



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**COMMUNITY APPEARANCE BOARD MEETING  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
FIRE STATION 2  
528 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> STREET  
DECEMBER 13, 2023 – 5:30 P.M.**

**Board Member**

**Attendance**

Cabot Edewaard, Chair	A
Jack Plakotaris, Vice Chair	P
Chauncell Dean	P
Siran Derbedrossian	P
James Hawkins	P
Elka Keimel	A
Vida Maus	A
Rex Nichols	A
Miguel Wright (at 5:52 p.m.)	P
Sally Zubero	P

**Staff Attending**

Safeea Ali, Senior Strategic Communications Specialist  
Carla Blair, Prototype, Inc.

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. by Vice Chair Plakotaris. Roll was called, and it was determined a quorum was not yet present.

New Board member James Hawkins introduced himself briefly.

*Item II was heard following Item IV.*

**II. Approval of Minutes**

- **November 8, 2023**

**Motion** made by Ms. Derbedrossian, seconded by Mr. Wright, to approve the November 8, 2023, minutes as presented. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**III. Chair Update**

None.

#### **IV. Liaison Report**

Safeea Ali, Senior Strategic Communications Specialist, advised that she had sent the Board an email which included the list of properties nominated for the Annual Community Appearance Awards. She reviewed the list briefly and described the Annual Awards and WOW Award criteria. She stated the Communication to the Commission was scheduled to be presented on January 9, and she needed a Board member to attend with her.

Vice Chair Plakotaris stated he was unavailable on January 9. Ms. Ali stated another Board member could attend. She noted she would reach out to Chair Edewaard.

Ms. Ali shared that Princess Cruises had donated at the Platinum level. Discussion ensued regarding past confusion over disposition of the check.

Vice Chair Plakotaris noted that Chair Edewaard was also speaking to someone about sponsoring the brass plaques.

Ms. Ali stated a property that Chair Edewaard had previously nominated reached out to her about getting their plaque.

Discussion continued on the significance of the plaques. Ms. Ali noted she had recently noticed a plaque on the Stranahan House which was placed in the 1980s. Ms. Derbedrossian stated there is also one (1) in the lobby of her building.

Ms. Ali asked if the Board was set on not holding an event for 2023. Consensus was that the Board did not have the resources to put it together, so they would focus on funding options and a 2024 event.

Vice Chair Plakotaris asked about the process for nominating the new YMCA. Ms. Ali advised that they had won in the last round of awards.

Ms. Zubero shared pictures that she and Vida Maus had collected, noting she was considering nominating Fire Station 8 for sustainability.

Miguel Wright arrived at 5:52 p.m. and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Vice Chair Plakotaris stated he had reached out to the Hilton Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort regarding their wind turbines, so he thought that might be a sustainability project, as well.

Ms. Zubero continued reviewing her pictures, discussing the Aquatic Center and International Swimming Hall of Fame, The House on the River, and Theos Estiatorio.

Ms. Dean asked for clarification on the nomination process. Ms. Ali and Ms. Zubero explained.

Vice Chair Plakotaris highlighted the BH3 Management offices as a potential nominee. Discussion ensued regarding difficulty in getting responses from properties identified. Ms. Ali suggested it might be beneficial for her to send a follow-up email from the City.

## **V. New Business**

Ms. Dean stated she had a restaurant to nominate, Donna's Caribbean Restaurant on Sistrunk Boulevard.

Ms. Zubero continued reviewing the list of restaurants she had identified as potential nominees for the Annual Awards, along with houses Ms. Maus had identified.

Vice Chair Plakotaris asked Mr. Wright if he would be able to attend the Commission Conference Agenda meeting on January 9 if Chair Edewaard was unable to attend.

Mr. Wright stated he was able to attend. Ms. Ali responded that she would confirm the meeting information and follow up. Discussion ensued regarding topics to address, including potential funding sources such as the Tree Canopy Fund.

Vice Chair Plakotaris left the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Ms. Dean asked if there were any funding sources to present if the Tree Canopy Fund was not an option.

Mr. Wright asked if it was possible to see old budgets so the request could be data-driven. Discussion continued regarding what should be included in the presentation to the Commission.

Ms. Zubero asked if it had been determined whether the Annual Awards presentation could be held at a Commission meeting in February or March. Ms. Ali stated she was waiting until after the Communication to the Commission was presented so the Board could discuss. She noted that presentations at the Commission were being limited to five (5) minutes, so it may need to be split up.

Ms. Zubero asked if the Board was going back to nominating for the WOW Awards. Discussion ensued regarding the backlog of nominations and moving forward with the award process. Ms. Ali stated the Board could make recommendations for changes to match what works now.

Mr. Wright inquired as to whether the details of the WOW Awards were included in the bylaws. Ms. Ali advised that she would investigate. Discussion continued.

**VI. Old Business**

None.

**VII. Communications**

None.

**VIII. Items for Next Meeting**

None.

**IX. Adjourn**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the CAB is scheduled for January 10, 2024.

[Minutes prepared by C. Parkinson, Prototype, Inc.]