

**APPROVED**  
**City of Fort Lauderdale**  
**Visioning Committee**  
**4:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 13, 2011**  
**City Hall, 100 North Andrews Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> floor,**  
**Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301**

MEMBERS		FEB 2011/DEC 2011			
		REGULAR MTGS		SPECIAL MTGS	
		Present	Absent	Present	Absent
Randall Vitale, Chair	P	8	0	2	0
Alan L. Gabriel, Vice Chair	P	7	1	2	0
Peg Buchan	P	8	0	2	0
Stanley Eichelbaum	P	7	1	0	2
Desorae Giles-Smith	A	2	6	1	1
Gloria Katz	P	4	4	2	0
Charles B. Ladd	P	5	3	2	0
Dan Lindblade	P	5	3	1	1
Gary T. Sieger	P	6	2	2	0
Tim Smith (l. at 5:35 p.m.)	P	7	1	2	0
Wiley D. Thompson, III	P	4	4	2	0

**Staff**

Sue Torriente, Assistant City Manager  
 Adrienne Ehle, Department of Sustainable Development  
 Amy Knowles, City Manager's Office  
 D'Wayne Spence, City Attorney Office (arr. 4:14 pm)  
 Chaz Adams, Public Information Office (left 4:43 p.m.)  
 Shannon Vezina, Public Information Office  
 Jimmy Koeth, Staff Liaison  
 Barbara Hartmann, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc

**Communications to City Commission**

None.

**I. Determination of quorum**

As of this date, December 13, 2011, there are eleven appointed members to the Visioning Committee, which means six would constitute a quorum. At this time, there is a quorum.

**II. Call to Order (4:00 p.m.)**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Randall Vitale at 4:07 p.m.

**a. Roll Call**

**b. Conference Call participation**

None.

**c. Approval of October 11, 2011, meeting minutes** (not addressed at this time)

Chair Vitale announced that they would await the arrival of the City Attorney for Items c and d.

**d. Approval of November 8, 2011, meeting minutes** (not addressed at this time)

**III. Potential Additional Stakeholder Interviews update**

Chair Vitale referred to emails he had sent to the Committee and asked for feedback. Mr. Smith thought the emails were appropriate. Chair Vitale explained that if he had not sent the emails then, two months would go by. He thanked staff and the consultant who accomplished a lot in a short period of time.

Ms. Vezina presented a schedule of meetings for December 15 and 16. In addition to the list (51 names) provided by the Committee, the City Commission office submitted 56 additional stakeholder contacts. She said she reached out to each one at least once by telephone and/or email, and the schedule is the result of those efforts.

Mr. Eichelbaum asked about the group of City Managers that was supposed to be included, and Ms. Vezina said only one had confirmed so far.

Ms. Vezina said multiple people said they would call back, but have not followed up yet, and she read those names. Chair Vitale reminded the Committee that they all have a responsibility to make sure that people selected for interviews communicate with Ms. Vezina.

[Mr. Spence arrived at 4:14 p.m.]

Vice Chair Gabriel verified that this would be their last attempt at getting the interviews.

**II. c. Approval of October 11, 2011, meeting minutes**

**Motion** by Vice Chair Gabriel, seconded by Ms. Buchan, to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2011, meeting. Hearing no objection, the minutes were approved as presented.

**d. Approval of November 8, 2011, meeting minutes**

Vice Chair Gabriel said it was stated in the minutes that there was no quorum, but the minutes appear to be that of a regular meeting. He wondered if it was appropriate to have “regular” minutes if there is no quorum. Mr. Spence said they provide the Committee an opportunity to ratify any decisions made in meetings that do not have a quorum. It is correct to say, however, that in a meeting without a quorum, the Committee does not have the authority to make decision or actions. If they choose to do so, the Committee may ratify the decisions made in those informal meetings.

Vice Chair Gabriel stated that he wanted to know if the minutes as identified are accurate minutes for purposes as a regular meeting, and if attendance should have been taken.

Mr. Spence elaborated that in cases where a meeting is cancelled ahead of time for lack of a quorum, the individuals whose absence caused the lack of quorum were considered “absent,” although the ones who were told not to attend were not.

Vice Chair Gabriel reiterated that he had no issue with what was discussed at the November meeting, but just questioned the merit of any action taken.

Ms. Buchan said the meeting did occur, even though no decisions were made nor votes taken, and the document did reflect what was discussed.

**Motion** by Ms. Buchan, seconded by Mr. Eichelbaum, to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2011, minutes as amended. Vice Chair Gabriel requested an amendment that there be a line after the listing of staff showing that a quorum was not present, and noting that no official action was taken. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Vitale then returned to the agenda, asking Assistant City Manager Ms. Torriente if she wished to speak.

Ms. Torriente reported that the City Manager’s Office met with the consultant on November 9 and they are revising the scope of services for upcoming phases. They are trying to integrate the consultant’s work with the City’s strategic planning process, and are creating a timeline. She said that next month they will share what will be coming up before the Committee on a month by month basis.

Chair Vitale said the November 9th meeting was very productive and he thought they are directionally correct with what is going on with the strategic plan process. He elaborated that the next related City Commission item will be the extension of the Committee’s existence, and at a future City Commission meeting there will be an agenda item to vote on the re-scoped project. Ms. Torriente said they are looking at the

next phases, and once the City Manager is comfortable and the money is found, they will go to the City Commission for approval of the phases and funding.

Mr. Smith thought the plan for Phase 2 is now different than what they had originally planned, and he suggested that the Committee should be able to look at the newly crafted plan and offer an opinion on it.

Mr. Eichelbaum said they should describe as of today what the role of the Committee is moving forward. He also remarked that they discussed the expectations of communications with the consultant, and he felt they should come to agreement on what that is.

Chair Vitale thought the City Manager was interested in aligning the project with the strategic plan, and have some of the duties originally assigned to both the City and the consultant be taken over by the City. He did not see it as a re-scope of what was to be done – all the main items were still intact.

Ms. Torriente explained that the strategic planning process is an internal process, working with groups of departmental staff at different levels and divided into five strategic areas. They are identifying goals, objectives and performance measures to put into a plan to measure the work the City is doing, the service delivery they are providing, measure the successes, and note deficiencies. She said the five strategic areas are: public places, public safety, infrastructure, neighborhoods and business development. Once the plan is in place, it is a three to five year process, and will help inform the budget process.

Ms. Torriente continued that in preparation for the plan, they were conducting environmental scan/needs assessment, looking at some of the same material that the consultant would look at Phase 2. They want to share and use the information that came out of the open houses to help ascertain priorities. The November 9th meeting was to look at the scope and the cost.

Mr. Smith remarked that the visioning is not supposed to be a vision by the City employees, but by the people. He cautioned against getting ahead of the citizen input. He wondered if it is supposed to go out to the citizenry over the year and have them weigh in, or is it a case of having management figure out the plan. Chair Vitale felt that the public input phase will be the most important part of the visioning process, and said they are just in an awkward space at the moment, waiting for the next phases to be approved.

Ms. Torriente noted that the strategic plan is typically three to five years, whereas the visioning is 25 years, and the budget plan is annual. Staff is very aware that the vision drives everything, and they do not want to do their strategic planning in a vacuum. The City Manager's philosophy is to have the structure in place so that they can start to

measure and benchmark. They want complete collaboration and cooperation with the Committee.

Mr. Smith reiterated his point that the visioning process is not real unless citizen input is considered.

[Mr. Adams left the meeting at 4:43 p.m.]

Mr. Lindblade hoped that Chair Vitale would be present at the City Commission meeting when the resolution is adopted. Chair Vitale said he would try, and Mr. Lindblade thought it would be important to have at least a designated representative there to express the Committee's excitement about the collaboration with staff and the future work of the Committee. Mr. Sieger thought the entire Committee should go to the meeting. He also noted he was encouraged by the progress so far.

Vice Chair Gabriel wanted to make sure the Committee could see the resolution, and it was noted that it is part of the public record.

#### **IV. \*PUBLIC COMMENT (approx. 5:00 p.m.)**

Chris Beck said he appreciated the updates from Committee members during his absence from the City. He showed a graphic of a brand for Fort Lauderdale. He talked about the need for "big thinkers" who think globally and do not get bogged down in the day-to-day vision. He felt the questions that he submitted to the Committee in March and April of 2010 have not been answered.

Mr. Lindblade remarked that Mr. Beck's appearance brought up a challenge for the Committee to reach the people who think the whole process is a sham, and also to the ones whose voices are "under-expressed."

#### **\*End of Public Comment**

Mr. Eichelbaum commented on the general state of anxiety in the City and country, and the difficulty of getting someone who is complaining to actually participate in the process.

Mr. Lindblade said when he is able to get the "important thinkers" or a good cross section of people out, it is because they are passionate about something, whether it be a person or an idea. He felt the marketing team needed to help guide the Committee.

Ms. Katz thought that once Phase 2 is approved, excitement will be generated as people see the process moving along. She remarked that people will sometimes "wait and see" what happens before they commit.

Chair Vitale said members of the Committee need to be committed to the process in order to ask others to be committed.

Mr. Smith also thought the Mayor and City Commission should assert more leadership and communicate their support of the process.

Mr. Sieger and Ms. Katz expressed their agreement with Mr. Smith. Mr. Sieger noted that the Committee needs to have a marketing plan to take the idea to the City Commission. He suggested positive exposure in the press. Ms. Buchan noted that she has always asked for a strong marketing outreach. Since people cannot attend the Committee meetings and see the enthusiasm of the Committee, there needs to be a marketing outreach plan.

Mr. Ladd did not think a great wellspring of ideas was going to come forth from the populace because the City does not have big issues to garner their attention. He also did not think the process of leaders coming up with ideas and getting buy-in from the public would happen. Until something is there, the Committee is going to go in circles about the process.

Ms. Katz said they have to demand of the City Commission that the process goes forward.

Mr. Ladd said he is not interested in the City being more efficient – he wants to see something that makes the City “different.”

Mr. Thompson expressed appreciation for the new City Manager, and his being an advocate for the process, working with the Mayor.

Mr. Eichelbaum thought the most critical step is engaging people to what is happening outside of Fort Lauderdale is the best practices from around the world. He thought that could be a ten-minute presentation to the groups before “the people” talk.

Mr. Smith thought the Committee should weigh in with the City Commission, speaking with one voice of inspiration. He said it is time for the Mayor and the City Commissioners to take ownership of the project and move forward. He thought it should be in the form of a communication to them for their next meeting with a very strong, positive message.

Vice Chair Gabriel was concerned that the City Manager’s office indicated they are not ready to move the visioning process along until they finish their review. He wondered what the Committee could do if the City Manager is not ready to proceed. Chair Vitale noted that the City Commission is supposed to take action in December to extend the Committee, and take action in January to revise the scope of services.

Mr. Lindblade thought they should issue an interim report, packaged appropriately, addressing what has been done, and where they want to go. He said it has to look and feel substantive. Chair Vitale said the consultant is required to present such a report as part of their Phase 1 contract. Mr. Lindblade said the Committee should have their own report. Mr. Sieger agreed that they should be proactive and present an interim report that indicates the Committee wants to move forward.

Chair Vitale suggested that the Committee members keep their respective appointers apprised of the Committee's progress.

Vice Chair Gabriel emphasized that they should make a communication to the City Commission that the Committee is "ready, willing and anxious" to move the process forward, and ask the City Manager and City Commission to join the Committee in moving the vision forward.

## **V. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

Chair Vitale did not think there was anything definite to set for the next meeting.

## **VI. COMMUNICATION TO CITY COMMISSION**

Noting that a typical Communication would not make it in time for the December 20 meeting, Vice Chair Gabriel suggested a letter from the Chair to the City Commission instead.

**Motion** by Vice Chair Gabriel, seconded by Mr. Sieger, for the Chair to be authorized to send on behalf of the Committee, a Communication to the City Commission for the next meeting. Vice Chair Gabriel amended his motion to say "a correspondence to the City Commission" not "a Communication to the City Commission." In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Vitale said he would send a bullet-point type letter to the City Commission in lieu of the Communication.

Mr. Smith asked if Mr. Koeth was preparing the resolution for the December 20 meeting, and Mr. Spence said it was already prepared. Mr. Smith wished to hear the resolution.

As far as the Chair's proposed correspondence, Mr. Smith suggested the following:

"As you deliberate on the future of the Visioning Committee, its roles and responsibilities, we would like you to take into consideration the following:

1. The idea of asking the citizenry their ideas for the future is still imperative and totally necessary;
2. That the City Commission voted unanimously that it is time for the Mayor and City Commission to take ownership of this process moving forward;
3. The Committee is ready, willing and anxious to assist in however they see fit."

Mr. Ladd suggested the following ideas for bullet points:

1. The process is in place;
2. The next step is for the City Commission to take ownership and move it to the next level;
3. And the Committee is ready, willing and anxious to do whatever is to be done.

Mr. Sieger suggested saying something to the effect that the Committee is ready, willing and anxious to take ownership of the process along with the City Commission. Chair Vitale said he would word it in such a way that it is important to include the Mayor and City Commission taking ownership of the process in its entirety moving forward.

Mr. Spence read the resolution to be presented to the City Commission, noting that it modified the purpose and extended the Committee until December 31, 2012.

[Mr. Smith left the meeting at 5:35 p.m.]

Mr. Lindblade felt it was better to address the issue in person rather than send a letter.

There was discussion about the word "ownership" being used in the letter, and the Committee thought another term such as "joining the effort to energize the community" would be better.

## **VII. For the Good of the Committee**

Ms. Buchan announced that Mr. Thompson was promoted to Colonel, and the Committee offered congratulations.

## **VIII. Announcements**

Chair Vitale said that the next meeting would be January 10, 2012, and the likely location would be on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor, as the 8<sup>th</sup> floor was booked. Mr. Koeth will send the announcement with the details.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT (6:00 p.m.)**

**Motion** by Vice Chair Gabriel, seconded by Mr. Eichelbaum, to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objection, Chair Vitale adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by J. Rubin, Prototype, Inc.]