



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**CITIZENS COMMITTEE OF RECOGNITION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 7, 2019 | 10 a.m.
Fort Lauderdale City Hall, 100 N. Andrews Avenue
City Commission Conference Room**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Former Mayors:

Mayor Jim Naugle

Mayor Jack Seiler

Former Award Winners:

Mary Fertig

Ina Lee

Fort Lauderdale Council of Civic Associations Representative:

Michael Albetta

STAFF

Safeea Ali, Staff Liaison

Monique J. Damiano, Staff Liaison

Chaz Adams, Strategic Communications Manager

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

II. Approval of November 29, 2018 and December 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Naugle, seconded by Mr. Albetta, to approve the November 29, 2018 minutes. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Naugle, seconded by Mr. Albetta, to approve the December 17, 2018 minutes. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

Ms. Lee noted that according to discussion in the minutes of the December 17, 2018 meeting, there is an application period with a deadline for submission of candidate names; however, the Committee members may also recommend names for consideration at the meetings, even if no applications for those individuals were submitted. It was explained that once the list of names has been submitted, the Committee may decide that the lists of candidates in their categories are not sufficient. The purpose of this rule is to allow the members to propose additional candidates. It was noted that a time frame for the provision of additional names may be determined in the future, as well as public notice.

Ms. Fertig suggested that the time frame in which additional candidates may be proposed be limited to two weeks before discussion. She also recommended that the Committee require applications for additional nominations so they may be properly reviewed.

Ms. Damiano recalled that when online nominations are made, the Committee members automatically receive these submissions via email. If there are additional candidates that members wish to nominate, they may fill out an application for those candidates. This provides Staff with the appropriate information used to process honorees and allows the members to submit names in advance of the next scheduled meeting.

Chair Seiler advised that there are two options: the Committee members may submit names for consideration two weeks in advance of the meeting; alternatively, if a name is presented at a meeting, no vote would be taken in that category until at least two weeks after its submission. This will provide greater opportunity for input. The Committee members agreed to these proposals by consensus.

Ms. Damiano stated that the members would receive an email informing them of when the nomination process has been opened, based on the timeline established by the Committee. At that time, she will ask the members whether or not they would like to automatically receive the applications via email at the time they are submitted. If they do not wish to receive applications electronically, the members will receive a packet of applications once the deadline has passed.

Chair Seiler recommended that the packets be provided after nominations have closed so the members may determine if additional candidates should be presented at the meeting. A member who wishes to submit a name for consideration may either do so online or via paper copy, or may contact Staff directly to have that name added to the list. He reiterated that should additional names be presented, the Committee will not vote on them for at least two weeks.

Mr. Albetta proposed that the deadline for Committee members' submissions be two weeks in advance of their meeting.

Ms. Damiano also addressed "carry-overs," or candidates whose names might be carried over from a previous year for consideration. She recommended that the Committee determine whether or not they wish to continue this practice, or if those names must be

re-submitted each year. It was determined that names would continue to be carried over into the following year. Ms. Lee advised that carry-overs should be limited to one year after the original submission of that name. It was agreed that no additional weight would be given to the consideration of names carried over from the previous year.

Chair Seiler recalled that there had also been discussion at previous meetings of the creation of a new category to honor former elected officials. Ms. Damiano reported that this suggestion was sent as a communication to the City Commission, but the Commission has taken no action thus far. Chair Seiler asserted that he did not believe former elected officials should have their own category.

Motion made by Ms. Fertig, seconded by Ms. Lee, to leave the consideration of a separate classification for former elected officials at all levels and all areas of government, with the provision that [candidates] be out of office [or] have not run for office in the past five years. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Ms. Fertig recalled that the Committee had also previously discussed potential procedural changes, such as ensuring members are appointed at an earlier time of year rather than near the time of candidate consideration. It was noted that this practice is set by the City Commission. At present, members' terms are staggered based upon their time of appointment, with the exception of former Mayors, who serve longer terms.

Chair Seiler suggested that the Agenda include appointment dates so members are aware of when terms are set to expire or when new members may be appointed. Members from the community are appointed to one-year terms. Ms. Fertig pointed out that most appointees to City advisory bodies serve one-year terms with the option of reappointment, with a maximum of six years' service. It was determined that this will be further clarified at the next meeting, and appointment information will be added to the Agenda.

IV. New Business

It was noted that the Committee must meet at least twice each year. Typically, the first meeting covers old and new business as well as the timeline for the new year, while the second meeting includes selection of honorees, reserving sufficient time for this information to be sent to the City Commission for approval and for the planning of an event in the honorees' recognition.

Chair Seiler suggested that the public submission deadline of July be moved to an earlier time of year. It was determined that this year's submission date would be set for May 31, 2019. The Committee may then meet in either June or August 2019. The members agreed by consensus to meet on June 27, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. to vote on the candidates. This would allow the candidates' names to be sent to the City Commission by July or August 2019.

Once public nominations are closed on May 31, Staff will prepare the members' packets and deliver them for review. If a member wishes to submit another name for consideration, s/he must do so no later than Thursday, June 13, 2019.

Chair Seiler reviewed the following schedule:

- May 31, 2019: public submission deadline
- June 10, 2019: submissions presented to the Committee members
- June 13, 2019: members' submission deadline
- June 27, 2019: Committee meeting and vote

Motion made by Ms. Fertig, seconded by Mr. Naugle, for [the above] dates. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

It was determined that there would be no new categories added in 2019.

Ms. Damiano reported that recognition of 2018 honorees will be held on February 28, 2019, in combination with the annual State of the City event. It was decided that the request for 2019 nominations will be announced at this event, and nomination cards will be made available to attendees. The event for 2019 honorees may be scheduled in October or November 2019.

Ms. Lee asked if there have been instances in which two candidates were nominated in a category. Ms. Damiano replied that this has happened on occasion, including the Honored Founders category in 2018. Chair Seiler advised that there is no policy prohibiting two nominees.

Ms. Fertig suggested that the Committee consider a category recognizing an outstanding student or students from the community. This would be consistent with the City's priority of elevating education and recognizing future leaders with outstanding achievements in schools.

Chair Seiler pointed out that there are already multiple community organizations that honor various types of student achievements. He emphasized the importance of establishing clear criteria if this category is created. Mr. Naugle added that the criteria would need to relate to the City in some way. It was acknowledged that the creation of this category would likely result in hundreds of candidates, many of whom may not be familiar to the community at large.

Ms. Fertig stated that the intent of this proposed category would be to provide greater visibility to the achievements of young people in the Fort Lauderdale community. She pointed out that recognition by the City is likely to be more significant than recognition from various community entities. She offered to work with Ms. Damiano to refine potential criteria if the Committee is interested in going forward with the proposed category.

It was determined that the possible new category and its criteria would be discussed further at the June 27, 2019 meeting under Old Business. Ms. Fertig recommended that members could email additional thoughts on the proposed category to Ms. Damiano.

A member of the public characterized the 2018 award process as politicized, stating that one of the candidates may have felt bullied during the process. He also did not feel it was appropriate for Chair Seiler to serve as Chair of the Committee.

V. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]