. Rogers commented on his recollection. Mayor Trantalis noted that in June 2021, the previous Commission accepted the Master Plan for both the eastern and western portions of the Plan but did not approve specific design details. Mr. Rogers explained Staff's understanding regarding acceptance of the conceptual Master Plan. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman expounded on his viewpoint. He remarked on the efforts of the Las Olas Mobility Working Group. Mr. Rogers confirmed, explained related information, and expounded on details. He concurred with Commissioner Glassman's recollection that the Plan included numerous renditions and was done with extensive public input before the prior Commission's June 2021 acceptance of the Plan. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis remarked on the direction Staff is seeking at this point.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions, Mr. Rogers confirmed that \$3,000,000 was allocated in the FY 2023 Budget to design the western portion. Staff allocated CIP funding in FY 2024 to design the eastern portion of the Plan, pending Commission direction. Mr. Rogers confirmed the direction Staff is requesting includes moving forward with the Master Plan and the design of the east and west portions of the Plan, which was accepted by the previous Commission in June 2021. Staff is currently requesting direction from the current Commission to proceed and cited examples. Mr. Rogers explained options for both the eastern and western portions of the Plan would need to be included in negotiations with the consultants. Through the design phase, there would be public outreach at the thirty percent (30%) and sixty percent (60%) design stage, and the design could be refined. Significant changes to designs would incur delays and additional expenses.

Commissioner Glassman recommended moving forward with the conceptual Plan and expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Michael Weymouth, Las Olas Company President. Mr. Weymouth recommended consideration of the Plan by character area and explained his viewpoint. He remarked on the

character area of the Shops and concerns related to the current condition in this area of Las Olas Boulevard.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Melinda Bowker, 511 SE 5th Avenue, Downtown Fort Lauderdale Civic Association President. Ms. Bowker remarked on her perspective and concerns regarding conceptual designs of the Plan.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Ms. Bowker confirmed a June 2021 rendering of the downtown portion of the Plan included bike lanes, which she sent to Commission Members earlier today. She said the recent design for this area of the Plan did not include bike lanes, only sharrows. Ms. Bowker reiterated that the June 2021 rendering included bike lanes and eliminated street parking in the downtown portion of the Plan. She discussed her recommendation to utilize existing on-street parking on Las Olas Boulevard for multimodal transportation in the downtown portion of the Plan.

Mr. Rogers explained his recollection of discussions by the previous Commission that led to the bike lanes in the downtown portion of the Plan being removed. Mayor Trantalis discussed his understanding regarding the reason bike lanes were removed and noted the position of the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) regarding safety measures needed for bike lanes, and cited an example. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jenni Morejon, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Ms. Morejon spoke in support of this Agenda item, recommended moving forward with the Plan, cited successful examples of efforts of neighboring municipalities that have produced iconic roadways, and expounded on related information.

Mayor Trantalis recognized William Brown, 112 N. Birch Road, Budget Advisory Board (BAB) Member, and Central Beach Alliance (CBA) President. Mr. Brown discussed his recollection of the previous Commission's acceptance of the Master Plan, which included moving forward with the design phases along with extensive public outreach. The BAB supported a placeholder of funds for the design phase.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on his understanding of discussions to this point and costs. He recommended awarding the design of the western portion of the Plan, moving forward with design options for the Shops segment, both with and without the existing median, and a design

option maintaining bike lanes in the downtown area. He remarked on the need to be aware of how design plans for the Shops segment would impact traffic flow to and from the beach. Commissioner Sturman commented on traffic flow considerations, upcoming traffic studies, and the impact of sidewalk expansion, and cited examples.

Mayor Trantalis requested the City's Urban Forester present to the Commission, providing information regarding the lifespan of existing Black Olive trees in the medians. Commissioner Sturman confirmed his constituents' concerns about removing the median. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman commented on favorable neighborhood feedback following the removal of the Black Olive trees in the median along State Road A1A and the redesign of medians in District 2. He expounded on details related to the Las Olas Working Group's extensive meetings regarding the development of the conceptual Plan. The redesign included the Shops segment, removing the median and Black Olive trees, and planting Oak trees along the sidewalks to create a shade canopy. Commissioner Glassman remarked on funding as the conceptual Plan moves forward and emphasized the need to keep the conceptual Plan moving forward, which would be refined through the design process.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on the importance of ensuring neighbor input as the design process moves forward.

In response to Commissioner Herbst's questions, City Manager Chavarria confirmed that funding is included in the FY 2024 Budget for the design of the eastern portion of the Plan. City Manager Chavarria confirmed previous amounts determined for construction costs have not been updated and said neighborhoods have not expressed an interest in participating in construction costs of the Plan through assessments.

Mayor Trantalis said that with the possible exception of the Shops segment, the prior Commission's position was that there would be no neighbor assessments. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mr. Rogers discussed related information and his recollection of the previous Commission's direction that there would not be an assessment, and commented on related details.

Commissioner Herbst noted the increase in construction costs for the new Police Department Headquarters and the expectation that construction costs for the Plan would also escalate. He discussed

previous large design expenditures for two (2) projects that were not built due to the lack of construction funding.

Commissioner Herbst commented on input from the property owners along the Shops segment located in the western portion of the Plan who indicated a willingness to provide financial assistance for construction. He recommended only moving forward with the design of the western portion at this time. The design of the eastern portion should proceed when construction funding has been identified.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's questions regarding costs, Mr. Rogers reviewed Stantec's previous \$167,000,000 total cost estimate, and \$104,000,000 without the work on major bridges. Mr. Rogers explained a portion of the improvements to the Isles segment include \$13,100,000 for subsurface improvements to connect canals and raise roads. Commissioner Glassman inquired about other funding sources to address those infrastructure needs. Mr. Rogers confirmed, discussed Staff efforts to pursue related grant opportunities, and explained most grants are awarded to shovel-ready projects.

Commissioner Herbst commented on aspects and results of a road-raising project in the South Beach area of Miami, discussed related concerns, and commented on his observations in the Isles segment of the Plan. He discussed the need to address resiliency through raising roads before addressing roadway enhancements to ensure safe ingress and egress of neighbors and visitors to the barrier island.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on ongoing efforts to address stormwater needs in the City and noted that the Las Olas Isles Neighborhood was identified as part of the City's Seven Neighborhood Stormwater Improvements Projects. Commissioner Glassman explained his support of including design work for the eastern portion of the Plan, which would be coordinated with resiliency and stormwater improvement efforts.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on a consensus to move the conceptual Plan forward with the design of the western portion. He said this consensus does not codify the Plan. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his perspective regarding previous design costs for projects discussed earlier by Commissioner Herbst.

Commissioner Sturman reiterated his request for dual designs for the Shops segment along the western portion of the Plan. Mayor Trantalis concurred.

Mr. Rogers clarified his understanding of the dual designs for the western portion, including the current Plan and the second one that keeps the median, removing the on-street parking, and extending the sidewalks.

Mayor Trantalis reiterated the need for a report for the City's Urban Forester regarding details regarding the Black Olive trees currently located in the median. Mr. Rogers confirmed.

Mr. Rogers commented on the requested traffic analysis for the dual left turn lanes. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Mr. Rogers confirmed Staff would prioritize design efforts for the western portion of the Plan followed by the design of the eastern portion.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Rogers provided an update on dual left turn lanes on Las Olas Boulevard and Broward Boulevard. The Commission awarded the Las Olas Boulevard contract, which is being routed for signatures, and he would confirm the timeline. Staff has started conversations with Broward County regarding the Broward Boulevard dual left turn lanes project and will keep the Commission updated.

RECESS

Mayor Trantalis recessed the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

Broward County Mayor Lamar Fisher

Broward County Mayor Lamar Fisher commented on his visits to each Broward County municipality, efforts in coordination with Broward County staff to fund the City's Microtransit Program, and his support of nonprofit funding for the NSU Art Museum.

RECONVENE

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis announced the commencement of the Executive Closed-Door Session.

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

[23-0874](#)

The City Commission shall meet privately to discuss pending litigation, pursuant to Section 286.011(8), Florida Statutes, concerning the following matter(s):

Allan J. Mayers v. City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Case No.: CACE 20-013481 (09)

City of Fort Lauderdale, et al. v. Terminal Ventures, LLC, et al.
Case No.: CACE 22-011787 (05)

RECONVENE

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 10:28 p.m.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events.

Commissioner Herbst discussed conversations regarding a request for a secondary street naming at the Chabad Lubavitch located along the Galt Ocean Mile. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis commented on the process involved with this request. He also discussed the Chabad's request to increase the Eruv boundary in the area. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on ongoing flooding in District 4 and funding for clearing storm drains. Commissioner Sturman acknowledged the pursuit of funding from Broward County Commissioner Tim Ryan and Broward County Mayor Lamar Fisher for Microtransit in the City.

Mayor Trantalis noted his attendance at an upcoming municipal mayors conference in Tampa, Florida, where statewide issues would be discussed, and requested Commission Member input.

Commissioner Glassman requested Staff be cognizant of religious holidays when scheduling events.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Chavarria provided an update on the City Attorney recruitment. Staff is continuing its efforts to finalize details regarding additional space at One East Broward Boulevard. Florida State Senator Jason W. B. Pizzo will host an Emergency Management Meeting on

September 15, 2023.

Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence announced the retirement of the City Attorney's Office Manager Maureen Richards. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis commented on the need to acknowledge employee retirements for those with significant years of service with the City.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 10:41 p.m.

Dear Neighbors,

Agenda Item BUS-5 on tomorrow's City Commission Conference Meeting, is a presentation on the Las Olas Mobility Project (see attached.) Later, at the 5 pm Budget Public Hearing, the Commission will consider funding the design of the entire project at a cost of 7 million dollars. (The PowerPoint explains "The current funding allocations were placeholders. Actual design cost have not been determined at this time.")

It is anticipated that the project will cost \$167 million. The power point exhibit states "The estimated construction cost for the entire project is \$167,000,000. No additional funding has been identified yet."

In addition to the Las Olas Mobility Project, a \$25 million stormwater master project has been planned for the southeast isles. This is part of a \$200 million dollar bond funded program to complete stormwater improvements in 7 neighborhoods. It was projected to begin in 2023 – we don't know if it will begin this year or not.

In June, I emailed the comments Anne Hilmer and I made on behalf of Idlewyld. Many of you responded with support. Some of our points/requests included:

1. Respond to continuing questions about whether it will be necessary to raise Las Olas and, if so, how much will it cost and how will it be funded?
2. The City is currently prepared to install a dual left turn at Las Olas and 15th. Hopefully, this will alleviate some or most of the traffic issues. Why not wait on making any major changes that narrow Las Olas in this area until the dual left has been implemented, tested and evaluated?
3. Respond to the northern isles associations that do not want "rest nodes" with benches along Las Olas.
4. Agree to keep 16th Avenue open to traffic.
5. Address bridge safety and integrity before moving ahead with cosmetic improvements.

6. Address needs rather than wants to determine how to save dollars on this very expensive project. For example, is it necessary to put tables, benches and a pavilion under the Intracoastal Bridge, a location that was a previous homeless encampment?

We did not find out about this agenda item until Labor Day week-end. Many people are out of town and will not be able to attend the Commission meeting. Others question why bother when this is obviously a done deal.

Over the years, our collective advocacy has resulted in changes to the plan. Continuing to speak up will hopefully result in other changes that will result in a design that plans for the future environment, development, livability and budget of the City.

Mary Fertig and Anne Hilmer

Submitted by: Mary
Fertig
9.5.23
BUS-5

June 6, 2023 - Agenda Item CP - 2

Motion Approving the Award of Design Consulting Services for the Las

Olas Corridor Mobility Project, including the East and West Corridors.

Good Evening. My name is Mary Fertig and I represent the Idlewyld Improvement Association.

In 2012-13, I began meeting with representatives from other Isles neighborhoods as well as Colee Hammock. Our concern was the traffic on Las Olas. With the start of week-day daytime parking on Las Olas, traffic had become progressively worse. Our group sought solutions.

Initially, the discussion focused on removing parking on Las Olas so it could continue to have 2 lanes in each direction. However, with time, other solutions were proposed such as a one – way pairs. In fact, our District Commissioner at the time proposed the idea along with several associations.

Colee Hammock opposed the idea, and I stood with them beseeching our group to find a common solution agreeable to all neighbors. The City hired an out-of-town traffic consultant who was told not to speak with the neighborhoods. Their study focused efforts on traffic calming in Colee Hammock and did not resolve the issues. Our group of neighbors, which had grown to include representatives from the Venetian, Beverly Heights and the Downtown continued to meet.

When Commissioners Glassman and Sorensen were elected, they convened the Las Olas Mobility Group. One of the first things we were told was that the “experiment” on Las Olas between 12th and 15th would be reversed. It never happened.

We were hopeful that the Las Olas Mobility Group would help to achieve a unified vision expanding bike lanes out of the Isles, resolving long-standing traffic issues, improving unsatisfactory EMS response times, addressing sea level rise issues, etc.

But the consultants immediately divided the street by character areas.

The minutes of the June 15, 2021, Commission meeting document that

“Mayor Trantalis reiterated comments of Commissioner Glassman during the earlier Commission *Las Olas Boulevard Vision Plan (Plan)* Workshop. This Agenda item moves the *Plan* process forward for continued refinement and does not codify the *Plan*.”

And

“Commissioner Glassman reiterated the Commission is accepting a vision of the *Plan*, not adopting a *Plan*.”

On June 1, 2021, the project was divided into EAST and WEST. One reason was the continuing controversy on how to move traffic through Colee Hammock. By now, there seemed to be consensus on two lanes in each direction in the Shops section – One for parking, one for traffic in each direction with no hard curbing.

This resolved, in the Shops Section, our long-standing concerns about an emergency evacuation, how to get emergency vehicles down the street in a true emergency, etc.

But with the design of Colee Hammock maintaining and expanding “the experiment”, in other words, narrowing the road and the Himmarshee Bridge, the Shops resolution is meaningless.

So, what is left to us? There were two other suggestions – One-way pairs and keeping 16th and 17th open.

We were told on January 28, 2021, by the consultant that they requested to study pairs but were told they could not consider them. Who told them? That has never been answered.

And portions of Colee Hammock became adamant that 16th and 17 had to be permanently closed. Ugly yellow bollards were actually installed with no notice giving rise to the concern that no other viewpoints would be considered.

Suddenly, last summer, with these issues unresolved, Colee Hammock was added into the Western Portion for Design.

What is the responsible thing to do? Put in the dual left – which was not the consultants' original recommendation and was hand drawn by hand by my neighbor, Mindy Sturgis. Eventually the consultant acknowledged it was better than the round-about solution.

So put in the dual left, and then study it for a year. If it works, problem solved. If not, back to the drawing board with no money wasted.

On behalf of my neighborhood, we object to the closure of 16th and 17th, something that I believe multiple Colee Hammock residents agreed with.

As for the Isles section – 47 million dollars? Really? Our current bike lanes are 5-6 feet – the proposal is 7 feet.

The plan will result in narrowed lanes of traffic making turns in and out of the Isles difficult. While this is not a problem for Idlewyld – we have a traffic signal at Riviera – with enough width – we support our neighbors concerns, especially when it comes to moving emergency vehicles in and out of the Isles.

We also support our neighbors in the northern Isles in opposing the “rest nodes” creating covered viewing and seating areas. Again, we have a park at the front of the Idlewyld neighborhood, but we support our neighbors in their opposition to this.

As for the 11 million dollars proposed for streetscape and landscaping – what about the 76-year-old Sospiro Bridge?

As for the Subsurface and other expenses estimated at 11 million dollars – The City is – hopefully – close to starting the 25-million-dollar stormwater plan that has been on the books for the Isles for some years.

As for spending money to create a crosswalk and viewing area with tables and benches underneath the Intracoastal Bridge – an area that is currently fenced off because it was a homeless encampment – Maybe that money could be allocated to other priorities?

Many of us have repeatedly asked if Las Olas is going to need to be raised. We can't get an answer – but if that need exists – how much will it cost and why isn't that a priority?

Thousands of people travel Las Olas Boulevard through the Isles to get to the Beach – some are residents but many, probably most, are going to the Beach. When the City invested CRA dollars in the Ocean Side Park and Parking Garage, they assured it would be that way. Resolving the mobility issues in this area are important not just for Isles residents for the general public.

Finally, we would like to reiterate the motion passed unanimously by our Board last summer – If you have any intention of assessing the residents for this project, we believe it should go before the residents for a vote and require the approval of at least 60-66% of the residents.



**SAVE SNYDER
PARK**

Sec. 3.15. - Initiative; petition for proposed ordinance.

(b) Such signed petition and proposed ordinance and the opinion of the city attorney shall be presented by the committee to the city commission at a regular meeting, after sixty (60) days prior notice to the city manager that

such matter will be presented at such meeting. An opportunity shall be given for proponents and opponents of the proposed ordinance to be heard. At such meetings the city commission shall take definite action upon the ordinance by rejecting same, failing to take action upon same, passing same in prepared form upon first reading or passing same in amended form upon first reading. If passed on first reading in an amended form, the chairman of the committee shall state in open meeting whether the committee accepts or rejects the ordinance, as amended, and the decision of the chairman shall be binding upon the committee. If the committee accepts the amended ordinance, as aforesaid, or if the city commission accepts the proposed ordinance, same shall be placed upon its first reading at such meeting, upon the second reading at the next regular meeting. If the proposed ordinance is passed upon first reading, or if the proposed ordinance is amended and passed upon first reading, and such amended ordinance is accepted and approved by the chairman of the committee, it shall be the duty of the city commission to pass such ordinance, and to continue reading such ordinance upon progressive readings at each regular meeting of the city commission until such ordinance is duly enacted.

Proposed Ordinance to be presented by Committee at a regular meeting

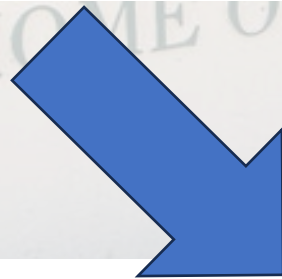
Such signed petition and proposed ordinance and the opinion of the city attorney shall be presented by the committee to the city commission at a regular meeting, after sixty (60) days prior notice to the city manager that such matter will be presented at such meeting. An opportunity shall be

Sec. 2-26. - Meetings.



Meetings of the city commission shall be held in the city hall at 1:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, except that in those months wherein there are five (5) Tuesdays, a meeting shall be held on the last such Tuesday in addition to the meetings on the first and third Tuesdays, at the discretion of the city commission. If a meeting day shall fall on a legal holiday, then the meeting shall be held at 1:30 p.m. on the succeeding Wednesday. Provided, however, at any meeting the commission may, by resolution, reschedule commission meeting dates to dates other than as established in this section, provided that the resolution so adopted is published in the official newspaper of the city once at least three (3) days before the date so fixed. The city commission may, by motion, eliminate meetings for one (1) month each year to provide for vacations. The agenda for meetings of the city commission shall be established by the city manager and shall provide for public hearings, ordinances, resolutions and motions to be heard at 6:00 p.m. at the meeting on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

**The City Manager Shall
provide for ordinances
to be heard at the
6:00pm regular meeting**



The agenda for meetings of the city commission shall be established by the city manager and shall provide for public hearings, ordinances, resolutions and motions to be heard at 6:00 p.m. at the meeting on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Sec. 3.15. - Initiative; petition for proposed ordinance.

(b) Such signed petition and proposed ordinance and the opinion of the city attorney shall be presented by the committee to the city commission at a regular meeting, after sixty (60) days prior notice to the city manager that such matter will be presented at such meeting. An opportunity shall be given for proponents and opponents of the proposed ordinance to be heard. **At such meetings the city commission shall take definite action upon the ordinance by rejecting same, failing to take action upon same, passing same in prepared form upon first reading or passing same in amended form upon first reading.** If passed on first reading in an amended form, the chairman of the committee shall state in open meeting whether the committee accepts or rejects the ordinance, as amended, and the decision of the chairman shall be binding upon the committee. If the committee accepts the amended ordinance, as aforesaid, or if the city commission accepts the proposed ordinance, same shall be placed upon its first reading at such meeting, upon the second reading at the next regular meeting. If the proposed ordinance is passed upon first reading, or if the proposed ordinance is amended and passed upon first reading, and such amended ordinance is accepted and approved by the chairman of the committee, it shall be the duty of the city commission to pass such ordinance, and to continue reading such ordinance upon progressive readings at each regular meeting of the city commission until such ordinance is duly enacted.

City Commission can only take definite action at a regular meeting

heard. **At such meetings the city commission shall take definite action upon the ordinance by rejecting same, failing to take action upon same, passing same in prepared form upon first reading or passing same in amended form upon first reading.** If passed on first reading in an amended form, the chairman of the committee shall state in open meeting whether the committee accepts or rejects the ordinance, as amended, and the decision of the chairman shall be binding upon the committee. If the

Any City Commissioner can suggest amendments to the proposed ordinance

City of Fort Lauderdale

City Commission Conference Meeting

Agenda

Tuesday, August 22, 2023 - 1:30 PM

The Parker
707 Northeast 8th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304
www.youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale



FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor
PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District III
JOHN C. HERBST Commissioner - District I
STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II
WARREN STURMAN Commissioner - District IV

GREG CHAVARRIA, City Manager
DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk
D'WAYNE M. SPENCE, Interim City Attorney
PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

City of Fort Lauderdale

City Commission Regular Meeting

Agenda

Tuesday, August 22, 2023 - 6:00 PM

The Parker
707 Northeast 8th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304
www.youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale



FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor
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PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

SNYDER PARK



City of Fort Lauderdale
Parks & Recreation

HOME OF BARK PARK

Sec. 3.15. - Initiative; petition for proposed ordinance.



- (a) A committee of not less than one thousand (1,000) electors of the city shall prepare and sign a petition addressed to the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale requesting that a proposed ordinance attached to the petition be enacted. Each signer of the petition must be an elector of the city and shall sign his or her name in ink and shall indicate his or her place of residence and voting precinct. The petition shall have attached the certificate of the supervisor of elections indicating whether each of the signers is a qualified elector of the city. Thereafter, such signers shall be referred to as the committee, and one (1) member shall be designated therein as chairman of the committee. The committee shall have the right to request the city attorney, in writing, to assist in the drafting of such proposed ordinance in proper form, and such city attorney shall draft the proposed ordinance in proper form within thirty (30) days after being requested to do so by said committee in writing. He or she shall append to the drafted form of ordinance his or her opinion as to the legality of such proposed ordinance.

(b) Such signed petition and proposed ordinance and the opinion of the city attorney shall be presented by the committee to the city commission at a regular meeting, after sixty (60) days prior notice to the city manager that such matter will be presented at such meeting. An opportunity shall be given for proponents and opponents of the proposed ordinance to be heard. At such meetings the city commission shall take definite action upon the ordinance by rejecting same, failing to take action upon same, passing same in prepared form upon first reading or passing same in amended form upon first reading. If passed on first reading in an amended form, the chairman of the committee shall state in open meeting whether the committee accepts or rejects the ordinance, as amended, and the decision of the chairman shall be binding upon the committee. If the committee accepts the amended ordinance, as aforesaid, or if the city commission accepts the proposed ordinance, same shall be placed upon its first reading at such meeting, upon the second reading at the next regular meeting. If the proposed ordinance is passed upon first reading, or if the proposed ordinance is amended and passed upon first reading, and such amended ordinance is accepted and approved by the chairman of the committee, it shall be the duty of the city commission to pass such ordinance, and to continue reading such ordinance upon progressive readings at each regular meeting of the city commission until such ordinance is duly enacted.

(c) If the city commission should:

- (1) Reject the proposed ordinance; or
- (2) Fail to take action upon said proposed ordinance; or
- (3) Pass the ordinance in an amended form not acceptable to the committee; or
- (4) Fail to pass the proposed ordinance upon first and second reading; or
- (5) Fail to pass an amended ordinance, acceptable to the committee, upon successive meetings; or
- (6) Do any act to delay passage of such ordinance; the chairman of the committee shall have the right to demand in writing that an election upon the matter of enactment of the proposed ordinance, or amended ordinance which has been accepted or approved by the committee, be held in the manner provided in [section 3.18](#) of this charter, and at such meetings at which such demand in writing is presented, the said city commission shall take action either calling such election or refusing to call such election, and the failure to call such election shall constitute a refusal.