



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**CITIZENS COMMITTEE OF RECOGNITION
MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, October 9, 2018 | 9 a.m.
Fort Lauderdale City Hall, 100 N. Andrews Avenue
7th Floor Conference Room**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Former Mayors:

Mayor James Naugle

Mayor John "Jack" P. Seiler

Former Commissioner:

Commissioner John Aurelius

Former Award Winners:

Courtney Crush, Chairperson

Eugenia Ellis

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Birch Willey

STAFF PRESENT

Monique J. Damiano, Sr. Strategic Communications Specialist/Staff Liaison

Safeea Ali, Administrative Assistant II

Carla Foster, Administrative Assistant

PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting was for the Citizens Committee of Recognition to discuss nominations for the 2018 Citizens Recognition Awards and make their final recommendations to the City Commission.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Chairperson Crush. It was noted that a quorum was present and included two former mayors, one former commissioner, and two former award winners.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The current committee welcomed newest members former Fort Lauderdale Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler and former City Commissioner John Aurelius.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Ellis/Naugle. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2017 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN RECOGNITION AWARDS

Chairperson Crush opened the 2018 Citizens Recognition Awards discussion.

Member Aurelius inquired about the nomination process and the voting for categories for the Citizen Recognition Awards.

Chairperson Crush opened the discussion regarding the nomination process to orient new member Aurelius and new member Seiler. The Committee discussed the importance of finding the right person for the right category and reserving the right to move nominees into other categories, if more appropriate, based on the nominee's application and accomplishments. Chairperson Crush further explained that committee members can make a motion regarding a nominee, speak on behalf of nominees, and provide input on why they feel a nominee should be considered for an award.

Member Ellis added that although rare, the Committee can entertain nominations from the floor.

Member Seiler asked whether the Committee has recommended more than one person for an award in the past (e.g., husband and wife) in the same category, in the same year. Chairperson Crush confirmed that more than one person has been awarded in the past. Liaison Damiano shared that the Honorable W. Herbert Moriarty and the Honorable Estella Moriarty were named Distinguished Citizens in 2002.

Citizen of the Year

Chairperson Crush opened the floor for discussion of the Citizen of the Year and read the description for this category.

Member Ellis spoke on behalf of JoAnn Smith. Member Ellis explained that Ms. Smith volunteers for every City event, oversees City volunteers, served on the Parks & Recreation Board for years, was instrumental in building the botanical garden in Stranahan Park, and makes a continuous commitment to the City of Fort Lauderdale without expecting anything in return.

Member Naugle supported Member Ellis' recommendation, and Member Seiler stated that Ms. Smith certainly has volunteer spirit, is always positive, and is a perfect nominee for Citizen of the Year.

Motion: Ellis/Seiler. A motion was made to recommend JoAnn Smith as the Citizen of the Year for 2018. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Distinguished Citizen

Chairperson Crush opened the floor for discussion of the Distinguished Citizen and read the description for this category.

Member Naugle brought Micky Hinton's name forward, stating that Mr. Hinton was always involved in the construction industry.

Member Seiler noted Beverly Morley's nomination and mentioned he did not recall seeing anyone that represents the vitally important marine industry recognized in the past.

Member Aurelius recommended former City Commissioner Tim Smith, noting Mr. Smith's contributions to the N.E. 13th Street transformation, Middle River Terrace Park, Annie Beck House, Citizens Volunteer Corps, Fort Lauderdale Fire and Safety Museum, and other extensive public service initiatives.

Member Crush brought Ramola Motwani's name forward, highlighting Ms. Motwani as a long-standing property owner who not only invested in development on Fort Lauderdale Beach, but also devotes a significant amount of time to supporting community organizations.

Member Aurelius stated that he understands the historical perspective of the roles of the Motwani family and how important they have been to the City.

Member Seiler felt Ms. Motwani should be considered in the Honor Founder category. Ms. Motwani and her late husband, Ramesh "Bob" Motwani, were also nominated in the Honored Founder category.

Member Naugle shared that Mr. Motwani was instrumental in shutting down spring break on the beach and always supported City initiatives.

Member Seiler mentioned Mr. Smith's 35 years of supporting the City and building community, and aside from serving as an elected official, Mr. Smith initiated many charitable and volunteer efforts, such as toy drives, crime walks, neighborhood events, and cleanup projects.

Member Aurelius introduced Marge Anderson's name for possible consideration.

Member Naugle introduced Planning and Zoning Board member Barbara Curtis for consideration, stating Ms. Curtis was very instrumental in battling against Multidyne Medical Waste Management's waste incinerator facility in Fort Lauderdale.

Chairperson Crush discussed the long-term significant impact Hadny Fayyaz has had on the City.

Member Seiler added that Ms. Fayyaz was a champion for Hortic Park in the Shady Banks neighborhood and stated that the Citizen of the Year category may be more appropriate for Ms. Fayyaz.

Member Ellis brought Gale Butler's name forward for consideration, stating Ms. Butler was born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, has been very active in Fort Lauderdale's community for years and is now serving as executive director of Hugh Taylor Birch State Park.

Member Naugle stated he was surprised Ms. Butler had not been honored in the past.

Member Aurelius stated Ms. Butler is doing a great job at Birch State Park, but continued to express his support for Mr. Smith.

Motion: Aurelius/Seiler. A motion was made to recommend Tim Smith as the Distinguished Citizen for 2018. In a voice vote, the motion passed 3/2.

Exemplary Former City Employee

Chairperson Crush opened the floor for discussion of the Exemplary Former City Employee and read the description for this category.

Member Ellis noted that Bob Dunckel was nominated in this category again this year. Member Seiler stated that Bob is a natural for Exemplary Former City Employee. Discussion ensued regarding Mr. Dunckel's current part-time employment with the City, making him ineligible for consideration this year.

Member Seiler recommended carrying Mr. Dunckel's nomination over to next year.

Member Aurelius made a nomination from the table, bringing former Police Chief Frank Adderley's name forward for consideration. Member Aurelius explained that Mr. Adderley had been a long-standing resident, worked through the ranks of the Police Department, and retired as Police Chief.

Member Naugle and member Seiler expressed their support for Mr. Adderley as the recommended Exemplary Former City Employee.

Motion: Aurelius/Naugle. A motion was made to recommend Frank Adderley as the Exemplary Former City Employee for 2018. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Honored Founder

Chairperson Crush opened the floor for discussion of the Honored Founder and read the description for this category.

Member Aurelius spoke on behalf of former Commissioner Carlton B. Moore, stating Mr. Moore was elected to represent District 3 in 1985 and contributed substantially during his time in office.

Member Seiler stated that he thought the City Commission was planning to do something on a larger-scale (i.e., street naming, park naming) for former Commissioner Moore and expressed that the City needs to do something in Carlton's honor for his years of service.

Member Naugle mentioned that if the Commission is in the process of a street/park naming, perhaps the City also name an annual signature event after former Commissioner Moore, similar to naming David Deal Playday after former City employee David Deal.

All five Committee members strongly expressed the need to do something beyond a Citizens Recognition Award for former Commissioner Moore and requested that Liaison Damiano include a note in the Communication to the City Commission on behalf of the Committee (see below).

Member Seiler recommended that the Committee consider the Motwani's in the Honored Founder category and mentioned that Mr. Motwani never had the opportunity to see his vision through, although his wife and sons have successfully completed his vision.

Member Aurelius stated Mrs. Motwani's role is continuing and recognized the role of the Motwani family from a historical perspective, stating both Mr. & Mrs. Motwani have been very important to the City's history.

Motion: Seiler/Naugle. A motion was made to recommend Ramola and Ramesh Motwani as the Honored Founders for 2018. 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 – JoAnn Smith
- Distinguished Citizen – Tim Smith
- Honored Founder – Ramola and Ramesh “Bob” Motwani
- Exemplary Former City Employee – Former Police Chief Frank Adderley

SELECTION OF 2019 CHAIR

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

Member Crush thanked member Naugle for the recommendation, but explained that although she would be happy to continue as chairperson, her term on the committee may soon expire.

Motion: Naugle/Crush. A motion was made to name member Seiler as the as the 2018-2019 Citizens Committee of Recognition Chairperson. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

CARRYOVERS

Robert Dunckel – Exemplary Former City Employee

COMMUNICATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION

After a lengthy discussion regarding former Commissioner Carlton Moore’s nomination for Honored Founder, the Committee feels that while former Commissioner Moore is more than qualifies as a recipient for a Citizens Recognition Award, former Commissioner Moore deserves permanent recognition from the City Commission. The Committee is under the impression that the current Commission is in the process of determining the appropriate vehicle to honor former Commission Moore and the Committee encourages the Commission to continue that discussion and to recognize former Commissioner Moore in the very near future in a manner that aligns with his significant contributions to the City of Fort Lauderdale.

OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST OR CONCERN

Event Date

The 2018 Citizens Recognition Awards ceremony is tentatively set for 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 4, 2018, at Fort Lauderdale City Hall. This date is subject to change pending availability of the honorees and their families.

Liaison Role

Liaison Damiano announced that Ms. Safeea Ali would be closely involved in this year’s event planning activities, as Ms. Ali is transitioning into the liaison role in 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

[Minutes prepared by Monique J. Damiano, Liaison]