

APPROVED
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
VISIONING COMMITTEE MEETING
4:00 P.M., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2010
CITY HALL, 100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8TH FLOOR, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL

MEMBER		CUMULATIVE FEB 2010/JAN 2011	
		Present	Absent
Tim Smith, Chair	P	1	0
Stanley Eichelbaum, Vice Chair (arr. 4:06)	P	1	0
Peg Buchan	P	1	0
Alan L. Gabriel	P	1	0
Desorae Giles-Smith (arr. 4:28)	P	1	0
Gloria Katz (arr. 4:03)	P	1	0
Charles B. Ladd	P	1	0
Dan Lindblade	P	1	0
Gary T. Sieger	P	1	0
Randall Vitale	P	1	0
Wiley D. Thompson, III	A	0	1

Staff

Shannon Vezina, Staff Liaison, Public Information Office
 Carrie Sarver, Esquire, Assistant City Attorney
 Gerry Burrini, Public Information Office
 Liz Davila, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to City Commission

Motion made by Mr. Ladd, seconded by Mr. Gabriel, for the Committee to communicate to the City Commission that the Committee's first steps are to 1) invite a visioning expert at no cost to provide perspective and suggested actions, and 2) receive status reports on identified crucial topics in the city from City staff and other appropriate individuals. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Ms. Shannon Vezina. As of this date there were eleven appointed members to the Committee, which means six would constitute a quorum. Following a roll call it was determined that a quorum was present.

II. Liaison's Report

As this was the Committee's first meeting, Ms. Vezina provided the following information:

- Read the City Commission Resolution creating the Committee.
- Asked the Committee members to introduce themselves and give a brief synopsis of their qualifications and experience.
- Reminded the Committee members to submit their oath and application.
- Advised Committee members that they should have received several materials in the mail, including: a Better Meetings Academy Handbook, a guide to the Sunshine Law, a conflict interest form and a parking permit. She also reminded the Committee a Better Meetings Academy Workshop will be held on March 10 at City Hall.
- All correspondence with Ms. Vezina to Committee members will be transmitted via email. If any Committee member wants items mailed via US Mail, they must contact Ms. Vezina.

II. New Business

Sunshine Law Overview

Ms. Sarver gave a brief presentation on Florida's Sunshine Laws. Mr. Vitale asked about the City Attorney's position on social media networking (i.e., Facebook). Ms. Sarver indicated that, at this moment, they discourage City committee members from using social media networking.

Ms. Sarver spoke about the differences between a sub-committee, which is approved by City Commission, and a fact-finding group. "Essentially that [a fact finding group] is to enable you as a group to be able to do things outside of this meeting and to be a little more productive. Given the constraints of the Sunshine Law, any action or any decision that needs to be made has to be done so by you as a group. So, you can go out and communicate. You know, two members here of this committee can go out and try to find information and bring it back, and the committee as a whole can decide or make decisions based on the facts that you two get. So, that is a choice that you as the Committee can make as to how many fact finding groups you want, but just please be cautious, it's a very gray area...we don't encourage that behavior, but just try to keep it strictly to fact-finding."

Budget

Mr. Ladd asked if the Committee has a budget. Ms. Vezina responded that they do not currently have a budget.

Recognition of Public Guests

At this time, the Committee recognized members of the public in the audience. Richard Mancuso, president of Beverly Heights HOA and member of the Council of Civic Associations; and Valerie Amor of the Community Appearance Board introduced themselves to the Committee.

Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Ms. Sarver opened up the floor for the nomination of a Chair for Visioning Committee.

Motion made by Mr. Gabriel, seconded by Mr. Ladd, to nominate Mr. Smith as Chair.

Motion made by Ms. Katz, seconded by Mr. Sieger, to nominate Mr. Eichelbaum as Chair.

Motion made by Mr. Vitale, seconded by Ms. Giles-Smith, to nominate Mr. Vitale as Chair.

Ms. Sarver then closed nominations for Chair.

Ms. Sarver asked for a showing of members in favor of Mr. Smith as the chair. Mr. Smith, Mr. Gabriel, Mr. Ladd, and Ms. Buchan replied.

Those in favor of Stanley Eichelbaum were Mr. Eichelbaum, Ms. Katz and Mr. Sieger.

Those in favor of Mr. Vitale were Mr. Vitale and Ms. Giles-Smith.

With a majority vote of 5-4-2, Mr. Smith was elected Committee Chair.

Mr. Smith took his seat as Chair and opened the floor for election of a Vice Chair.

Motion made by Ms. Buchan, seconded by Ms. Giles-Smith, to nominate Mr. Vitale as Vice Chair.

Motion made by Ms. Katz, seconded by Mr. Eichelbaum, to nominate Mr. Eichelbaum as Vice Chair.

Mr. Vitale then withdrew his name from consideration.

With only one nominee, all voted in favor of Mr. Eichelbaum as Vice Chair.

Discussion of Direction of Committee

Chair Smith shared his vision to “drag the vision out of the citizenry,” and shared his experiences from the Visioning Committee he was on in 1994. Chair Smith provided a copy of the report resulting from the 1994 initiative entitled “A Way Forward.”

Commissioner Charlotte Rodstrom entered the meeting at 4:48 p.m. and left at 4:49 p.m.

Ms. Buchan shared her opinion that the Visioning process should have been initiated by the people and that she has concerns as to what the Committee will be able to achieve given the constraints of operating within government processes and under Sunshine Laws. She shared her vision to see the young people become part of the visioning process and suggested the Committee write an RFP to hire professional consultants to assist the Committee in the Visioning Process.

Mr. Eichelbaum indicated that the Committee should develop a roadmap for the community that prioritizes future projects. He continued that the Committee should start by identifying the stakeholders that should provide input before the Committee writes an RFP.

Mr. Smith suggested that the Committee identify specific groups that might have a vested interest in the vision of the City, including merchant groups, neighborhood associations, churches, etc. He then asked the Committee what type of information the Committee would initially solicit from these groups.

The Committee discussed if the stakeholders should be asked specific questions, or be given an opportunity to talk about their goals in areas such as quality of life and economic opportunity.

Ms. Giles-Smith asked if there was a document Committee members could reference as a starting point.

Mr. Smith mentioned the document that came out of the 1994 Visioning process. He made a motion that the City update the statistical data in the 1994 document. Motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Smith read several recommendations that came out of the 1994 Visioning process, including numerous programs that were never implemented by the City Commission.

Mr. Sieger felt that the Committee should ask very open-ended questions so they did not narrow the vision. He asked how big the Committee wanted their vision to be and whether it should include infrastructure, economics, education, environment, and all major topics.

Ms. Buchan indicated that the Committee needs input from subject matter experts to develop valid ideas. She felt the first step should be to identify the subject matter groups. She suggested that the Committee also ask people what they like about Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. Eichelbaum asked whether or not the Committee was well informed on the current community. He suggested that the Committee hold ten to twelve sessions on specific topics to become educated on the entire community.

Mr. Vitale reminded the Committee of their charge under the resolution. He suggested that the Committee develop its own vision statement and mission to ensure the Committee identifies what they want to accomplish and stays on track.

Mr. Lindblade said that he has talked to people in the community and they are happy to hear of the desire to create a vision, but they want to make sure those constructive ideas and tangible results are produced so the exercise is not a waste of time. He cautioned the Committee to not move too fast and to make good use of the time the Committee had been given.

Mr. Gabriel agreed that the Committee members needed to educate themselves about the City and suggested that the Department heads come to a meeting and provide a brief description or status report of several topics including planning and zoning, police and fire, utility issues, transportation, etc.

Ms. Katz agreed with Mr. Ladd, in that the Committee needs to determine where it is going, and what they want to accomplish. She also agreed with Ms. Buchan that the Committee needs professionals to get feedback from the community, once the Committee determines the major topics for discussion.

Mr. Seiger asked if there was a consensus to ask some department heads to attend the next meeting to give the status of Fort Lauderdale today.

Motion made by Ms. Buchan to ask Committee members to come to the next meeting with ideas for what to put in an RFP. **Motion** died for a lack of a second.

Mr. Smith asked the Committee if they thought the City should pay for a consultant or if the Committee should raise funds for the consultant.

After a long discussion, the Committee came to a consensus to identify key areas in the City and ask the question, "What is the State of the Art?" in each of these areas.

Ms. Katz indicated that she knows an individual who is an expert in visioning from the University of Miami who would be willing to come speak to the Committee at no cost.

Motion made by Ms. Katz, seconded by Mr. Gabriel, to bring a visioning expert to the next meeting, and then to have those who represent leadership in identified categories in the City of Fort Lauderdale to give status on their specific area. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

The Committee made a request to ask the City Manager to bring experts in the following areas to the next Visioning Committee meeting to report on the state of their respective art.

1. Statistical abstract – general health of the City
2. State of education, primary and higher
3. Public safety
4. Economic development
5. Waterways and beaches
6. Governmental relations
7. Quality of life
 - a. Neighborhoods
 - b. Parks & recreation
8. Infrastructure
9. Eco-friendly, green initiatives

III. Other Matters of Interest

Next meeting scheduled for March 9, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

Motion made by Mr. Gabriel, seconded by Chair Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 p.m. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.