



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

DRAFT

**CITIZENS COMMITTEE OF RECOGNITION
MEETING - VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON - MINUTES
Wednesday, September 24, 2021 | 10:00 a.m.
Fort Lauderdale City Hall, 100 N. Andrews Avenue
City Commission Conference Room**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Jack Seiler, Chair
Jim Naugle
Romney Rogers
Mary Fertig
Michael Albetta

ABSENT

Ina Lee

STAFF

Mark Fein, Director of Communications
Safeea Ali, Staff Liaison
Andres Hernandez, Virtual Meeting Team
Lisa Tayar, Prototype, Inc.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. Approval of July 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Naugle, seconded by Ms. Fertig, to approve the September 18, 2019 meeting minutes. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

III. 2019 Awards Recognition

Ms. Ali provided a list of 2020 nominees asking the Committee members their thoughts with regard to recognizing 2019 award recipients (it was pointed out that three of the four recipients are now deceased), or just going forward with 2020 nominations. By consensus of the Board, it was decided to recognize 2019 recipients and reconvene to discuss 2020 nominations. Mr. Albetta suggested an umbrella nomination of Covid "frontline workers" for 2020. Afterwards, the Committee could then focus on 2021.

Motion made by Ms. Fertig, seconded by Mr. Naugle, to recognize 2019 nominees, have staff figure out a way to properly recognize them, and reconvene the Committee to look at 2020. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

IV. 2020/2021 Nomination Discussion

Motion made by Mr. Albetta, seconded by Mr. Naugle, to recognize the “heroes of the pandemic” for 2020. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

There will be no specific category nominations for 2020.

Proposals for ordinance revisions were made by Ms. Fertig. After a review of the previous meeting minutes, Ms. Fertig picked up ideas for suggestion as there had been a concern about the Committee’s processes. As the Committee will be in place after the first Commission meeting in November, an organizational meeting in February should be scheduled.

Chair Seiler expressed a desire to be able to come out with an announcement after today’s meeting to kickoff 2019 recognition.

Discussion continued regarding a timeline for 2020, 2021, and possibly 2022, nominations and recognition.

It was suggested that 2019 and 2020 recognition ceremonies be at the same time. Staff could select a person to represent the “heroes,” specifically from the fire department, police department, teachers, and healthcare workers.

Motion made by Mr. Naugle, seconded by Mr. Albetta, to recognize four categories and get a representative from each category for 2020 (i.e., the Police Chief, the Fire Chief, Shane Strum at Broward Health, and Zoie Saunders), to be recognized at one event. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The Commission will decide on when to hold the ceremony, although the Committee is recommending it be held in 2021.

Motion made by Ms. Fertig, to recognize 2021 nominees in February or March and 2022 nominees in October of 2022.

Discussion continued regarding the schedule and timeline for 2021 and 2022 nominations and recognition.

Ms. Fertig expressed concern that the Committee had gotten off schedule in 2019.

Chair Seiler suggested January of 2022 to get 2021 applications in, with the Committee meeting in February and/or March to get recommendations to the Commission by the end of March for the first meeting in April. January 31, 2022 was decided as the deadline for 2021 nomination applications.

Motion amended by Ms. Fertig, seconded by Mr. Naugle, to celebrate 2019 and 2020 in the fall of 2021, and begin the process for 2021 nominations for honor in late spring of 2022. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The schedule will be as follows: January 1-31, 2022 for submissions, next Committee meeting in February 2022 for 2021 nominees, two meetings to be held (one in February and one in March 2022), with names going to the Commission by March 31, 2022.

V. Old or New Business

- Ordinance Guidelines
- Review of Application
- Upcoming Calendar Year

With regard to the new category of honoring a former elected City officeholder for a Dedicated Public Servant Award, Ms. Fertig proposed the draft ordinance, which if gotten to the Commission timely could be ready in time for this upcoming year, as follows:

"...recognizes a former elected official who, at the time of their service, lived in Fort Lauderdale and was elected by Fort Lauderdale citizens to represent them."

The list of categories is a member of the City Commission, School Board, County Government, State Legislature, State Government, US House of Representatives, or the US Senate, and "where service significantly impacted the people of Fort Lauderdale."

"To be eligible for nomination, you must not currently be elected to office nor a candidate for any of the above offices."

It was noted that a candidate who moves to another city subsequent to their term of service would not be disqualified from nomination.

Ms. Fertig explained that they had taken the ordinance done approximately ten years ago and included this additional language. She added anyone a candidate for any of the above offices in Broward County would be excluded eliminating any concerns for politicizing the award by nominating anyone currently running for office.

Mr. Naugle suggested a five year out of office limitation. He also proposed adding "County office" in lieu of "County Commission" which would be more inclusive.

Discussion continued regarding adding "County Charter" so other County positions such as Sheriff could be included as well as judiciary positions.

Ms. Fertig suggested "City, County, State, or Federal Government" be included in the wording.

Chair Seiler reread the wording as follows: "Dedicated Public Servant Award recognizes a former elected official who, at the time of their service, lived in Fort Lauderdale and was elected by Fort Lauderdale citizens to represent them in City, County, State, or Federal Government and whose service significantly impacted the people of Fort Lauderdale. To be eligible for nomination, the individual must not be currently an elected official nor a candidate for any of the above offices."

Motion made by Ms. Fertig, seconded by Mr. Albetta, to adopt the language as stated. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Student of the Year was then brought up by Ms. Fertig who proposed the following language: "Student of the Year recognizes a Fort Lauderdale student who has excelled in academics, athletics, extracurricular activities, and/or community service and who exhibits good citizenship, courage, integrity, leadership, kindness to others and/or perseverance. To be eligible for the nomination, a Student of the Year shall be a Fort Lauderdale resident who is currently enrolled in a Fort Lauderdale school."

Ms. Fertig noted there was a question of whether the recognition should be done at the same time as the others or to have a special student recognition at a Commission meeting at another time of the year.

In response to Mr. Fein's question, Chair Seiler stated the student would have to be a Fort Lauderdale resident.

Motion made by Ms. Fertig, seconded by Mr. Albetta, to approve the definition for Student of the Year, to be recognized during the same awards ceremony as other nominees. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Albetta thought Student of the Year would be a great talking point for the City of Fort Lauderdale that they're recognizing "tomorrow's future."

Mr. Rogers expressed concern regarding diminishing the "pizzazz" of the ceremony if too many recognitions are made at one time possibly making the ceremony too long, and maintaining that the student should be a sole focus and recognized at their own ceremony separately. Ms. Fertig suggested the recognitions be made during the school year in which the student is currently attending. Mr. Albetta felt a standard would be set by recognizing the student along with adults who are outstanding achievers.

By informal consensus, a majority of the Committee members agreed to hold the recognitions at the same ceremony.

Mr. Naugle suggesting later changing to a separate ceremony if it goes too long.

Chair Seiler proposed, pending vote of the Commission, that all ceremonies be held at the same time, but if it becomes too cumbersome, the Student of the Year ceremony could be separated out on its own.

Discussion on two other proposed ordinance changes will be deferred to the next meeting.

Chair Seiler asked that staff explain to the Commission that the Committee's schedule is a temporary one to get them caught up. The nominee categories will be taken to the Commission, and then a separate item indicating that in the short term, the Committee has recommended this schedule in order to get back on track. The Committee plans to have a recommendation on a schedule going forward after honoring the 2019 and 2020 honorees, with a meeting to be held in February to discuss.

Motion made by Ms. Fertig, seconded by Mr. Albetta, to hold the next meeting on February 25, 2022 at 10:30. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by L. Tayar, Prototype, Inc.]