



DRAFT
MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
MARINE ADVISORY BOARD
FORT LAUDERDALE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
528 NW 2ND STREET, STATION #2
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33311
3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.

Cumulative Attendance
January-December 2023

Steve Witten, Chair	P	10	0
James Harrison, Vice Chair	P	8	2
Michael Boyer	A	5	4
Tyler Brunelle	P	7	1
Robyn Chiarelli (arr. 6:04)	P	6	4
Barry Flanigan (arr. 6:22)	P	9	1
Robert Franks	P	5	0
Elisabeth George	P	9	0
Brewster Knott	A	6	3
John Lynch	P	3	1
Norbert McLaughlin	P	10	0
Noelle Norvell	P	6	2
Ed Rebholz (arr. 6:30)	P	6	0
Bill Walker	P	3	1
Robert Washington	A	5	2

As of this date, there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Andrew Cuba, Marine Facilities Manager
 Jonathan Luscomb, Marine Facilities Supervisor
 Sergeant Travis O'Neil, Marine Unit Supervisor
 Dean Trantalis, Mayor of Fort Lauderdale
 Thomas Ansbro, City Attorney
 Bob Dunckel, Assistant City Attorney
 Marco Aguilera, Code Compliance Officer
 Carla Blair, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to City Commission

None.

capacity. He thanked the Board members for their service to the City, noting that there has been a stronger rapport between the City Commission and the Marine Advisory Board over the last eight years.

Chair Witten requested clarification of the Mayor's goals in which the Board could play a role. Mayor Trantalis advised that his overarching goal is to maintain safe passageway on the City's waterways, and to ensure that residents who own waterfront property can enjoy its use. He also expressed concern with pollution of the City's waterways, which can be caused by illegal dumping of waste into the water. Chair Witten confirmed that the Board hopes to help the City deal with these initiatives, and emphasized the importance of communication.

II. Approval of Minutes – November 2, 2023

Motion made by Ms. George, seconded by Mr. Walker, to approve. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

V. Dock Waiver – 3019 NE 20th Court / Hubie Kerns

Frank Mormando, representing the Applicant, showed photos of the subject property, which has a concrete dock with two 27 ft. 9 in. posts. The project consists of installing a 30,000 lb. boat lift with four posts at 28 ft. 9 in. from the property line where Code allows a distance of 25 ft. The distance of the requested waiver is roughly 4 ft. Additional information is available in the members' backup materials.

Mr. Mormando added that the proposed structures have been approved by the Broward County Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The waiver request is justified through the following considerations:

- No structures or piles will exceed 30% of the width of the waterway
- Due to the extraordinary width of the waterway at the subject location, which is a distance of 191 ft., navigation will not be impeded
- The proposed structure is necessary for the safe mooring of the resident's vessel, particularly during high wind and severe weather events
- The proposed structure is necessary to protect the resident's vessel from high wave energy and excessive wakes from the Intracoastal Waterway

If the waiver request is approved, the Applicant will comply with all necessary construction conditions, guidelines, and Codes.

The City's Zoning Department has enacted an Ordinance which requires an independent engineer to review the placement of the boat lift's piles in order to ensure it conforms to Code. The structure would pose no hardship to the neighboring properties. One neighbor has requested that the boat be positioned slightly further to the west, and

the Applicant has agreed to this request, which will be included in the final "as built" submittal to the City and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Chair Witten asked for clarification of the existing conditions of the waterway. Mr. Mormando replied that there is a four-post concrete dock with a marble finish.

Mr. McLaughlin noted that the boat lift will place the vessel parallel to the dock, which would mean the proposed structure, not the boat itself, extends 3 ft. past the 25 ft. limit.

Mr. Franks commented that the Board members' backup materials include letters of objection which mention navigational issues, although they do not specify those issues. Another letter had referred to obstruction of the view of the Intracoastal Waterway. Mr. Mormando reiterated that the Applicant has spoken with this individual and will move the lift so it is more closely centered on his own property, which will preserve the neighbor's view.

Assistant City Attorney Bob Dunckel recommended that if the Board makes a motion to approve the request, that the approval will be subject to moving the location of the lift. He also requested that this issue be resolved and a proper drawing presented to the City Commission when the request goes before them.

Chair Witten advised that in addition to protecting the vessel from wave action, removing the boat from the waterway on a lift is also an environmentally sound practice. He also noted that letters of objection state a neighbor's property value would be "greatly affected" by obstruction of the view, and requested clarification of the accuracy of this statement. Mr. Brunelle stated that he did not feel this was an accurate assertion.

Chair Witten continued that the Board is not tasked with addressing the line of sight from neighboring properties, and that he also did not believe property values would be negatively affected by obstruction of a view.

Attorney Dunckel advised that the Board may make a motion to recommend approval of the Application with or without the condition to move the boat lift's location, or they may move to recommend denial of the Application. In any case, the Application would ultimately go before the City Commission for approval.

There being no further questions from the Board at this time, Chair Witten opened the public hearing. As there were no individuals wishing to speak on the Item, the Chair closed the public hearing and brought the discussion back to the Board

Motion made by Vice Chair Harrison, seconded by Mr. Brunelle, to approve as presented. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously (12-0).

VI. ~~Proposed Marina Update, Eric Mez, Suntex Marinas~~