



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

DRAFT

**MINUTES OF THE MARINE ADVISORY BOARD
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – EIGHTH FLOOR
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.**

**Cumulative Attendance
May 2017 - April 2018**

Board Members

	<i>Attendance</i>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
F. St. George Guardabassi , Chair	P	7	0
Grant Henderson, Vice Chair	A	6	1
Jimi Batchelor	P	5	2
Cliff Berry II	P	6	1
Zane Brisson	P	5	2
George Cable	P	6	1
Joe Cain	A	4	3
Susan Engle	P	4	0
Richard Graves	P	5	2
John Holmes	A	3	4
Ted Morley	P	5	1
Roy Sea	P	4	3
Ed Strobel	P	7	0
Bill Walker (arr. 6:03)	P	5	2
Jim Welch	P	7	0

As of this date, there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

- Andrew Cuba, Manager of Marine Facilities
- Jonathan Luscomb, Supervisor of Marine Facilities
- Sergeant Todd Mills, Marine Police Staff
- Division Chief Stewart Ahearn, Fort Lauderdale Fire Department
- Michael Mitchel, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to City Commission

None.

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Guardabassi called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and roll was called.

II. Approval of Minutes – January 4, 2018

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

III. Statement of Quorum

It was noted a quorum was present at the meeting.

IV. Waterway Crime & Boating Safety Report / Fire Department Report

Sergeant Todd Mills of the Marine Unit reported the following activity for the month of January 2018:

- 4 citations
- 36 safety inspections
- 4 warnings
- 1 accident

Sgt. Mills continued that the Marine Unit also recovered a derelict vessel and returned it to its owner, and responded to an accident at the Davie Bridge that resulted in roughly \$3200 in damage.

Chair Guardabassi addressed an incident involving a manatee, asking why the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) became involved in the incident. Division Chief Stewart Ahearn of the Fort Lauderdale Fire Department advised that FWC has trained personnel who are able to work with wildlife. FWC is asked to participate when incidents involving animals occur.

Division Chief Ahearn reported the following activity from January 2018:

- 13 marine calls, 10 of which were distress calls
- 2 search-and-rescue calls

Division Chief Ahearn continued that the Department continues to train Marine Team members in the use of the new fire boat. They are also working with the Broward County Office of Communication and Technology to develop standardized addressing along the Intracoastal Waterway and New River for all of Broward County. This will help dispatchers to relate addresses and calls to the Department. The Department continues to request funds for staffing and search for funding sources outside the City's General Fund.

Chair Guardabassi recalled that the Board had discussed signage along the New River, which changes from No Wake to Minimum Wake. Sgt. Mills replied that he has heard ongoing complaints on this issue. For some time, an area was mistakenly marked as an idle speed zone rather than slow speed. He clarified that this is the responsibility of FWC rather than the City or the Department, and suggested that a captain from FWC could be invited to a future Board meeting.

Sgt. Mills continued that a slow speed zone requires minimum speed, which is not always observed by boaters. The Marine Unit's typical response is to ask vessels to slow down; if the boat has received a warning in the past, the response will be different. He characterized this as an enforcement issue. Sgt. Mills added that if residents report speeding through the Department's non-emergency number, 764-HELP (764-4357), a nearby Officer may be able to respond.

V. Waiver of Limitations – 826 NE 20th Avenue / Carroll & Cataldo Company Inc.

Anthony Ragone and Fernando Munoz, representing the Applicant, explained that the request is for a variance to allow a finger pier and mooring piles on the Middle River. The total width of the waterway is approximately 305 ft. The pier and mooring piles would extend 69 ft. into the waterway, which is within the 30% limit. The subject property is owned by a business.

Mr. Cuba advised that the location is zoned ROA, or Residential Office. No letters of support or objection were received regarding the Application.

Ms. Engle observed that there are concerns in the area that nearby properties may be using their slips for repair work. Mr. Cuba recommended that these concerns be reported to Code Enforcement. He clarified that minor repairs are not an issue.

It was asked what size boats the Applicant anticipates docking at the site. Mr. Ragone replied that the site could accommodate boats with beams of 22-24 ft., although there are no plans for vessels this large. He estimated that the length of a boat this size would be approximately 75 ft. All permits from applicable Broward County agencies have been obtained by the Applicant. Mr. Cuba briefly reviewed the Board's role in the approval process.

There being no other questions from the Board at this time, Chair Guardabassi opened the public hearing. As there were no individuals wishing to speak on this Item, Chair Guardabassi closed the public hearing and brought the discussion back to the Board.

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

VI. Waiver of Limitations – 333 Poinciana Drive / James D. Wilson & 341 Idlewyld Drive / Olas Capital LLC

Mr. Cuba stated that the Applicant's representative has requested this Item be deferred until the March 2018 meeting.

VII. Dock Permit – Todd & Karin Correll / 1735 SWS 8th Street (Revised)

Mr. Cuba recalled that the Board has previously reviewed an Application for this address; however, the dock plan has been altered since its first appearance before the Board.

Kathryn Bongarzone, representing the Applicant, showed a visual of the property, explaining that changes have been made to the proposed south dock for which private use of public land is requested. The layout approved at the January 4, 2018 meeting included a 10x10 ft. platform with a ramp down to a floating dock. The dock did not extend more than 10 ft. from the proposed seawall cap. The Applicant now proposes a larger fixed platform with a ramp to a floating dock. This length will also not exceed 10 ft. from the seawall cap. A jet ski dock is also proposed for the site.

Ms. Bongarzone recalled that at the previous meeting, Board members had expressed concern for the dock on the north side, including how far it would extend from the property. The previously proposed 15 ft. dock has been reduced to a 12 ft. marginal dock with a cut-in on its east side, reducing the area from 1650 sq. ft. to 923 sq. ft.

The proposed project is now a 456 sq. ft. marginal wooden dock with a 240 sq. ft. floating dock and access ramp and a jet ski dock of 90 sq. ft. The structure will not exceed a length of 10 ft. from the wet face of the seawall. The Applicant is not requesting a distance waiver for the proposed dock, but is instead requesting private use of public land. The seawall cap is being raised to meet Code requirements. The jet ski dock will be used for launching kayaks and paddleboards.

There being no other questions from the Board at this time, Chair Guardabassi opened the public hearing. As there were no individuals wishing to speak on this Item, Chair Guardabassi closed the public hearing and brought the discussion back to the Board.

Mr. Cable commented that he did not recall discussion of private use of public land when the previous application was heard in January. Mr. Cuba explained that the current request is for a permit for private usage, not a change in the usage itself. Code states that the public retains access to 50% of the waterfront at the subject location.

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

VIII. Discussion – Broward County Municipal Marine Summit

Mr. Cuba stated that a Broward County Municipal Marine Summit is scheduled for February 21, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the city of Deerfield Beach. Mr. Berry added that the Broward County Marine Advisory Committee is soliciting input from local municipalities regarding topics to be discussed at the summit.

Mr. Cuba advised that he had sent members a list of topics discussed at the previous marine summit. These include:

- Vessel anchoring rules
- Sea level rise
- Seawall regulations
- Navigational challenges at bridges
- Public day docks
- Waterway signage concerns
- Disappearing working waterfronts
- County-wide boat owners' association

He suggested that the Board may wish to revisit some of these specific items at the upcoming summit or suggest additional topics. He also requested that the Board determine two to three key topics that he may pass on for inclusion on the summit's agenda.

Mr. Batchelor proposed a discussion of improved boater safety awareness. Mr. Walker commented that the Coast Guard allows all cities to establish a Harbor Safety Committee, which allows boaters to come together to address boating safety issues such as signage and ramps. While there is no federal enforcement of these improvements, they provide a channel for communication between boaters. He provided handouts on this topic to the members, pointing out its importance in light of more congested waterways and the increase in charter operations.

Chair Guardabassi suggested that anchoring rules be another topic of discussion at the upcoming summit. Sgt. Mills advised that several municipalities have expressed interest in discussing this. Chair Guardabassi added that seawall regulations and navigational challenges have also been issues of interest to the Board. Mr. Cuba noted that the City is currently working on enforcement of its seawall standards within appropriate time frames.

Norbert McLaughlin, private citizen, asserted that seawall height can now be 6 in. below a building's first floor elevation. The previous maximum height of 5.5 ft. is now the minimum height requirement. The City has expressed concern, however, that if significant weight is added to an existing seawall, the structure may not be able to sustain that weight. Marine contractors would be required to certify that the seawall can bear this weight. Mr. McLaughlin pointed out that this would mean contractors are asked to certify seawalls built years ago that may not have been constructed correctly.

Mr. Walker suggested that as Co-Chair of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce's Marine Advisory Committee, he has met with members of the marine industry to discuss the disappearance of a working waterfront. He emphasized the importance of raising awareness of the industry's importance to Broward County, as well as showing people the career paths available in this industry. He also pointed out the need for affordable housing for individuals working in the marine industry.

Ms. Engle advised that in the past, the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) created a Marine Master Plan, with input from surrounding cities and stakeholders in the industry. This plan addressed the need to sustain a working waterfront, as well as speed zones and other ongoing concerns. She felt it may be possible to update this plan.

Mr. Cuba reviewed the topics proposed by the Board: retention of a working waterfront, boater safety awareness, and marine industry awareness. He requested that members send him any additional topics not addressed at tonight's meeting by email.

IX. Reports

None.

X. Old / New Business

Mr. Batchelor requested an update on the Las Olas Marina. Mr. Luscomb recalled that the City Commission has awarded an RFP to Suntex in 2016 and has since approved the lease for the property. Permitting efforts are underway regarding the marina design. The project must be approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Suntex has contracted with EDSA, which is the master consultant for the City's beach redevelopment, to seamlessly coordinate projects and ensure they are consistent with one another. Suntex is working closely with the operators of the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show to ensure it is properly accommodated.

Mr. Walker asked if the terms of Board members are known. Mr. Cuba replied that at present, members remain on the Board until they are replaced or resign.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 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.]