

City of Fort Lauderdale

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

1:30 PM

City Commission Conference Room

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

***DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor - Commissioner
BEN SORENSEN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District IV
HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I
STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II
ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III***

***LEE R. FELDMAN, City Manager
JOHN HERBST, City Auditor
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk
ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney***

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Sorensen called the Commission Conference Meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Heather Moraitis, Commissioner Steven Glassman, and Vice Mayor Ben Sorensen

Not Present: Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie (Excused), Mayor Dean J. Trantalis (Excused)

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Also Present: Assistant City Manager Stanley Hawthorne, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau, City Auditor John Herbst and Sergeant at Arms Luan Malushi

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

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

Vice Mayor Sorensen recognized Commissioner Moraitis. Commissioner Moraitis discussed the District I Meeting co-hosted with Anthony Fajardo, Director of Sustainable Development. She confirmed neighbor requests for a clear understanding of the process for projects, including the proposed aquarium project (Aquarium Project) at the Galleria Mall.

Vice Mayor Sorensen recognized Anthony Fajardo, Director of Sustainable Development. Mr. Fajardo reviewed approval timelines and related details for the Aquarium Project at the Galleria Mall, confirming it would be before the Development Review Committee (DRC) at their second meeting in October.

Vice Mayor Sorensen recognized Commissioner Glassman. Commissioner Glassman commented on recent District II tours, including the Museum of Discovery and Science and a tour of the beach with area business owners. He attended a District II Civic Associations Presidential Roundtable Meeting (Meeting), commenting that it was a constructive meeting and will be held on a quarterly basis.

Commissioner Glassman commented on touring South Middle River and related zoning, housing and code discussions. He discussed the success of his Telephone Town Hall Meeting and the Las Olas Mobility Plan Meeting co-hosted with Vice Mayor Sorensen. Commissioner Glassman also noted neighbor reaction to the condition of canals.

Commissioner Glassman said business owners are concerned with the slow process of ongoing beach area construction projects (Beach Projects). He requested better management of Beach Projects to make them more presentable. Vice Mayor Sorensen concurred.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on the importance of stakeholder input for the Las Olas Mobility Plan Request for Proposal (RFP) and its scope of work. He confirmed the need for ongoing support, including appropriate funding to move the process forward.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on the success of the Lauderdale Isles Waterway Clean-up. He also discussed ongoing efforts with faith-based organizations and the community to address homelessness and affordable housing, confirming an upcoming meeting at the Fort Lauderdale Women's Club. Further comments and discussion ensued.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [18-1025](#)

Community Enhancement and Compliance Division FY2018 Presentation

Vice Mayor Sorensen recognized Anthony Fajardo, Director of Sustainable Development. Mr. Fajardo introduced Porshia Williams, Code Compliance Manager - Department of Sustainable Development, acknowledging the work of Ms. Williams and Code Compliance Staff. Ms. Williams acknowledged Community Enhancement and Compliance Division Staff members. Ms. Williams gave the Community Enhancement and Compliance Division's FY 2018 Presentation.

A copy of Community Enhancement and Compliance Division's FY 2018 Presentation is attached to these minutes.

Vice Mayor Sorensen recognized Katrina Jordan, Administrative Assistant - Department of Sustainable Development. Ms. Jordan reviewed the administrative process for managing the Code Compliance Program, confirming the goal of voluntary neighbor compliance.

Ms. Jordan reviewed efforts to realize one hundred percent Vacation Rental Program registration compliance, confirming they are currently at

approximately fifty percent. She commented that once informed, forty-four percent voluntarily complied.

Vice Mayor Sorensen recognized Irma Westbrook, Community Inspections Supervisor of Special Teams - Department of Sustainable Development. She explained how Special Teams proactively address blight, nuisance and seawall violations. Special Teams include Vacation Rentals, Special Projects and the Rapid Response Teams. Special Teams work in collaboration with the Building Inspector, the Police Department and Neighborhood Action Teams. Ms. Westbrook introduced members of Special Teams. She expounded on addressing seawall Code violations and timelines for achieving compliance. Ms. Westbrook reviewed Special Teams' efforts to address all areas of Code compliance and outreach efforts.

Vice Mayor Sorensen recognized Dick Eaton, Community Inspections Supervisor - Department of Sustainable Development. Mr. Eaton recognized members of his team. He discussed Code's work and involvement with neighbor homeowner associations (HOAs). Mr. Eaton expounded on Code efforts in the industrial area of District I, commenting on a project that was brought up to Code in coordination with other government agencies as illustrated in the slide presentation.

Vice Mayor Sorensen recognized Ms. Williams who gave an overview of District III's Community Code Compliance Team, acknowledging individual members. Ms. Williams reviewed community outreach efforts, including work with the Riverland Road and Sunset Civic Associations to address properties.

Vice Mayor Sorensen recognized Mr. Eaton. Mr. Eaton reviewed the Community Outreach Program's efforts that have led to neighborhood transformations. He expounded on Code efforts and activities, including neighborhood events with Code inspectors and HOAs, and the process used to engage neighborhoods. This includes mailing correspondence to neighbors explaining what Code issues would be addressed two weeks prior to Code inspection, allowing for uniform and consistent neighborhood property citations. Mr. Eaton commented on various types of financial assistance available through City and County programs, and follow-up with HOAs following project completion. Mr. Eaton thanked the Commission for providing the resources to achieve Code Enforcement goals.

Ms. Williams noted the importance of Code's administrative team, acknowledging and thanking them for their work. She thanked City

Manager Feldman for his support and input.

Commissioner Glassman thanked Code Compliance Staff. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Ms. Williams explained the details involved with neighborhood outreach. These include focusing on a neighborhood with numerous complaints, outreach at Neighbor Support Night and Code Officer communications with HOAs.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question about sufficient staffing, Ms. Williams confirmed the need for additional staffing to address the Landlord Tenant Registration Ordinance (Ordinance) due to the amount of detail involved with housing inspections. Mr. Fajardo commented on the Budget Advisory Board's endorsement. Ms. Williams confirmed the First Reading of the Ordinance will be October 9, 2018 and it will take effect in January 2019. She also confirmed that many Code Inspectors are in the process of becoming Certified Home Inspectors to provide a higher level of service.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's question about Special Magistrate cases, Ms. Williams explained the details and process involved with a lien reduction. She explained reasons for recommending a lien reduction when mitigating circumstances are involved. These include owner cooperation and consistent communication with Code Enforcement, financial hardship, additional work done by the owner not listed in the original citation, previous good neighbor reputation or a change in property ownership. At the discretion of the Code Enforcement Officer, any of these could be used to request a lien reduction. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Ms. Williams discussed ongoing work to address vacation rental registration goals, adequate resources for Staff and training. Further comment and discussion ensued on neighbor outreach concerning community residences, vacation rentals and neighborhood properties in need of meeting Code compliance.

BUS-2 [18-1042](#)

Discussion - Subcommittee Establishment

Vice Mayor Sorensen explained Northwest Progresso-Flagler Heights (NWPFH) Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Advisory Board's request to form a subcommittee to work with the Transportation Management Association (TMA) and bring route recommendations back to the CRA Board.

Commissioner Glassman commented on Board and Committee appointment language and the wording of the Ordinance. He confirmed

board members are term-limited after six (6) years. Commissioner Glassman discussed the need to address term limits, the possible consolidation of Boards and Committees, and adopting an ordinance similar to Broward County's that would allow a new Commissioner the ability to make their own Board and Committee appointments. The terms of Board and Committee Members would begin and/or end with appointing Commission Member's terms. Further discussion ensued on addressing individual Commission Member and Consensus Appointments, associated timelines and consolidating existing Boards and Committees.

Further comment and discussion ensued on past practices and Resolution language. City Clerk Modarelli explained what is required for enabling legislation to create subcommittees. Further comment and discussion ensued on this topic.

The Commission concurred with the need to consult with the TMA prior to approving the NWPFH CRA's request for a subcommittee for route recommendations.

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

[18-1028](#)

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

Mizelle, Rinda et al. v. City of Fort Lauderdale
Case No.: 13-025419 (13)

CANCELLED

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

NONE

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Sorensen adjourned the Commission Conference Meeting at 2:46 p.m.