



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

CITIZENS COMMITTEE OF RECOGNITION
Fort Lauderdale City Hall, 100 N. Andrews Avenue
City Commission Conference Room – 8th Floor
August 31, 2017 – 9 a.m.
Minutes

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Former Mayors:
Mayor James Naugle

Former Commissioner:
Commissioner Tim Smith

Former Award Winners:
Courtney Crush, Chairperson
Eugenia Ellis

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Birch Willey

STAFF PRESENT

Monique J. Damiano, Staff Liaison
Carla Foster, Administrative Assistant

OTHER ATTENDEES

Mr. Doug Eagon, Vice Chairman, Stiles Corporation

PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting was for the Citizens Committee of Recognition to discuss nominations received for the 2016-2017 Citizens Recognition Awards and make their final recommendations to the City Commission.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chairperson Courtney Crush. It was noted that a quorum was present.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The current committee members welcomed newest committee member, former City commissioner Tim Smith.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Naugle/Ellis. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2016 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION AWARDS

Chairperson Crush opened the 2016-2017 Citizens Recognition Awards discussion.

Liaison Monique Damiano introduced a late nomination for Tam English for Distinguished Citizen, as well as an addendum to the Distinguished Citizen nomination for member Smith.

Motion: Ellis/Naugle. After a brief discussion by the committee members, a motion was made to accept the late nomination and the addendum for consideration. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Citizen of the Year

Chairperson Crush opened the floor for discussion of the Citizen of the Year category and read off the names of the 2016-2017 nominees, which include Anthony "Tony" Abbate, Pam Barlow, Craig Batzel, Jared Campbell, Ron Centamore, Brenda Edwards, Mary Fertig, Cary Goldberg, Jim Holmes, Hector Picard, Ramon Robinson, Mark Snead and Wendy Wills.

Chairperson Crush disclosed that one of the nominees for Citizen of the Year, Cary Goldberg, is a client of her law firm.

Member Naugle offered Mary Fertig for consideration, noting Ms. Fertig's lifetime participation in City activities, particularly her leadership and advocacy in the area of public education over the past 30 years, and her efforts to ensure equity for Fort Lauderdale's schools.

Member Ellis also complimented nominee Fertig's efforts with the School Board of Broward County and her contributions to public education in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Member Smith offered Ron Centamore for consideration.

Member Ellis spoke on behalf of Ron Centamore, noting he has been a long-standing community activist serving/served on numerous boards and committees and is a long-time former police officer for the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Member Naugle states that he was thinking of nominee Centamore for Distinguished Citizen. Member Ellis stated that nominee Centamore was also a nominee in the Distinguished Citizen category.

Chairperson Crush recognized nominee Wills' continued civic engagement and the effects of nominee Wills' passion, noting Ms. Wills as an outstanding representative for her neighborhood.

Chairperson Crush also recognized nominee Fertig's efforts and stated she is very deserving.

Member Smith suggests that nominee Centamore could also be considered as Exemplary Former City Employee, noting he knew nominee Centamore as a patrolman in the Victoria Park neighborhood.

Member Naugle recommends nominee Fertig for Citizen of the Year and nominee Centamore for Distinguished Citizen.

Motion: Naugle/Ellis. A motion was made to recommend Mary Fertig as the Citizen of the Year for 2016-2017. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Distinguished Citizen

Chairperson Crush opened the floor for discussion of the Distinguished Citizen category and read off the names of the 2016-2017 nominees, which include Ron Centamore, Steven Mungalsingh, Carol O'Brien, Tam English, Dr. Joann Saintyl, Tim Smith, Terry Stiles, and Wendy Ballantine Wills.

Member Smith was nominated for the Distinguished Citizen award. Given member Smith is a current committee member, Chairperson Crush asked member Smith to step out of the meeting room while the Distinguished Citizen nominees were discussed.

Member Ellis offered Ron Centamore for consideration.

Motion: Naugle/Ellis. A motion was made to recommend Ron Centamore as Distinguished Citizen for 2016-2017. In a voice vote, the motion passed 4-0. (Member Smith not present)

Exemplary Former Employee

Chairperson Crush opened the floor for discussion of the Exemplary Former City Employee category and read off the names of the 2016-2017 nominees, which include the late Freddie "Gene" Dempsey, Robert B. Dunckel, Captain Patrick Gillis, and the late John Stunson.

Member Smith offered the late Freddie "Gene" Dempsey for consideration and spoke very highly of Mr. Dempsey's "fearless, tireless" contributions to the City of Fort Lauderdale during his 20 years of service as Fort Lauderdale's City Forester.

Member Smith also spoke on behalf of nominee Dunckel, noting nominee Dunckel's years of service with the City, which started with lifeguarding at Fort Lauderdale Beach and ended with his retirement as an Assistant City Attorney.

Motion: Smith/Naugle. A motion was made to recommend the late Freddie "Gene" Dempsey as the Exemplary Former City Employee for 2016-2017. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Honored Founder

Chairperson Crush opened the floor for discussion of the Honored Founder category and read off the names of the 2016-2017 nominees, which include the late Tom Bryan and Terry Stiles.

Mr. Doug Eagon was present to speak on behalf of nominee Stiles.

Chairperson Crush invited Mr. Eagon to address the committee.

Mr. Eagon offered an extensive overview of Mr. Stiles' accomplishments and contributions to the City of Fort Lauderdale in support of nominee Stiles and expressed his appreciation for the committee's consideration of Mr. Stiles.

Member Smith offered Terry Stiles for consideration.

Member Ellis noted that in addition to nominee Stiles' contributions to the City in the area of real estate development, nominee Stiles was also very active in charitable initiatives.

Motion: Smith/Ellis. A motion was made to recommend Terry Stiles as the Honored Founder for 2016-2017. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The following names will be recommended to the City Commission for approval:

- Citizen of the Year – Mary Fertig
- Distinguished Citizen – Ronald Centamore
- Honored Founder – Terry Stiles
- Exemplary Former City Employee – The late Freddie “Gene” Dempsey

SELECTION OF 2017-2018 CHAIR

Chairperson Crush asked for nominations for a new chairperson. Member Naugle recommended that Chairperson Crush remain in position for the 2017-2018 year.

Motion: Naugle/Ellis. A motion was made for Chairperson Crush to remain in position as the Committee chairperson for one more year. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST OR CONCERN

Event Date

The 2016-2017 Citizens Recognition Awards ceremony is set for November 7, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. at Fort Lauderdale City Hall. This date is subject to change pending availability of the honorees and their families.

Nomination Process

Liaison Damiano informed the Committee that the City streamlined the nomination process this year by converting nominations to an online web form. Ms. Damiano explained that paper and electronic applications were still made available, but of the 39 nominations received, only one handwritten application was submitted. Liaison Damiano asked the Committee for feedback on the new web form, and the Committee members explained that they liked the new format, that it resulted in a clean, easy-to-follow format, and would like to see the process continue next year.

Committee Makeup

In September of 2016, former commissioner Gloria Katz notified Liaison Damiano that she had officially resigned from the committee. On July 14, 2017, former Mayor Robert A. Dressler notified Liaison Damiano via email, copying members Crush, Ellis, Smith, and Naugle, of his resignation from the committee. Former Commissioner Tim Smith was appointed to the Committee in 2017 to fill former City Commissioner Katz's seat.

During this year's meeting, the Committee discussed the total number of current members. The Committee noted that in 2018, Mayor Seiler will be eligible to join the committee, but the number of mayors serving on the committee has reduced over the past several years.

Member Smith explained that former City Commissioner John Aurelius was interested in serving on the committee, but understood that the enabling ordinance only allows for one former commissioner to serve.

Member Ellis said it is at the City Commission's discretion to add additional members to the committee.

Member Smith suggested making a recommendation to allow for more than one former city commissioner on the committee.

COMMUNICATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION

The Committee requested that the City Commission review the enabling ordinance to determine whether it is appropriate to add members to the committee, including former City Commissioners, or determine if they are satisfied with the current makeup. The Committee expressed that a cap of five to seven members would be efficient, but an even-numbered committee could be problematic for voting purposes.

PROCEDURE FOR NOTIFYING RECIPIENTS

Member Ellis reminded committee members not to disclose the recommendations made by the committee until after the City Commission has approved them. Liaison Damiano advised the committee that the plan was to submit recommendations to the City Commission in September 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Crush/Smith. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m. by Chairperson Crush

[Minutes prepared by Monique J. Damiano, Liaison]