



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**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, MAY 2, 2024 – 5:00 P.M.**

**Cumulative Attendance
January-December 2024**

Steve Witten, Chair	P	5	0
James Harrison, Vice Chair	P	3	2
Tyler Brunelle	P	5	0
Robyn Chiarelli (6:03-7:59)	P	3	2
Jason Dunbar (dep. 7:35)	P	2	0
Barry Flanigan	P	5	0
Robert Franks	P	4	1
Elisabeth George (dep. 8:25)	P	5	0
Brewster Knott	A	3	2
John Lynch	P	4	1
Norbert McLaughlin	P	5	0
Noelle Norvell	P	3	2
Ed Rebholz	A	4	1
Bill Walker	A	3	2
Robert Washington	P	4	1

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
Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Director of Public Works (Sustainability)
Carl Williams, Director, Parks and Recreation Department
K. Cruitt, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to City Commission

None.

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Mr. Dunbar also requested additional information on the effects of phosphorus in the water. Dr. Gassman explained that when there are high nitrogen and phosphorus nutrients, water is more subject to algal or duckweed bloom.

Chair Witten stated that he would follow up with Dr. Gassman regarding today's presentation and would convey further information to the Board members through Mr. Cuba's Office. He requested direction on next steps, as well as short- and long-term goals, and emphasized the importance of education in ensuring water quality improvement, including teaching boaters to stow their trash rather than throw it into waterways.

Dr. Gassman advised that the MAB may wish to determine which aspects of water quality concern them most: for example, physical, biological, chemical, or trash components. This will guide them in deciding what steps they would like to take and what performance metrics can be used to determine whether or not the water is cleaner.

Chair Witten also commented that there are a great many organizations undertaking water quality improvement efforts, and asked how the Board can ensure that they are working on tasks that converge with these entities' focus. Dr. Gassman replied that this is part of the City Commission's intent in considering a Chief Waterway Officer, who could serve as a clearinghouse for various efforts and help coordinate them among agencies.

Chair Witten suggested that the Board discuss this further at the June 2024 meeting and identify the issues on which they would like to focus. Lt. Adrien added that the Board should consider defining what constitutes clean water. This will help them identify the resources and agencies that can work together toward this goal.

Mr. Frank recalled that some months ago, the Board discussed a significant fuel spill which had occurred at Lauderdale Marina, and requested clarification of which entity should be notified of incidents such as this. Lt. Adrien replied that if the Coast Guard's Second Command Center is notified, a national report will be filed and an investigation will be triggered. Dr. Gassman added that the 800 number mentioned earlier can also identify the agency that should be notified to respond.

Mr. Washington requested clarification of how boundaries are determined on waterways: for example, which areas are subject to federal, state, or local jurisdiction. Sgt. O'Neil replied that the Fort Lauderdale Police Department has jurisdiction within the City as well as roughly three miles offshore. They can serve as a good starting point when reporting incidents and can alert larger agencies as needed.

Mr. McLaughlin observed that one issue is that the fines for pollution are insufficient deterrents, and suggested that penalties should be strengthened.

VII. Dock Waiver – 1180 N. Federal Highway (Unit 1502 / Slip 7) Renee Biron

Akbar Mondal Nunez, representing the Applicant, explained that the Applicant proposes to install a boat lift at Slip 7 at the subject location. The Applicant previously applied for a different boat lift, which was approved, but the application was withdrawn due to an issue with the condominium.

The four-post boat lift would include a catwalk as an alternative to full decking. The catwalk would be placed on top of the boat lift and would not be larger than the lift's beam. The request is for a 7.8 ft. extension past the required setback. No structures or piles would exceed 25% of the waterway width and would not impede the navigational channel. The lift is intended to improve the vessel's safety.

Chair Witten recalled that when the previous application for this location came before the Board, there had been discussion of allowing boat lifts more often than one lift per every 100 ft. The president of the condominium's board of directors has provided a letter of support for the Application.

Chair Witten also noted that Assistant City Attorney Bob Dunckel had expressed one concern regarding the Application: if it is approved, the Board needs to confirm ownership of the subject slip. He recommended that before the Application goes to the City Commission for approval, the Applicant provide this proof.

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.

Mr. Flanigan requested additional information on the confirmation of ownership. Mr. Cuba explained that when the previous Application for the same slip came before the Board, the Applicant provided proof of ownership in the form of a letter from the condominium. The Assistant City Attorney has requested an updated version of that letter to accompany this Application.

Motion made by Vice Chair Harrison, seconded by Mr. Brunelle, to approve the Application with the addition of proof of ownership. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously (12-0).

VIII. Presentation – Freedom Waters Foundation – Robin Meagher / Director of Program & Development

Robin Meagher and Debbie Frankel, representing the Freedom Waters Foundation, distributed fliers and materials to the Board about the organization, which seeks to enhance the well-being of veterans, children, and adults through therapeutic boating experiences.

Ms. Meagher explained that the program serves children and adults with special needs, life-threatening illnesses, and disabilities, as well as veterans. They do not own any