In case you missed them, following are highlights from the Fort Lauderdale City Commission meetings on Tuesday, February 4, 2020. Video of the Commission meetings and vote summaries will be available this week at bit.ly/2mgrQNI.

CONFERENCE MEETING

City Commission Reviews Landlord Tenant Registration Draft Ordinance
Staff from the City’s Community Enhancement and Compliance Division led a presentation about a proposed ordinance requiring landlord tenant registration. If approved, a registry of phone and email contact information would be established to provide direct contact between staff and property owners. This type of mechanism would expedite communication in an effort to help resolve issues, address property complaints, foster community compliance with housing standards, and enhance quality of life. For more details, visit bit.ly/2UoNk9B.

Las Olas Boulevard Mobility Project Conceptual Streetscape Design
The City Commission received an update from Transportation and Mobility staff and a consultant from The Corradino Group on the conceptual streetscape design for the 2.5-mile stretch of Las Olas Boulevard. The project will focus on balancing multimodal needs; improving and expanding sidewalks; improving pedestrian safety through crosswalks, lighting, ADA access, and connectivity; and improving landscaping, shade, and infrastructure. For more details, visit bit.ly/3b8gsrE.

Stormwater Rate Changes Ahead
The City Commission received a follow up presentation from Stantec Consulting Services regarding an alternative stormwater utility rate structure that would generate sufficient revenue to support issuing $200 million in bonds for critical stormwater infrastructure improvements in key areas of the City vulnerable to flooding. To equitably recover costs in proportion to the benefit that each property receives from the stormwater system, the proposed stormwater utility fee methodology considers total square footage, trips generated by various property types, and the benefit that free, passable roads bring to each property. Stantec has presented the hybrid rate methodology to the Infrastructure Task Force and the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations within the past few months and both groups support the changes. Upon finalization of the plan, notices will be sent to all parcel owners and fees will be issued with the November 2020 tax bill. For more details, visit bit.ly/2OoMTbw.

Carollo Report Presentation on Fiveash Water Treatment Plant
A representative from Carollo Engineers, Inc. led a presentation summarizing the findings of an evaluation of the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant. Among the conclusions outlined in the Carollo report is the determination that the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant is not a suitable option for the City’s long-term potable water needs and that it should be replaced with a new facility. The estimated cost of a new facility ranges between approximately $350 million and $433 million. For more details, visit bit.ly/36TEwv6.
CRA BOARD MEETING

Public Improvement Projects in Central Beach Moving Forward
Staff provided updates on the following projects in Central Beach: the Las Olas Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project, State Road A1A Beach Streetscape Improvement Project, Las Olas Marina Expansion Project, DC Alexander Park Project, and the Aquatics Center Renovation Project. The Las Olas Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project is nearing completion, the projects along A1A, at the Marina, and at DC Alexander Park are in various stages of planning, design and permitting. At the Aquatics Center, light demolition is ongoing, primary power electrical installation is complete, sheet pile is expected to be installed this month, and design work is progressing on the 27-meter tower and the observation deck. For more details, visit bit.ly/2RXgnQd.

$20,000 in Grant Funding Approved for 13th Street Craft Beer and Wine Festival
The City Commission, acting as the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board of Commissioners, approved a $20,000 grant agreement with Central City Alliance for the 13th Street Craft Beer and Wine Festival and Car Show. This free event will take place on Saturday, March 7 from 4-7 p.m. along NE 13th Street from NE 5th Terrace to NE 8th Avenue. Activities include live entertainment, stage demonstrations, a children’s play area and activities, beer and wine sampling, an artisan market, a classic car show, and vendor and information booths. For more details, visit bit.ly/2Ov6Y0a.

REGULAR MEETING

Commission Approves Replacement of Wastewater Pump Station
As part of the City’s ongoing upgrades to its infrastructure, the City Commission unanimously approved $231,011 for the replacement of wastewater Pump Station B-22, which is located in the Bay Colony neighborhood. The project includes design, engineering, and construction of a new facility to more efficiently move wastewater through the system. For more details, visit bit.ly/2Ur1Ca2.

Commission Officially Names New Beachfront Park “Las Olas Oceanside Park”
The City Commission unanimously passed a resolution officially naming the new beachfront park located at the southeast corner of A1A and Las Olas Boulevard (3000 East Las Olas Boulevard) on Fort Lauderdale Beach as “Las Olas Oceanside Park.” The new park, which debuted last fall during the City’s annual Light Up the Beach event, includes a water feature, open gathering areas, an iconic shade structure, a tree-lined promenade, and sustainable elements including a rainwater cistern. The project represents an incredible transformation from what was once a parking lot to what is now a green, vibrant, attractive and engaging oceanfront destination. For more details, visit bit.ly/2v1VlH2.
City Commission Approves Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Ordinance Amendments
The City Commission approved on first reading amendments to an ordinance entitled Standards for Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes. In an effort to protect the environment, limit stormwater runoff, reduce the potential for algal blooms, and improve the quality of City waterways, the ordinance changes prohibit fertilizer application during the rainy season between June 1st and September 30th, outline opportunities for outreach to retailers and distributors, and include penalties for non-compliance. The enhanced changes in the ordinance align with the FY2020 Commission Annual Action Plan. For more details, visit bit.ly/2vIQf2G.

City Commission Approves Micromobility Programs Ordinance
The City Commission approved on first reading a new ordinance for micromobility programs as a follow-up to the July 2018 ordinance that allowed dockless mobility providers to operate within Fort Lauderdale. Amendments include changes to the number of operators, establishing a competitive permitting process, adjusting speed, and implementing operating restrictions on the barrier island, Las Olas Boulevard from Andrews Avenue to SE 17th Avenue, and the Riverwalk. For more details, visit bit.ly/381qr03.