In case you missed them, following are highlights from the Fort Lauderdale City Commission meetings on Tuesday, February 18, 2020. Video of the Commission meetings and vote summaries will be available this week at bit.ly/2mgrQNl.

CONFERENCE MEETING

Draft 2020 Federal Legislative Priorities and Funding Requests
The City Commission discussed Fort Lauderdale’s 2020 federal legislative priorities with consultants from Alcalde & Fay, Ltd. Inc. The group will represent the City’s interests, support the City’s official positions on federal issues, advocate for legislation, and seek funding requests. Priorities for 2020 will focus on improving water quality and wastewater management, infrastructure enhancement, public safety initiatives, assistance to address homelessness, efforts to promote economic development, and initiatives to address climate change. Based on today’s discussion, the priorities will be formally adopted on March 3, 2020. For more details, visit bit.ly/2UY9tfn.

Update on Interlocal Agreement with Broward MPO for Transportation Planning Services
The Transportation and Mobility Department and the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) presented an update on the transitional plan for City Transportation Planning Services. The transition is scheduled to begin on March 1, 2020 and will provide the City with expertise in the areas of transportation planning services management, project management, public education and outreach, grants and surtax oversight, and other resources. One of the MPO’s major focuses will be working with the City to develop a citywide Transportation Master Plan that will include priority project lists, implementation schedules, planning-level cost estimates, and realistic funding options to guide the future of transportation in Fort Lauderdale. For more details, visit bit.ly/2HIRrWR.

United Way of Broward County Provides Overview of Efforts to Address Homelessness
Staff from the United Way of Broward County provided an update on the services delivered to individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of Fort Lauderdale. Funded by approximately $800,000 from the City of Fort Lauderdale, the United Way administered a variety of programs and services including rapid rehousing, day respite, assistance with utility deposits, meal sharing, transitional housing, case management, coordination of social services, and other support and assistance. The City will continue to receive updates regarding the continuing progress of the Broward Business Council on Homelessness’ “United We End Homelessness” program. For more details, visit bit.ly/322TPAN.

CRA BOARD MEETING

City Commission Approves $150,000 for Finally Friday on Sistrunk
The City Commission, acting as the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board of Commissioners, approved $150,000 for “Finally Friday on Sistrunk,” a series of free, family-friendly outdoor events held monthly on Sistrunk Boulevard. The funding will be used to produce six events in 2020, increase attendance, and attract local and national entertainment. In addition to outstanding entertainment, Finally Friday on Sistrunk features food trucks,
vendors, art, music, live entertainment, and an interactive kids’ zone. Additionally, local entrepreneurs and businesses are afforded the opportunity to sell a variety of goods and services. For more details, visit bit.ly/2SQaOlH.

REGULAR MEETING

City Commission Approves Agreement for Lockhart Stadium Site Community Center
The City Commission approved a two-year agreement with Manica Architecture, PA (Manica) for consulting services for the proposed Community Center that will be located at the south end of the former Lockhart Stadium site. Manica will be responsible for the architectural and site planning of the proposed facility which will serve as a social and recreational destination in Uptown Fort Lauderdale. For more details, visit bit.ly/38GbalN.

City Commission Approves Funds for Two Water Conservation Programs
The City Commission approved a five-year Interlocal Agreement with Broward County for approximately $122,000 for the NatureScape Irrigation Service and Residential Irrigation Rebate programs. The NatureScape Irrigation Service (NIS) program offers free water use analyses to irrigation system owners, including recommendations on steps that can be implemented to improve efficiency. The County’s new Residential Irrigation Rebate Program was pilot tested in March 2019 and incentivizes water conservation on residential properties by providing rebates for residents who upgrade their irrigation systems to achieve water savings. For more details, visit bit.ly/3bKIGcq.

City Commission Approves $255,000 Grant Participation Agreement with the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Inc.
The City Commission approved a not-for-profit grant participation agreement with the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society in support of the group’s efforts to enhance heritage in the region and to benefit the City of Fort Lauderdale, its residents, and visitors. Over the next three years, the funding will be used to contribute to historic preservation research and documentation efforts, including those related to the designation of historic districts, historic landmarks, and the preparation of Certificate of Appropriateness applications coordinated through the City of Fort Lauderdale’s Department of Sustainable Development. For more details, visit bit.ly/32dJqCE.

City Commission Approves Electromagnetic Testing and Inspection Services at George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant
The City Commission approved a $197,696 contract with Pure Technologies U.S. Inc. for electromagnetic inspection and testing services for prestressed concrete cylinder piping (PCCP) at the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant. Electromagnetic inspection of PCCP involves obtaining a magnetic signature of each pipe segment to identify if any broken wire wraps exist and need to be replaced. The inspection and testing will also be conducted on ductile iron piping (DIP) lines. For more details, visit bit.ly/2SD8KhY.

City Commission Extends Term Length for the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee
The City Commission adopted a resolution extending the length of term for the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee to February 18, 2022. The number of members on the board was expanded from nine to eleven and the board is being tasked with evaluating the feasibility and impact of implementing a building moratorium in the City. For more details, visit bit.ly/2HzrHML.
City Commission Approves Rezoning for 1051 NE 4th Avenue
The City Commission adopted an ordinance to rezone a 1.54-acre vacant parcel of land located at 1051 NE 4 Avenue. The applicant, Town Development, Co., is proposing construction of two, one-story buildings that will front NE 4 Avenue with street-level retail. For more details, visit bit.ly/39IGuAk.

City Commission Approves Ordinance on Standards for Florida-Friendly Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscapes
The City Commission approved on second 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/38HgIfJ.

City Commission Adopts New Micromobility Ordinance
The City Commission approved on second 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/39LGWh8.