



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
NOISE CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NCAC)
FORT LAUDERDALE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT – FIRE STATION #2
3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023 – 1:00 P.M.

July 2022 – June 2023

Attendance

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Eugenia “Genia” Ellis, Chair | P | 5 | 2 |
| William Brown, Vice-Chair | P | 7 | 0 |
| Ralph Stone | A | 5 | 2 |
| Rocco Ferrara | P | 7 | 0 |
| Steven Hudson | P | 6 | 1 |
| Chad McCoury | P | 7 | 0 |
| Miguel Pilgram | P | 3 | 4 |
| Tim Petrillo | A | 5 | 2 |
| Renee Quinn | A | 5 | 2 |

Call to Order & Determination of Quorum

Chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 1:08 P.M.

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Staff

- Anthony Fajardo, Assistant City Manager
- Porshia Garcia, Deputy Director, Development Services Department
- Stephanie Bass, Code Compliance Supervisor
- Sarah Hannah-Spurlock, Nighttime Economy Manager
- Katrina Jordan, Code Compliance Manager
- Major Victor London, Chief’s Executive Officer, Fort Lauderdale Police Department
- Brad Weissman, Assistant City Attorney
- Donna Varisco, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Others

- Keely Siebein, Siebein and Associates (virtually)
- Martin Gold, Siebein and Associates (virtually)
- Marilyn Roa, Siebein and Associates (virtually)
- David Magden, Public
- Carla Blair, Recording Secretary, Prototype-Inc.

Approval of the March 28, 2023, Meeting Minutes

A **motion** was made by Mr. McCoury, seconded by Mr. Pilgram, to approve the March 28, 2023, meeting minutes. In a voice vote, the **motion passed** unanimously (6-0).

New Business

- **Review of the Findings of the Second Sound Tour by Gary Siebein of Siebein Associates**

Ms. Keely Siebein, Associate Principal, introduced herself and additional team members Mr. Martin Gold and Ms. Marilyn Roa. Ms. Siebein noted the second site visit occurred and long-term sound levels were captured at some receiver locations to better understand the acoustic phenomenon. She reviewed acoustic concept basics, including weighted curves.

Mr. Gold further explained the way sound levels are currently measured.

Mr. Brown asked what most municipalities use in their weighting system. Ms. Siebein replied that it differs by municipality but those they work with typically use C-weighted for their entertainment districts. Ms. Siebein added some communities do octave band noise level limits.

Ms. Siebein continued the presentation by reviewing the concept of amplified music on grade and noted buildings can act as a barrier between source and receiver. She displayed a model to demonstrate the concept. Mr. Gold clarified the phenomenon is the same independent of the scale of the building.

Ms. Siebein reviewed the concept of ambient sound on grade and discussed building infrastructure and amplified sound, including on open roofs. Mr. Gold provided additional information on open and closed-roof systems and sound levels and containment.

Ms. Siebein displayed a 3-D model of sound waves across an open and closed façade. She continued the presentation by describing amplified music along waterways and noted the sound can travel long distances. Mr. Gold discussed the reflection of sound from buildings and potential increase in decibels.

Ms. Siebein stated another concept is bass sounds travel farther and remain stronger. She spoke about the noise concerns from the public realm not associated with property, which could include street or parking lot with sound sources. She reviewed ways in which noise affects health.

Ms. Siebein reviewed planning principles for livability.

Mr. Gold stated they are looking for direction on prioritizing the findings.

Mr. Hudson asked about the findings from the second visit. Mr. Gold said they still have a lot of data to review but he noted some of the measurements taken at greater elevation were up to 10 decibels higher than readings on the ground level. He confirmed

the meters were mounted outside and discussed the different measurements taken on both visits.

Mr. Hudson asked staff if most complaints are about bass or heavy thumping. Ms. Hannah-Spurlock said it is typically bass in the entertainment district, but they receive other noise complaints as well.

Mr. Hudson said the purpose of the committee is to address all noise.

Discussion ensued about public safety and health and legal challenges. Assistant City Attorney Weissman noted any changes to ordinances regarding health and safety will need justification and backup.

Mr. Hudson asked if there is a decibel correlation between source and receiver. Mr. Gold said yes but it is not receiver specific. He said impact glass is good for reducing mid-level sound frequencies but not for bass or low frequency energy. He offered additional strategies including installation of permanent sound level meters that are monitored and drones. He noted the challenge moving forward is deciding on where to measure from.

Ms. Spurlock said it is difficult to soundproof a building but not impossible.

Mr. Brown said the public health impact should be considered.

Mr. Weissman noted the prohibition of a government entity utilizing drones over someone's property without consent.

Discussion ensued about the public health impact, utilizing C-weighted levels, bass, and whether to measure from source or receiver. Chair Ellis stated they would need to wait for the data before deciding on measurement location.

Ms. Siebein said they can present findings once they review more data. She noted extraneous noise and background contamination should be looked at carefully.

Mr. McCoury asked Ms. Garcia if they currently measure at source in the entertainment districts. Ms. Garcia said yes and confirmed it is 5 feet from the property line.

Ms. Garcia was asked why the entertainment district is measured in this manner. Ms. Garcia said she does not know, but noted the ordinance permits higher decibel levels in the entertainment district. She added it is easier for the Code Compliance Officer to identify the sole source when the measurement is taken closer.

Mr. McCoury asked Ms. Garcia if a similar practice for non-entertainment districts would be easier for Code Compliance Officers. Ms. Garcia replied yes.

Discussion ensued about entertainment districts, sound measurement, and the ordinance.

Mr. Brown asked when the study will be complete and finalized. Chair Ellis said the draft and recommendations will be presented in June. Ms. Siebein stated she will confirm delivery date with Mr. Gary Siebein. Mr. Gold summarized next steps and said they will be prepared with more data and graphics by the Committee's June 27th meeting.

Chair Ellis requested access to the data. Mr. Gold said they can post the data on their digital wall that anyone can access.

Ms. Garcia confirmed the Committee will review the noise ordinance after they receive the draft report.

Good of the Order

No additional comments.

Public Comments

Mr. David Magden said sound measurements were taken from his building a few weeks ago. He said the noise occurring that weekend was half the normal levels.. He said he appreciates the work the Committee is doing and is hoping for the best results.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 1:00 P.M.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 P.M.

[Minutes prepared by TBaclawski, Prototype-Inc.]