

City of Fort Lauderdale

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 9, 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

Mayor Trantalis called the Commission Conference Meeting to order at 1:33 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Heather Moraitis (arrived at 4:27 p.m.), Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie (arrived at 1:47 p.m.), Vice Mayor Ben Sorensen and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Also Present: City Manager Lee R. Feldman, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau, City Auditor John Herbst and Sergeant at Arms Heather Lee

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

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

Commissioner Glassman discussed his attendance at the Central City Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Advisory Board Workshop on Rezoning, expounding on details.

Commissioner Glassman commented on the Las Olas Neighbor Workshop Meeting on electrical service undergrounding which was attended by Florida Power and Light (FPL) representatives. In response to Mayor Trantalis, City Manager Feldman gave a brief overview of undergrounding in the Idlewyld and Riviera Isles neighborhoods, stating design has been completed. There is ongoing work to address the placement of transformers. Coconut Isle Drive is addressing undergrounding through the bridge. Florida Power and Light will be doing a walk-through along Las Olas Boulevard to determine transformer locations. City Manager Feldman said undergrounding plans have not been completed for other Las Olas Boulevard Isle neighborhoods. Further discussion ensued on the size, amount and placement of transformers, engineering concerns and the need to improve progress. Commissioner Glassman confirmed a meeting has been scheduled with stakeholders to keep the process moving forward.

Commissioner Glassman discussed hosting a District II Meeting on maintaining clean waterways, commenting on contributing factors which includes runoff from landscaping services.

Vice Mayor Sorensen discussed a meeting with Jonathan R. Turton, MBA, FACHE, CEO of Broward General Medical Health Center, to address medical care for the homeless. He also commented on the success of the recent forum on homelessness held at The Women's Club of Fort Lauderdale, expounding on the details.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question about the start date of the Community Court (Court), City Manager Feldman gave an update on federal grant funding to staff non-judicial personnel for the Court. City Manager Feldman confirmed the Court System provides funding for judges. Further comment and discussion ensued on financial responsibility for non-judicial personnel and the need for shared funding among all Broward County cities.

Mayor Trantalis commented on homeless efforts at the County Library and an upcoming meeting with the Mayor of Broward County to discuss homelessness. Commissioner McKinzie commented on Commission efforts to address the needs of the homeless. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Sorensen confirmed the upcoming SE 17th Street Mobility Plan Working Group Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 12, 2018 in the City Hall 8th Floor Commission Conference Room.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on the importance of a continued focus on infrastructure needs, discussing ongoing King Tides and continued emphasis on all infrastructure and environmental concerns. Mayor Trantalis concurred with the need to be proactive. Commissioner Glassman agreed, noting the need to take initiative to address contributing factors. Discussions ensued on addressing canal drainage and engaging the community to use best practices for landscaping.

Mayor Trantalis gave a review of his trip to Taiwan as a representative at the Global Harbor Cities Conference (Conference) that included a visit to the Taiwanese Sister City Kaohsiung and the Island of Penghu. Conference items discussed included protecting the environment and encouraging development along waterways that support ecology and positive urban development.

Mayor Trantalis also commented on meeting with two yacht building

companies in attendance at the Conference who will be attending The Boat Show, one of which is looking to acquire property in the South Florida area to enhance its maintenance facility. Mayor Trantalis thanked members of the City's delegation for their attendance.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his participation in an Urban Design Institute Project (Project) while attending the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Portland, Oregon. The proposed City/County Government Center Project was Mayor Trantalis' presentation. Mayor Trantalis noted the positive feedback received on the future vision of the City and the opportunity to share disciplines of an urban design consultant at no cost during the first year.

Mayor Trantalis commented on attending the Sister Cities Annual Firefighters Expo, encouraging Commission members to attend City events, especially those recognizing First Responders. He commented on the need for a Commission representative at the League of Cities. Comment and discussion ensued on the primary representative, the alternate and calendaring.

Mayor Trantalis discussed current fines for discharges into waterways, commenting on the importance of the environment. He recommended having a monitor stationed at all construction sites, suggesting that an applicant would be notified of this during the permitting process.

Mayor Trantalis discussed Board and Committee appointments. City Clerk Jeffrey Modarelli said an Ordinance addressing appointee terms would be on the October 23, 2018 Commission Regular Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner McKinzie discussed the need for a review of all current Boards and Committees, commenting on the need for appointees to have the necessary criteria. He commented on the Unsafe Structures Board. He requested that prior to a building being demolished, the decision be presented to the Commission for review and discussion. It was confirmed a discussion item on consolidating Boards and Committees would be on the November 10, 2018 Commission Conference Agenda. Further comment and discussion ensued.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [18-1047](#)

Quarterly Investment Report for Period Ending June 30, 2018

Kirk Buffington, Director of Finance, introduced the new Treasurer Pamela Winston. He also introduced the new investment advisors, PFM

Asset Management LLC ("PFM").

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question about the percentage of equity holdings, Linda Logan-Short, Deputy Director of Finance, said there are currently no equities in the portfolio due to adherence to statutes. Further comment and discussion ensued. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Logan-Short confirmed the financial institutions which hold investments.

Mayor Trantalis suggested holding the Other Post Employee Benefits Board (OPEB) Meeting following this Conference Item. City Manager Feldman confirmed.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [18-1010](#)

Job Classification and Compensation Study Consultant Update

Mayor Trantalis recognized Averill Dorsett, Director of Human Resources. Ms. Dorsett gave a brief historic overview of wage and compensation. She discussed The Segal Walters Group's Job Classification and Compensation Study (Study). Mayor Trantalis commented on the methodology used in the Study.

Ms. Dorsett introduced Elliot R. Susseles, CCP, Senior Vice President, The Segal Waters Group. Mr. Susseles introduced his colleague Linda Wishard, Vice President and Senior Consultant, The Segal Walters Group. Mr. Susseles expounded on the Study's process, details, analyzes, benchmarks and goals presented in the slide presentation.

A copy of the slide presentation is attached to these minutes.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question, Mr. Susseles explained aspects of the City's contribution to health benefits that is a fixed dollar amount regardless of the tier of coverage. Mr. Susseles confirmed the Study only addressed health care costs. Assistant City Manager Stanley Hawthorne commented on the history and the previous Commission's action in October 2017 on employee health care contribution amounts, expounding on the background of this issue and details.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on equity concerns for lower tier employees and health care costs. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Manager Feldman concurred with Commissioner McKinzie's comments, stating health benefits are sustained for each group of employees and are indexed for inflation at two percent (2%) .

He expounded on achieving parity for all employee benefits, commenting the main difference is salary levels.

In response to Mayor Trantalis's inquiry, City Manager Feldman explained the average employer contribution for health care benefits in South Florida, expounding on details and how the City's healthcare program is structured. Discussion ensued on the City's healthcare contributions for health plans and employee affordability. Further comment and discussion ensued on the City's self-insured healthcare plan, benefits of the Health and Wellness Center, biometric screenings, and increasing the City's minimum wage.

Mayor Trantalis concurred with Commissioner McKinzie's concern for all employees being able to afford family tier health insurance coverage. Mayor Trantalis requested Staff research the pay gap and bring this information back to the Commission for discussion and consideration. Assistant City Manager Hawthorne commented on the average employee health plan contribution. City Auditor John Herbst discussed the lowest available healthcare coverage option. City Manager Feldman confirmed the Study's recommended pay adjustments are included in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget.

Mayor Trantalis requested City Manager Feldman come back to the Commission with recommendations to address Commissioner McKinzie's family healthcare affordability concerns. City Manager Feldman confirmed amendments to the City's Classification and Compensation to implement the Study's findings is scheduled for the October 23, 2018 Commission Regular Meeting, commenting on ongoing union negotiations. City Manager Feldman discussed additional items which need to be addressed, including long-term disability and life insurance benefits for those participating in the General Employees Retirement System (GERS) and Police and Fire Department Pension Systems.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charles King, 105 N. Victoria Park Road. Mr. King commented on this topic and salary negotiations.

Mayor Trantalis recessed the meeting at 3:45 p.m. for a short break.

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

BUS-5 [18-1036](#)

Rescheduling City Commission Meeting Dates for 2019 Holidays

Following Commission discussion, there was a consensus to modify the following 2019 Commission Meeting dates:

Tuesday, July 2, 2019 Commission Meetings rescheduled to Tuesday, July 9, 2019;

Tuesday October 1, 2019 Commission Meetings rescheduled to Wednesday, October 2, 2019.

City Clerk Jeffrey Modarelli confirmed a Resolution would be brought forth to adopt the modified Commission Meeting dates.

BUS-4 [18-0964](#)

Update on the Central Beach Master Plan

Commissioner Glassman commented on concerns raised at the District II Pre-Agenda Meeting, including a request to provide the community with a red-lined copy of the Central Beach Master Plan (Plan) document that will provide a clear understanding of the Plan's modifications and proposals. He also discussed input from the Central Beach Alliance on parking requirements, the Floor Area Ratio (FAR), and a breakdown of parking for hotels versus residential.

Anthony Fajardo, Director of Sustainable Development, confirmed hotel versus residential parking is a separate item not included in the Plan and its parking requirement has a sixty/forty split. The Plan contains FAR proposals tied to building height based on a point system. The Plan also examines FAR and height to incentivize preservation of existing buildings.

Due to the importance of this item, Mayor Trantalis requested a separate Commission Workshop on Tuesday November 13, 2018 at noon to allow for an in-depth review of the Study. City Manager Feldman confirmed.

BUS-2 [18-1098](#)

Plastic Straw Ban Discussion

Mayor Trantalis recognized Luisa Agathon, Assistant to the City Manager. Ms. Agathon gave a short slide presentation on the proposed plastic straw ban. The slide presentation gives an overview of what other municipalities have done and next steps should the Commission decide to move forward.

A copy of the slide presentation is attached to these minutes.

City Attorney Alain Boileau discussed legal concerns on regulating use and enforcement. He confirmed there is no legal impediment to implementing the Ordinance alternatives as presented in the slide presentation.

Commissioner McKinzie suggested a public education campaign discouraging the use of plastic straws. Mayor Trantalis commented on implementing signage to discourage plastic straws on the beach in addition to encouraging businesses to discontinue usage. Commissioner Glassman concurred, stating there is a public education opportunity that could be coordinated with hotels, restaurants and business groups. Further comment and discussion ensued on opportunities to address pollution, limiting the use of plastic straws, ordinance options and enforcement.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charles King, 105 N. Victoria Park Road. Mr. King commented on his experience in other areas of the country that use paper straws and other environmentally friendly utensils.

Mayor Trantalis requested City Attorney Boileau draft an ordinance. Further comment and discussion ensued on details of an ordinance, including the geographic area of coverage, educational opportunities and having a grace period. City Attorney Boileau confirmed.

BUS-3 [18-0981](#)

Citywide Parking Study

Mayor Trantalis recognized Julie Leonard, Interim Director of Transportation and Mobility. Ms. Leonard gave an overview of the City-wide Parking Study (Study). The Study objectives were to evaluate parking supply, demand and requirements, utilization of existing parking facilities, and the financial stability of the Parking Fund.

Ms. Leonard introduced Erin Emmons, Associate Planner, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. Ms. Emmons narrated the Study's slide presentation. She confirmed the Study includes seasonal adjustments and can be utilized for future parking decisions and planning.

A copy of the slide presentation is attached to these minutes.

In response to Mayor Trantalis, Ms. Emmons explained aspects of parking supply, the portion privately owned and the portion available to the public. Further comment and discussion ensued on deficits in specific geographic areas.

Commissioner Moraitis arrived at 4:27 p.m.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen, Ms. Emmons explained that walking thresholds in the Study were approximately 10 minutes. Commissioner McKinzie commented on underutilized parking garages and public access. Commissioner Glassman concurred, stating there is underutilized hotel parking availability on the barrier island. Comment and discussion ensued on this topic and incentivizing parking at these locations.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question about private parking for employees or customers, Ms. Emmons confirmed that commercial private parking is primarily available to customers. She also discussed shared agreements with the Riverside Hotel to provide public parking, expounding on how it was accounted for in the Study. Residential areas with restricted parking programs were also factored into the Study. Comment and discussion ensued on the impact of services such as Uber and Lyft. Mayor Trantalis discussed public transportation infrastructure improvements in Portland, Oregon, and the future of cross-county transportation options should the half-penny sales tax ballot item be approved in November.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question about the Study's recommended Fee In Lieu of Program, Ms. Emmons explained this relates to developer requests for waivers or variances in exchange for fees paid or entering into shared parking agreements. These fees would be used to benefit parking practices.

In response to Mayor Trantalis, City Manager Feldman confirmed the ability to have a Pay In Lieu of parking fee program to developers, expounding on details on how they can be used. City Attorney Boileau confirmed the ability to charge this fee, confirming the fee cannot be earmarked and the need to comply with the State Statute. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Kristen Maus, 1778 Marietta Drive, and member of the Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board (BRAB). Ms. Maus commented on parking demand in the beach area and a recent meeting with the BRAB and the Parks and Recreation Department on developing DC Alexander Park (Park). Ms. Maus said the meeting included conceptual recommendations which included a playground and elimination of existing parking. She voiced her opposition to parking elimination and further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Fertig, 511 Poinciana Drive. Ms. Fertig

commented on past parking studies and the impact of the parking deficiency discussed in the Study. She confirmed the Idlewyld neighborhood's request for a Residential Parking Program, expounding on details. Ms. Fertig requested careful consideration of parking reductions and the impact on surrounding neighborhoods.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

NONE.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board Meeting would be held tonight in Commission Chambers following the 6:00 p.m. Commission Regular Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the Commission Conference Meeting of October 9, 2018 at 5:16 p.m.