

City of Fort Lauderdale

City Hall
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
www.fortlauderdale.gov



Meeting Minutes - APPROVED

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

1:30 PM

City Commission Conference Room

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER Mayor - Commissioner
ROBERT L. McKINZIE Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District III
BRUCE G. ROBERTS Commissioner - District I
DEAN J. TRANTALIS Commissioner - District II
ROMNEY ROGERS Commissioner - District IV

LEE R. FELDMAN, City Manager
JOHN HERBST, City Auditor
JONDA K. JOSEPH, City Clerk
CYNTHIA A. EVERETT, City Attorney

Meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Vice-Mayor McKinzie.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler (arrived at approximately 1:42 p.m.), Commissioner Romney Rogers, Commissioner Bruce G. Roberts, Commissioner Dean J. Trantalis and Vice-Mayor Robert L. McKinzie

Also Present: City Manager Lee R. Feldman, City Auditor John Herbst, City Clerk Jonda K. Joseph, Senior Assistant City Attorney Paul Bangel and Sergeant At Arms Sergeant Ron Magno

No public comments were submitted by email for this meeting.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Events and Matters of Interest

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events and matters of interest.

Red Bull race

Commissioner Trantalis noted that there has been previous discussion about the need to prioritize events on the beach. There is a problem with congestion. Organizers with the Red Bull car race apparently wanted to shut down State Road A1A. He believed that the organizers were trying to work out a new plan which would take the event off the roadway and onto private property. He felt that further discussion is warranted on how to prioritize beach events.

Mayor Seiler said he was contacted by organizers and referred them to the district commissioner as well as the Central Beach Alliance (CBA) and others. He told them he would withhold his support until they met with everyone. He did not immediately know that those meetings were not held and it later came to his attention that there had been some miscommunication between the event planners and advisory boards. He told them the City would not commit to an event during tourist season that would close the road. He agreed there should be a central vetting process with better communication.

Commissioner Rogers pointed out that cruise traffic accounts for 70 percent on A1A. If a section is blocked off temporarily, it is not the end of the world for local residents. Residents should be the priority.

Galleria Project

Commissioner Roberts advised that residents have said there was not ample time to participate in this project. They would like another opportunity. Director of Economic and Sustainable Development Jenni Morejon said the Design Review Committee (DRC) meeting was April 14. Staff has responded to neighbor inquiries. There has been a series of public meetings. DRC serves as a technical review, and they will continue to accept input from residents at public meetings. Commissioner Roberts commented that neighborhoods would like to provide feedback on the technical aspects.

Mayor Seiler advised that he wanted to listen to the neighbors and take their input on the development. Commissioner Roberts said he would like to have another public hearing.

Airport Leases

Commissioner Roberts suggested that airport leases should be revisited in order to assess the value. The City Manager advised that they would be looking into how they solicit leases for proposals.

Schlitterbahn Water Park

Commissioner Roberts questioned the status of the agreement between Schlitterbahn and the Fort Lauderdale Strikers. The City Manager advised that staff has encouraged representatives from Schlitterbahn and The Strikers to finalize the deal. Commissioner Roberts noted that it has been discussed in Envision Uptown meetings. There is a need, from an economic development perspective, to keep the sports team with the Fort Lauderdale label. Mayor Seiler wanted to express a desire to Schlitterbahn for The Strikers to remain there. The City Manager advised that has been expressed.

District III Sidewalks

Vice-Mayor McKinzie requested a status update on sidewalk improvements in District III. The City Manager commented that funding has been identified and staff is compiling a list of the worst sidewalks. It was priced at about \$16 million. Commissioner Trantalis felt that a bond issue could potentially be successful because sidewalks are a major problem and people would see where their tax dollars are going. The City Manager advised they may be able to use about \$2 million in excess dollars in the Risk Management Fund to repair the most significant trip hazards. Mayor Seiler was concerned about liability. He suggested the City Attorney may want to research whether they should be undertaking the responsibility. Commissioner Rogers felt that the ordinance should be reworded. The City Attorney agreed to bring the matter back at a future conference meeting.

911 Non-Emergency Calls

Vice-Mayor McKinzie expressed concern about a lack of response when calls are placed to the 911 non-emergency line, specifically from the Melrose Manors neighborhood. Commissioner Rogers later expanded on the matter, citing issues in his district. The equipment will improve when it is replaced. Commissioner Roberts noted that locations are not being properly identified and therefore cannot be properly dispatched. There is a need for increased training. The City Manager noted that there are different locations throughout the county with the same address.

Code Enforcement

Vice-Mayor McKinzie wished to take a more proactive approach to code enforcement before fines are assessed. He did not want to see more buildings torn down. Commissioner Roberts agreed and noted that if fines are continually assessed, it makes it counterproductive when attempting to sell a building. He wanted to review the process.

CONFERENCE REPORTS**OLD/NEW BUSINESS****BUS-1 15-0514** Launch of the Green Your Routine Website

Assistant Public Works Director Nancy Gassman provided introductory remarks.

Project Manager Rivana Stadtlander reviewed slides related to this matter. A copy of the slides is

attached to these minutes.

In response to Commissioner Trantalis, Stadtlander advised that there is information about sea-level rise in the Climate Resiliency section of the website. Assistant City Manager Susanne Torriente added that discussions have gone on in Public Works as part of the stormwater planning process and no changes have yet been made to the engineering process. It is something that will probably become a policy issue for the Commission. Gassman said the ordinance was redone about three or four years ago and it sets a maximum height for seawall. There is not currently a minimum height. Stadtlander elaborated more on the seawall information for Commissioner Trantalis. He wished to have a future discussion on raising the seawall.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Charles King, 105 North Victoria Park Road, supported banning Styrofoam from the beach. Commissioner Trantalis noted a challenge with enforcement.

Raymond Cox, no address provided, did not address the subject matter.

Fred Carlson, 625 Orton Avenue, invited Commission members to the Central Beach Alliance meeting at 7 p.m. He requested that the Green Your Routine website be linked from the City website.

There was no one else wishing to speak.

The Commission recessed and convened as the Community Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors at 3:22 p.m. The Commission then reconvened the conference meeting with agenda item BD-1 at 3:27 p.m.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

BD-1 15-0415 Minutes circulated - period ending April 16, 2015

None.

BD-2 15-0416 Board and Committee Vacancies

Please see regular item R-1.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Raymond Cox, no address provided, expressed concern about local government operations and the police force.

There was no one else wishing to speak.

The City Clerk advised that an advisory board training session is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 27.

OTHER BUSINESS

Parks and Recreation Department Director Phil Thornburg reviewed slides related to efforts of the

Clean Team. A copy of the slides is attached to these minutes.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

MGR-1 15-0563 Review of Letter to the U.S. Department of Justice Regarding Police Department Internal Affairs Investigation Case No. 14-090 (Alvarez, Holding, C. Sousa and Wells)

The City Manager explained that a letter has been prepared for issuance tomorrow pending Commission approval.

Commissioner Trantalis suggested being more proactive in requesting the Department of Justice Review. Mayor Seiler clarified that an invitation can be issued but the federal government does not have to respond. Commissioner Trantalis felt that it should be worded as a request rather than an invitation.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Charles King, 105 North Victoria Park Road, felt that the Commission should take action rather than waiting for the FBI to investigate. He advocated for body cameras and a residency requirement.

Raymond Cox, no address provided, expressed concern about the way the police treat the homeless.

There was no one else wishing to speak.

There was consensus to proceed with the language as amended.

The Commission convened at 3:54 p.m. for the closed door session and adjourned at the end of the session.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION

The City Commission will meet privately pursuant to Florida Statute, Section 286.011(8)(a) concerning:

Silvia E. Villagran v. City of Fort Lauderdale Case No. 13-027759 Div. 04

Vincent Hall v. City of Fort Lauderdale Case No. 13-018465 Div. 18