

City of Fort Lauderdale – Citizens' Committee of Recognition
City Commission Conference Room
February 3, 2006 – 8:30 a.m.
Minutes

Committee Members Present

Robert O. Cox
Robert Dressler
Eugenia Duncan Ellis
E. Clay Shaw, Jr.
E. Birch Willey, Chair

Also Present

Angela Sabina DiPietro, Staff Liaison
Peter Partington, City Engineer
Andrew Ziffer, Tarpon River Civic Association Board
Scott Park, President, Tarpon River Civic Association
Dave Rose, Tarpon River Civic Association Board
Reid Morgan, Vice President, Tarpon River Civic Association
Richard Mancuso, President, Beverly Heights Association

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. Introductions were made by the Committee members, City staff and citizens attending the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Cox/Ellis. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2005 meeting. Passed unanimously.

Consideration of Street Naming Policy and Request to Name Street in Honor of Sara Horn

Cox mentioned that this issue had previously come before the Committee and he feels the street name and number should remain on the signs to avoid confusion for residents and tourists. Peter Partington, City Engineer, clarified that the name is only added to the sign and the street's secondary name or number is still maintained. Partington noted that the two issues before the Committee is a recommendation to the City Commission for a City policy regarding street naming as well as an individual request to name a street in Tarpon River in honor of Sara Horn. Partington continued to explain to the Committee that the Commission has requested that City staff bring forth a recommendation to them. City staff's recommendation to the City Commission is to establish a policy to not name streets after living individuals, however, the current request of Ms. Horn's street naming should be treated in the same respect as prior honorees.

MOTION: Cox. A motion was made to make a recommendation to the City Commission to only name streets posthumously and to institute this policy immediately with no exceptions, including the current request of Ms. Horn. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

MOTION: Dressler/Ellis. A motion was made to make a recommendation to the City Commission to only name streets posthumously but not exclude the current request of Ms. Horn.

The motion was discussed. Ellis stated that she feels the motion is a proper motion but that the timing for this recommendation is unfortunate since she knows Sara Horn, personally, and believes she is very deserving of this honor and that the guests from Tarpon River will attribute to that. Ellis stated she would like to amend the current motion so that Ms. Horn's name be supported by the Committee with the understanding that after this request the recommended policy should be to only name streets posthumously.

Dressler withdrew his nomination so that the Committee could decide on the two issues separately.

MOTION: Dressler/Cox. A motion was made to honor the request to name Southwest 11th Court in honor of Ms. Sara Horn.

The motion was discussed. Chair Willey opened up the floor for public discussion. Dave Rose spoke on Ms. Horn's behalf and outlined her numerous contributions to the Tarpon River neighborhood and moreover, the entire City. Rose said he would support recognition of Ms. Horn.

Reid Morgan spoke in support of recognizing Ms. Horn informing the Committee that she was born in Tarpon River and loves the area very much.

Cox reiterated his feeling that street naming can be very confusing and because of that he is against street naming and more in support of recognizing individuals by naming memorials or parks in their honor.

Andy Ziffer spoke in support of Ms. Horn and said she has earned a tremendous amount of his respect due to her endless community involvement. Scott Park also spoke in support of Ms. Horn. Chair Willey thanked the public for coming to the meeting to share their support for Ms. Horn.

Passed 4-1 with Cox dissenting.

MOTION: Dressler/Cox. A motion was made to make a recommendation to the City Commission to only name streets posthumously from here on.

Rose told the Committee he feels that strictly posthumous recognition misses the point and sends the message that one is only truly worthy of such recognition after having expired.

Morgan said he supports the current motion before the Committee and realizes the confusion with honoring individuals by naming streets after them but he thinks the context of each request needs to be addressed. Morgan added that in this instance the street being named in Ms. Horn's honor is a neighborhood street, not a main thoroughfare, so the neighborhood's history is being

preserved in a way. Morgan also mentioned that he thought the Committee should think of a concept to recognize future requests since land is scarce.

Park told the Committee that he is sure there are many other shining examples of deserving community leaders in the Fort Lauderdale area and feels the policy should be open on a case by case basis for discussion.

Ellis said that the recommendation is from City staff and she didn't really feel it was the Committee's place to endorse it or make policy regarding the issue. Ellis added that she feels the City Commission should decide on the street naming policy. Dressler questioned whether the recommendation came from the City Commission or City staff.

Shaw mentioned that the Committee is only in an advisory capacity and that even the nominations for the Citizen Recognition Awards are recommendations to the City Commission. Shaw said that many streets in Dade County are named after individuals and usually it is for political reasons as opposed to tactical ones. Shaw said because of this he would support the current motion and that if the Committee doesn't pass this motion they may think about recommending a super majority when requests are submitted to the City Commission.

Partington clarified that Ellis is correct, the issue in front of the Committee is a staff recommendation. Partington added that this process is part of staff's consultation and that the Committee's view would be a significant part of their final recommendation to the City Commission.

Passed 4-1 with Ellis dissenting.

Partington thanked the Committee for their time.

Overview of Board's Name Change

Chair Willey explained the reason for the name change from the Citizens' Board of Recognition to the Citizens' Committee of Recognition. Chair Willey explained to the City Commission that he was on two advisory boards at once and wished to continue to be a part of both of them. Cox said he thinks there are many occasions where someone would like to be on more than one advisory board and he feels the policy should be changed. Ellis mentioned that she believes the rule is in the City Charter so that would need to be changed but added that the ordinance for their name change has already been approved by the City Commission. The Committee noted the City Commission's action to change their name from the Citizens' Board of Recognition to the Citizens' Committee of Recognition.

Advisory Board Recognition

DiPietro, the Committee's Staff Liaison, noted that a request had come from the City Commission and the City Clerk's Office to recognize outgoing term-limited advisory board members at the Annual Citizen Recognition Awards and that the issue was brought in front of the Committee in case there were any concerns. The Committee agreed that this was not a concern and they will leave it up to the discretion of the City Commission.

Selection of Chair

MOTION: Cox/Dressler. A motion was made to nominate Willey as Chair for 2006. Passed unanimously.

Citizen Recognition Awards

The selection process for the Citizen Recognition Awards was discussed. Cox said that he feels localized activism in a neighborhood is preliminary to becoming a citywide activist. Cox also addressed the category of Honored Founder and the limited selection each year.

Dressler said he feels that neighborhood activism is still important, especially in Fort Lauderdale, where neighborhoods surround many of the new developments.

Ellis said that each award given has a criteria and the Committee should evaluate the information submitted in order to select a worthy recommendation to the City Commission. Ellis also said that she felt some of the submissions were placed in the wrong categories. Ellis added that most neighborhood activists are also citywide activists.

Shaw said that the Committee itself does not have a citywide view because a lot of the names submitted are unknown to many of the members. Shaw added that the awards do require someone who is active citywide and outside of the neighborhood but the grass-roots efforts within the neighborhood are tremendously important as well.

Dressler stated that the Committee was expanded to add more members because of these reasons. Cox said he was part of the original creation of the Committee years ago and that he values the new members and the perspectives they have been able to bring to the Committee.

Chair Willey suggested that the Committee begin selecting nominations for the awards.

Distinguished Citizen

The submissions for Distinguished Citizen were discussed. The Committee unanimously chose to reclassify Robert Elmore to Honored Founder.

The following names were nominated for the 2006 Distinguished Citizen: Cox nominated Alan Hooper, Dressler nominated Douglas Eagon and Shaw nominated Frank Herhold.

The Board unanimously selected Douglas Eagon as the 2006 Distinguished Citizen recommendation to the City Commission.

The Committee agreed to carry forward the following names for consideration for next year's Distinguished Citizen: Patricia Falls DuMont, Frank Herhold, Alan Hooper and Joe Millsaps pending information from Dressler.

Citizen of the Year

The submissions for Citizen of the Year were discussed.

The following names were nominated for the 2006 Citizen of the Year: Cox nominated Frank Herhold and Alan Hooper, Willey nominated Essie Reed, Ellis nominated Joan Sheridan and Dressler nominated Alan Silva.

The Board unanimously selected Alan Hooper as the 2006 Citizen of the Year recommendation to the City Commission.

The Committee agreed to carry forward Joan Sheridan and Alan Silva for consideration for next year's Citizen of the Year. As a result of being selected as the 2006 Citizen of the Year recommendation, Alan Hooper was removed from next year's consideration for Distinguished Citizen.

Ellis asked the Committee to remember that the names recommended to the City Commission are often resubmitted at the state and national levels for other awards.

Honored Founder

The submissions for Honored Founder were discussed.

The Board unanimously selected Robert Elmore as the 2006 Honored Founder recommendation to the City Commission.

The Committee agreed to carry forward Allen McElhiney for consideration for next year's Honored Founder.

Exemplary Former City Employee

The submissions for Exemplary Former City Employee were discussed. The Committee unanimously agreed to carry forward Bruce Larkin for consideration for next year's Exemplary Former City Employee due to the timing of his retirement.

The following names were nominated for the 2006 Exemplary Former City Employee: Ellis nominated Scott Russell and Willey nominated Cecelia Margo-Ward.

The Board unanimously selected Scott Russell as the 2006 Exemplary Former City Employee recommendation to the City Commission.

The Committee agreed to carry forward Bruce Larkin and Cecelia Margo-Ward for consideration for next year's Exemplary Former City Employee.

The following names will be recommended to the City Commission for its approval. The Board selected all nominees unanimously.

Distinguished Citizen
Citizen of the Year

Douglas Eagon
Alan Hooper

Honored Founder

Robert Elmore

Exemplary Former City Employee

Scott Russell

The Committee directed DiPietro to prepare a letter to be sent to the recommended nominees to let them know of their selection, and that their names will be forwarded to the City Commission for approval. Each member of the Committee will sign the letter. The Committee asked DiPietro to maintain a list of names for consideration for awards in future years.

Other Matters of Interest or Concern

Dressler suggested the Committee have all the materials two weeks in advance of their meeting for sufficient time to review the nominations.

MOTION: Shaw/Ellis. A motion was made to set the following nomination policies: nominations submitted past the deadline will not be accepted, nominations without background materials will not be considered and such material must be submitted prior to the nomination deadline, all nominations must be submitted to the Committee's City Staff Liaison by the nomination deadline, and the Committee will have their agenda packets two weeks in advance of their meeting date. Passed unanimously.

Dressler said he feels the City Commission agrees that the awards ceremony is their best meeting of the year. Shaw agreed and added that he believes the Committee does a good job even though the process can be a little burdensome at time. Ellis added that she feels it is an honor and privilege to sit on the Committee and said the award recipients are always deeply touched.

Shaw suggested that the Distinguished Citizen and Citizen of the Year have a one-year term on the Citizens' Committee of Recognition. Dressler mentioned how long it took to have Ellis and Willey added to the Committee. Cox suggested inviting the Distinguished Citizen and Citizen of the Year to their annual meeting. Willey suggested inviting them as ex-officios.

The Committee agreed to invite the award recipients to attend and participate in the discussion as ex-officios at the Committee's following annual meeting.

Shaw suggested that pictures be submitted on an optional basis and such a note be placed on the nomination form. The Committee agreed with this request.

A discussion was held regarding the date for the awards ceremony. DiPietro informed the Committee that the event timing has been thrown off due to the postponed annual meeting and suggested that the ceremony be held in May as opposed to April. Ellis disagreed and pointed out that the recipients deserve a full year of recognition and offered her assistance to help coordinate the ceremony.

MOTION: Ellis/Cox. A motion was made to have the awards ceremony on April 18, pending the availability of the nominees. Passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.