



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#22-0781

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Greg Chavarria, City Manager

DATE: September 22, 2022

TITLE: Public Hearing – Quasi-Judicial Ordinance Approving a Rezoning from
Regional Activity Center – City Center (RAC-CC) District to Parks,
Recreation and Open Space (P) District – 25 SW 9th Street and 701 S.
Andrews Avenue – City of Fort Lauderdale– Case No. UDP-Z22008 –
(Commission District 4)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission consider an ordinance rezoning 7.8 acres of land, located at 25 SW 9th Street and 701 S. Andrews Avenue, from Regional Activity Center – City Center (RAC-CC) District to Parks, Recreation and Open Space (P) District.

Background

The City of Fort Lauderdale is requesting to rezone 341,909 square feet (7.8 acres) of land located at 25 SW 9th Street and 701 S. Andrews Avenue from Regional Activity Center – City Center (RAC-CC) District to Parks, Recreation and Open Space (P) District to ensure consistency and continuity with the existing use, Florence C. Hardy Park. The request includes two separate parcels that are part of one overall property. A location map of the subject site is provided as Exhibit 1. The application, narrative responses to criteria, and sketch and legal description of the property are attached as Exhibit 2.

The rezoning of City owned properties that are used and maintained as public park space protects those properties in three significant ways. First, by rezoning a property to Parks, Recreation, and Open space it creates a record of the City's intended use for the property. Second, the zoning limits the use of the property to those uses typically associated with public parks and open spaces. Lastly, the City's Charter provides protection to lands zoned Park, Recreation, and Open Space by limiting the sale, transfer, or lease for more than (1) year without a unanimous vote of the entire City Commission.

Review Criteria:

Pursuant to the City's Unified Land Development Regulations (ULDR) Section 47-24.4.D, Rezoning Criteria, an application for a rezoning shall be reviewed in accordance with the following criteria:

1. The zoning district proposed is consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The property is currently zoned RAC-CC and has an underlying land use designation of Downtown Regional Activity Center, which is intended to encourage development or redevelopment of areas that have regional significance and facilitate a mix of uses, encourage mass transit, reduce the need for automobile travel, and encourage a strong definition of the urban form, promoting a “live, work, play” environment. The proposed Parks, Recreation and Open Space zoning district is consistent with this land use designation.

2. The changes anticipated by the proposed rezoning will not adversely impact the character of development in or near the area under consideration.

The existing use of the property is a park. The proposed rezoning will ensure the zoning district is consistent with the existing use. The proposed rezoning will not adversely impact the character of development in or near the area under consideration.

3. The character of the area proposed is suitable for the uses permitted in the proposed zoning district and is compatible with surrounding districts and uses.

The proposed rezoning of the property to Park is compatible with the surrounding mix of uses. Since the current use of the site is park, the proposed rezoning will ensure the zoning district is compatible with the existing use and supports surrounding uses with park and open space.

The Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) reviewed the application on July 20, 2022, and recommended approval by a vote of 5-0. The PZB meeting minutes and PZB staff report are attached as Exhibit 3 and Exhibit 4, respectively. In addition, the public sign notice and affidavit for the July 20, 2022, PZB meeting are attached as Exhibit 5.

The City Commission shall consider the application and the record and recommendations forwarded by the Department and PZB and public comments on the application to determine whether the application meets the criteria for a rezoning. If the City Commission determines that the rezoning meets the criteria for rezoning, the City Commission shall approve the change in zoning as requested in the application, or approve a change to a more restrictive zoning district than that requested in the application if necessary to meet the criteria provided for rezoning and if consented to by the applicant. If the City Commission determines that the proposed rezoning does not meet the criteria in, or if the applicant does not consent to a more restrictive zoning district, the City Commission shall deny the application.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *2022 Commission Priority*, advancing the Smart Growth initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- Neighborhood Enhancement
- Goal 4: Build a thriving and inclusive community of neighborhoods
- Objective: Ensure a range of affordable housing options

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Community*.

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan* specifically advancing:

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- The Future Land Use Element
- Goal 2: The City shall encourage sustainable, smart growth which designates areas for future growth, promotes connectivity, social equity, preservation of neighborhood character and compatible uses.
- The Urban Design Element
- Goal 1: Promote high-quality and sustainable building design elements which complement the public realm.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Location Map

Exhibit 2 – Application, Narrative Responses to Criteria, and Sketch and Legal Description

Exhibit 3 – July 20, 2022, PZB Meeting Minutes

Exhibit 4 – July 20, 2022, PZB Staff Report

Exhibit 5 – PZB Public Sign Notice and Affidavit

Exhibit 6 – Ordinance

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