



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
MARINE ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – EIGHTH FLOOR
CITY HALL**

THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.

**Cumulative Attendance
May 2021 – April 2022**

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|---|
| Grant Henderson, Chair | P | 3 | 0 |
| Ed Strobel, Vice Chair | P | 3 | 0 |
| Deirdre Boling-Lewis | P | 2 | 1 |
| Robyn Chiarelli | A | 1 | 2 |
| Bob Denison | P | 2 | 0 |
| Barry Flanigan | P | 2 | 1 |
| Richard Graves | A | 1 | 2 |
| James Harrison | P | 3 | 0 |
| Rose Ann Lovell | A | 2 | 1 |
| Kitty McGowan | A | 2 | 1 |
| Norbert McLaughlin | P | 3 | 0 |
| Ted Morley | A | 2 | 1 |
| Christopher Rotella | P | 3 | 0 |
| Bill Walker | P | 3 | 0 |
| Steve Witten | P | 3 | 0 |

As of this date, there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Andrew Cuba, Marine Facilities Manager
Jonathan Luscomb, Marine Facilities Supervisor
Sergeant Todd Mills, Fort Lauderdale Police Department
Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to City Commission

Motion made by Vice Chair Strobel, seconded by Mr. Harrison, to send the following communication to the City Commission:

The seawall adjacent to The Wharf is in desperate need of repair and is a major liability to the City. The area is still being used by the public. The Winterfest Boat Parade has been informed it is not safe to be used to stage for the 50th anniversary parade in December. Repair should be a priority before an accident happens.

Signs have been erected multiple times to prohibit docking, which have been removed and ignored. We recommend putting a physical barrier up to block access to the unsafe condition that exists and prioritizing this repair to be done as soon as possible.

In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Henderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and roll was called.

II. Approval of Minutes – June 3, 2021

Motion made by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Witten, to approve the minutes of the June 3 meeting. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

III. Statement of Quorum

It was noted a quorum was present at the meeting.

IV. Introduction of New Member – Bob Denison

New Board member Bob Denison was introduced at this time.

V. Waterway Crime & Boating Safety Report

Sergeant Todd Mills of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department's Marine Unit reported the following activity from June 2021:

- 38 citations
- 96 warnings
- 8 safety inspections
- 6 accidents
- 12 incidents

Sgt. Mills advised that of the 38 citations, 18 were issued to individuals on jet skis. Similarly, 39 of the 96 warnings were issued to jet ski riders. The Marine Unit did not deal with any derelict vessels during June, although one such vessel remains underwater in Lake Sylvia and two others are still going through the derelict process.

Sgt. Mills continued that most of the incidents addressed by the Marine Unit were boating accidents that were resolved by the complainants themselves. There was also a report of floating narcotics near Port Everglades. He added that the Marine Unit has applied for a Florida Inland Navigational District (FIND) grant for roughly \$40,000 to purchase new engines for their boats.

Sgt. Mills concluded that fireworks are planned for the Fourth of July.

Mr. Harrison requested clarification of whether sunken derelict boats make the documentation process easier. Sgt. Mills explained that sometimes it can take more time to have sunken vessels classified as derelict and remove them. The City typically seeks reimbursement for the cost of raising a sunken boat from the boat's owner. It was noted that the Florida Legislature recently passed Bill 1086, which streamlines the derelict vessel process by allowing some boats to be labeled "at-risk" before they sink.

VI. Dock Waiver – 435 Bayshore Drive – Unit 402 / Stephen Farrell

This Item was withdrawn at the request of the applicant.

VII. Discussion Item – Water Quality Initiative

Mr. Luscomb advised that he is working with the City's water quality initiative and is tasked with finding ways to increase the availability of pump-out service to vessels. The federal government provides funds to assist states in purchasing pump-out stations or vessels. These grants cover 75% of these costs to the City. When this funding is used, however, the City may not charge more than \$5 per pump-out for the first five years, which does not cover operational costs.

Mr. Luscomb continued that one option used in Martin County is a vessel that can be called to respond to an owner's home to pump out vessels. Their costs are absorbed by the county and the boat removes approximately 165,000 gallons per year. Monroe County issues requests for proposal (RFPs) for boats to cover different zones in the Florida Keys with pump-out service. Owners must register their vessels to receive free pump-out service and are required to pump out vessels at least once per month. These vendors charge roughly \$52 per pump-out to the county, which includes the cost of fuel.

Mr. Luscomb stated that of the 27 marinas within Fort Lauderdale city limits, 12 are classified as clean marinas. He noted that the state is now applying to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to become a No Discharge Zone. On July 1, 2021, all aquatic preserves in the state are automatically considered No Discharge Zones. Broward County does not have any aquatic preserves at present.

Fort Lauderdale has three private sector businesses that provide pump-out service. Mr. Luscomb emphasized that it is not the City's intent to impinge upon any of these businesses: it is hoped that the City can develop a public/private effort that incorporates these entities in the process.

Mr. Luscomb noted that the City could partner with businesses that provide mobile pump-outs throughout Fort Lauderdale. Another option could be to determine locations where free or inexpensive pump-out service could be provided. It was noted that pump-out systems are reasonably inexpensive. One difficult aspect of using grant funds for

pump-outs could be tracking the information required by grant agencies, such as the owners of serviced vessels and whether they are from in- or outside the state. He concluded that it can be difficult for a pump-out business to be profitable, as cost and convenience can both serve as deterrents to this service.

VIII. Old / New Business

Mr. Luscomb also provided an update on three areas in the City that required mitigation following sewage spills, including George English Park. He noted that this job has been delayed while awaiting computer hardware required for the process. The process is expected to begin the second or third week of July. This will be followed by projects on the Tarpon River and in the Himmarshee area.

Vice Chair Strobel reported that the seawall in front of The Wharf Fort Lauderdale cannot be used as a staging area for the Winterfest Boat Parade in 2021, as it has been determined to be unsafe. There are no funds in the budget at this time to make repairs to this portion of the seawall. He pointed out that boats are docked at this location every day, and expressed concern with the possibility of concrete failure and injury. He suggested that the Board send a communication to the City Commission recommending that these repairs be prioritized for safety reasons.

Mr. Harrison recalled that this area may have been discussed previously by the City Commission, as The Wharf had sought permission to use it as a private facility. Mr. Cuba clarified that no formal action has been taken on this area. Mr. Walker added that the Board has expressed concern to the City Commission in past communications about other unsafe areas. It was noted that once a seawall collapses, it is significantly more expensive to repair or replace.

Mr. McLaughlin commented that the City has a maintenance agreement with a marine contractor, which could be called in to address the safety issue. Mr. Harrison observed that repairs to the north seawall have been an ongoing issue, with the City seeking funds from the County to help with this expense. He also noted that the dock in question is a commercial dock, which The Wharf had seemed to want to turn into a non-commercial facility. He felt strongly that the dock should remain commercial. He also asked if the dock has signage or fencing that indicates it is unsafe.

Mr. Cuba advised that the dock is divided into three zones: a commercial zone, a drop-off area for the Water Taxi, and a transient zone. Up until roughly three months ago, the City was charging vessels to stay at the location; however, they have since been instructed not to charge vessels for staying there, and to place signage on the property indicating that the dock was out of order. The signage was implemented, and it was suggested that the area be barricaded. The signage has since been removed and replaced.

Mr. Luscomb noted that sections of the seawall may be eligible for grant funding.

Motion made by Vice Chair Strobel to send this:

The seawall adjacent to The Wharf is in desperate need of repair and is a major liability to the City. The area is still being used by the public. The Winterfest Boat Parade has been informed it is not safe to be used to stage for the 50th anniversary parade in December. Repair should be a priority before an accident happens.

Mr. Harrison recommended that the proposed communication to the City Commission also include the following:

Signs have been erected multiple times to prohibit docking, which have been removed and ignored. We recommend putting a physical barrier up to block access to the unsafe condition that exists and prioritizing this repair to be done as soon as possible.

Mr. Harrison **seconded** the **motion**. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Mr. Cuba encouraged the Board members to attend the City Commission meeting at which this communication would be discussed. Mr. McLaughlin suggested that they may also wish to bring photos of the area.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.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.]