



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TOWER 101 – SUITE 1100, 101 NE 3<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301  
MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2025 – 2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.**

**January-December 2025**

**Attendance**

Peter Partington, Chair	P	3	0
Marta Reczko, Vice Chair	P	3	0
Gerald Angeli	P	2	1
Gregory Barnett	P	3	0
Shane Grabski (arr. 2:12)	P	2	1
James LaBrie	P	3	0
Roosevelt Walters	P	3	0
Lindsey Way	P	1	0
Ralph Zeltman	P	3	0

**Former Committee Member**

Michael Lambrechts\*

\*Mr. Lambrechts' term of appointment ended on February 18, 2025. As a result, these minutes reflect his participation in task force discussions, but do not include him in the attendance or voting record for this meeting.

As of this date, there are 9 appointed members to the Committee, which means 5 would constitute a quorum.

**Staff**

Vickie Beauvais, Senior Administrative Assistant  
Omar Castellon, Assistant Public Works Director -- Engineering  
Angela Salmon, Program Manager I City Manager's Office  
Jill Prizlee, Chief Engineer  
J. Opperee, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Communication to the City Commission**

None.

**1. Call to Order**

**i. Roll Call**

Vice Chair Partington called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

**ii. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion** made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Zeltman, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**iii. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2025**

**Motion** made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Zeltman, that the minutes be approved with or without corrections. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**2. Old Business**

**i. Election of the New Chair and Vice Chair of the ITFAC**

**Motion** made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Zeltman, to nominate Peter Partington to be the Chair. In a voice vote, Mr. Partington was unanimously elected Chair.

**Motion** made by Mr. LaBrie, seconded by Mr. Walters, to nominate Marta [Reczko] as Vice Chair. In a voice vote, Ms. Reczko was unanimously elected Vice Chair.

**ii. City Hall Update**

Angela Salmon, representing the City Manager's Office, reported that the City released a bid for an owner's representative, which closed in January 2025. An evaluation committee has reviewed the responses and will meet with three shortlisted firms on March 10, 2025 for presentations and discussion. City Staff is working to draft a design criteria package, although no release date is anticipated thus far.

Mr. Barnett requested additional information regarding bids for the owner's representative. Assistant Director of Public Works (Engineering) Omar Castellon explained that prices are typically not negotiated until after a candidate has been selected. Ms. Salmon added that she can share information from the bid regarding the qualifications sought by the City. The meeting between the firms and the evaluation committee is not open to the public; however, that committee's discussion of the firms and their presentations will begin at 4:25 p.m. and the public may listen to this discussion.

Mr. LaBrie requested the names of the evaluation committee's members. Ms. Salmon replied that she would provide this information via email if she is allowed to share it, as well as the scope of work for the owner's representative.

Chair Partington asked if a request for proposal (RFP) has been issued. Mr. Castellon clarified that the release for the owner's representative is a request for qualifications

(RFQ), which differs from an RFP. The RFP will address the actual construction of City Hall, including design criteria, and will be issued at a later date.

Ms. Salmon continued that the owner's representative will help guide the City through the coming RFP process and work with City Staff to develop the project's design criteria package, which will include more detail regarding costs. Staff will also review design criteria packages issued by other municipalities. She anticipated that this process will begin before summer 2025.

Chair Partington asked if the location of the new City Hall has been determined. Ms. Salmon recalled that during the City Commission's prioritization meeting, Commission feedback indicated consensus that the existing site would be used.

Chair Partington requested additional information on the timeline of the RFQ. Mr. Castellon estimated that this would take two to three months following the selection of a firm, as the City's Procurement Department must negotiate financially with the firm and the result must be approved by the City Commission. Chair Partington requested that the Committee be kept informed of the progress of this effort.

Mr. Lambrechts asked if the Committee could request that the selected owner's representative make a presentation to them at a future meeting. Chair Partington recommended, however, that the Committee not overstep its authority, pointing out that their task with respect to the new City Hall has been completed. Mr. Lambrechts explained that his intent was to ensure that the work done by the Infrastructure Task Force Committee (ITFAC) would be useful to the owner's representative.

Ms. Salmon recalled that the RFQ for an owner's representative mentioned the Committee's input. The representative is required to collect that information so it is part of their process.

### **iii. Ongoing discussion of ITFAC**

Chair Partington recalled that at the February 3, 2025 meeting, the previous Chair had raised the possibility of a formal communication to the City Commission which would request a formal meeting with the Commission regarding the Committee's long-term future. He noted that the Commission has renewed the ITFAC for another year; however, the terms of three current Committee members are scheduled to end within that time frame. There had also been discussion at the February meeting of the importance of institutional memory, which could be compromised when these terms come to a close.

Chair Partington emphasized the importance of demonstrating the need for an ongoing ITFAC to the City Commission in the form of a communication to the Commission. The communication could list the Committee's previous and continuing accomplishments to date.

Vice Chair Reczko referred to the communication proposed by former Chair Mammano at the February meeting, noting that it raised the possibility of establishing an Infrastructure Advisory Board rather than a Committee. Chair Partington also recalled that the Committee had discussed the need to be renewed for more than one additional year; however, he was not certain that it was the Committee's place to propose that they become a board.

Mr. Walters recalled that when the Committee was discussed by the City Commission at a recent Commission meeting, there had appeared to be little concern from the Commission with the Committee's retention of institutional memory. He also pointed out that if the ITFAC itself does not advocate for the possible transition to a board, no other party was likely to make that suggestion.

Mr. LaBrie commented that one City Commissioner has publicly indicated that he believes there are too many City advisory bodies and would prefer smaller government. He proposed that the Committee present a business case for becoming a board based on its previous activities, some of which may be carried forward into the future.

Vice Chair Reczko observed that if the Committee were to become a board, they would retain the same structure which allows members to serve only a limited number of years. She agreed with Mr. LaBrie that they would need to make a strong argument including the City's long-term need for an advisory body focused on infrastructure.

Mr. LaBrie recalled that at the February 2025 meeting, the former Chair had suggested that some Committee members remain in perpetuity in order to preserve institutional memory. He strongly disagreed with this proposal, emphasizing the importance of evolving as an advisory body with new members and staggered terms. There was Committee consensus that there was no need to propose membership in perpetuity.

Chair Partington provided a brief overview of the Committee's history to new member Lindsey Way, recalling that their responsibilities have included:

- Monitoring the City's compliance with Consent Orders
- Monitoring water and sewer breaks
- Following bond expenditures
- Previewing public presentations from City Staff on infrastructure issues
- Provided a forum for public input on key City issues such as the new City Hall and the new water treatment plant

Chair Partington continued that these responsibilities provide a means to advocate to the City Commission that the Committee continue its work. He estimated that the Committee has met with the Commission twice in the last four years and does not regularly provide the Commission with reports, although members may meet individually with the Commissioners who appointed them.

Mr. Barnett advised that the strongest argument for an ongoing Committee is that there will eventually be another infrastructure emergency in the City, and a standing advisory body could help respond and monitor this issue when it happens. Mr. Zeltman agreed, citing infrastructure concerns, including infiltration and inflow (I&I), into the City's wastewater treatment system. He felt the City should take a more aggressive approach to this issue.

Mr. LaBrie stated that another key concern at the neighborhood level is stormwater, which becomes an issue during major rain events. He emphasized the importance of supporting City Staff's efforts in addressing these challenges, noting that the City has re-prioritized stormwater management and expanded its response into critical neighborhoods to improve systems. Mr. Castellon confirmed that a presentation on this program can be made to the Committee in the near future.

Vice Chair Reczko recommended that the Committee review its governing Ordinance in order to clarify its responsibilities in the event it may be converted to a board. The Ordinance would also clarify the Committee's structure and appointment policies. Chair Partington requested that the members be provided with information on the section of City Code which oversees the establishment of boards and committees, as well as the most current Resolution(s). Mr. Barnett suggested that the members also see the most recent Commission Resolution which resulted in the formation of a City advisory body.

Mr. LaBrie asked if items within the Committee's governing Ordinance, such as the number of members or terms of their service, are standardized across all City advisory bodies. Mr. Walters explained that while the number of members is not standardized, terms for advisory body members typically have a maximum of six years, including renewals.

Vice Chair Reczko added that while most City advisory bodies are linked to specific taxpayer-funded City Departments, the ITFAC is linked to the City's Utilities Department, which is funded through an Enterprise Fund. This may affect whether or not the Committee could be changed to a Board. Mr. Walters pointed out that the Committee's work crosses multiple City Departments.

Chair Partington recalled that Mr. Barnett had expressed particular concern with flooding in the Victoria Park neighborhood. Mr. Barnett further clarified that he would like to see the possible engineering solutions to addressing repetitive flooding in pockets of this neighborhood, as residents of that community ask him for updates because he is a member of the ITFAC.

Mr. Castellon replied that when Staff attends homeowners or civic association meetings to inform residents about the Fortify Fort Lauderdale program, they ask

residents to identify areas that flood. This helps Staff determine the best way to drain those areas. He emphasized the importance of this resident input.

Chair Partington recalled that the Committee has seen presentations from previous consultants regarding flooding, but has not seen presentations for specific neighborhoods and the solutions that would work best for them. Mr. Castellon advised that every neighborhood is different, which is why Staff is reaching out to residents through their association meetings.

Chair Partington requested clarification of which stage of design Staff must reach before they go back to the neighborhoods to discuss solutions. Mr. Castellon explained that the design process for each neighborhood takes approximately 12 to 18 months, and Staff has multiple meetings with those community associations during that time.

Mr. Barnett asserted that there are parts of his neighborhood that are consistently prone to flooding and have done so for many years. Mr. Castellon replied that work has not yet been done to address all of these areas. City Staff asks residents to help identify flooding to ensure full awareness of these locations.

Mr. Castellon continued that Staff typically continues outreach to neighborhoods at the 30%, 60%, and 90% stages of design. This design follows the City's Stormwater Master Plan, which has been in place for some time and may be subject to change.

Chair Partington requested that when Staff reaches the 60% design phase for neighborhoods, they bring that presentation to the Committee so members are aware of what residents are seeing. Mr. Castellon noted that the design phase for some neighborhoods may be one to two years away, but confirmed that design for some neighborhoods is already underway. He added that time frames for design are also subject to updates. A total of 17 neighborhoods will be addressed in multiple tranches.

Mr. Barnett commented that he had received an email from the City indicating that construction would begin in Victoria Park in April to June 2025. Mr. Castellon stated that Staff may meet again with that neighborhood's homeowners association before construction gets underway.

Chair Partington again requested that the Committee see a Staff presentation on the work planned for that neighborhood at an upcoming meeting. This would allow the Committee to see the same information the neighborhood would be shown. Mr. Castellon added that once the design has been finalized, it will most likely be posted on the City website as well.

Vice Chair Reczko recommended that the Committee members consider meeting one-on-one with their appointing Commissioners. Another option could be for the Committee to make a single presentation at a future Commission meeting.

Chair Partington concluded that he would revisit the communication to the City Commission discussed by former Chair Mammano at the February meeting, and would include additional language as well which addressed the Committee's past and ongoing activities. He would bring this language to the next meeting for further discussion. The Committee's governing Ordinance could also be reviewed at that meeting.

Mr. Castellon confirmed that a presentation on drainage in the Victoria Park neighborhood could also be provided at an upcoming meeting. Vice Chair Reczko noted, however, that experienced City engineers are working on these plans, and it may not be useful to present information to the public until the designs have been completed and construction is about to begin. She felt it was more accurately the Committee's responsibility to ensure that this information is provided to the public once it is complete.

Mr. LaBrie suggested that Staff bring the available information on Victoria Park to the upcoming meeting, as well as information on one of the neighborhoods in which the design phase has been completed. Mr. Castellon advised that there have not yet been severe storms in any of the neighborhoods thus far, which means firm data is not currently available.

### **3. Public Works Update**

#### **i. Water & Sewer Breaks Report w/Mapping**

Mr. Castellon reported that there were two water and no sewer breaks the previous month. He did not know the extent of the breaks or the reason they occurred, but noted that they seem to be smaller pipes.

### **4. General Discussion and Comments**

#### **i. Committee Members**

Chair Partington stated that he would like the Committee to express its collective appreciation for the work of former Chair Mammano during her tenure.

**Motion** made by Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. Zeltman, that as a Task Force, that we show our appreciation for all the work that was done by our former Chair, Marilyn Mammano.

Mr. Barnett advised that he would bring a card to the next meeting so the members can sign it for the former Chair. Mr. Walters stated that he accepted this proposal as an **amendment** to his **motion**. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Mr. LaBrie requested an update regarding the leadership of the Public Works Department. Mr. Castellon replied that Talal Abi-Karam continues to serve as Interim Director. No decision will be made until the new City Manager arrives.

Vice Chair Reczko addressed an issue that had arisen regarding the new wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Castellon replied that he would provide an update via email.

Mr. Barnett suggested that at a future meeting, the Committee discuss rollout of the City's new water meter program. Mr. Castellon explained that this program is currently in the RFP process.

Vice Chair Reczko added that she would like an update on the construction of a redundant line near the Convention Center. Mr. Zeltman also requested information on the phases of work related to conveyance of water from the wellfield to the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant.

## **ii. Public Comments**

None.

## **5. Adjournment – NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: Monday, April 7, 2025**

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 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.]