

***City of Fort Lauderdale – Citizens' Committee of Recognition
City Commission Conference Room
February 2, 2009 – 12:00 Noon
Minutes***

Committee Members Present

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

Also Present

Petula Burks, Staff Liaison
Jeff Modarelli, PIO Director
Richard Mancuso

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm. by Chair, Genia Ellis.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Willey/Dressler. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2008 meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

Cox asked to be recognized by the chair to address members of the Committee regarding the future of the Committee and its current structure. Chair Ellis recognized him to speak. Cox reiterated his concerns that he brought up during last year's meeting stating that although ex-Mayors are automatically appointed to Committee, the number of ex-Mayors available for participation is now very low compared to when the Board was originally established. He said currently the Committee was down to three Mayors and two appointed members. Discussion followed regarding some of the members no longer being as active or current with individual's participation in the growth, structure, building, and future of the City of Fort Lauderdale.

MOTION: Cox/Willey. The motion was made to ask City Commission to add three consensus members or members at large to the Committee as well as the prior Citizen of the Year, who would serve on an annual basis. The motion passed unanimously. Members again agreed to have Chair Ellis write a letter/email to City Commission regarding the motion to expand the membership of Committee rather than waiting for the minutes to be approved by Committee at their next annual meeting. The Committee unanimously agreed that Chair Ellis move forward with the motion by writing a letter/email to City Commission.

Cox asked that Chair Ellis brief the new commission (after March 17, 2009) about the committee and its responsibilities. All members were in agreement.

The committee discussed creating a different application form for each award with specific questions and the definition for each award clearly delineated so that those submitting applications have a clear cut idea of what information the committee needs.

MOTION: Willey/Dressler: The motion was made to create separate applications for each award category with specific questions for each award listed on the application. The motion was passed unanimously.

Citizen Recognition Awards

Chair Ellis began the awards discussion with the first category, Citizen of the Year.

Citizen of the Year

The Committee discussion of this category included support for Essie Reid and Patsy Mennuti. It was recommended that Fred Stresau be moved from the Citizen of the Year category to the Distinguished Citizen category. Discussion followed with all members supporting the nomination of Essie Reid.

MOTION: Willey/Cox: A motion was made to move Fred Stresau to the Distinguished Citizen category. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Willey/Dressler: A motion was made to recommend Essie Reid as Citizen of the Year. The motion passed unanimously.

Honored Founder

The Committee discussion of this category included support for Eula Johnson, Ted Drum and Stanford Smoker. Discussion followed regarding the nominations and how they all had made contributions to the City. Committee members discussed all three nominees and agreed to nominate Ted Drum for Honored Founder. The committee also agreed to carry over Eula Johnson and Stanford Smoker for next year.

MOTION: Willey/Shaw. A motion was made to recommend Ted Drum as Honored Founder. Cox abstained from vote. The motion passed.

Distinguished Citizen

The Committee discussion of this category included support for Harry Moon and Fred Stresau.

Committee Member Shaw asked the committee to accept both names. The motion died. After discussion, the committee agreed to nominate Fred Stresau for Distinguished Citizen. The committee also agreed to carry over Harry Moon, Tim Smith and Pat DuMont.

MOTION: Willey/Cox. The motion was made to recommend Fred Stresau as Distinguished Citizen of the year. The motion passed unanimously.

Exemplary Former City Employee

The Committee discussed all the nominees and decided to nominate Mike Purcell for Exemplary Former Employee. The committee agreed to carry forward Mike Fay, Bud Bentley, Chris Wren and John Hoelzle to next year.

MOTION: Ellis/Cox: A motion was made to recommend Mike Purcell as Exemplary Former City Employee. The motion passed unanimously.

The following names will be recommended to the City Commission for its approval.

Citizen of the Year – Essie Reid
Distinguished Citizen - Fred Stresau
Honored Founder –Ted Drum
Exemplary Former City Employee – Mike Purcell

Other Matters of Interest or Concern

Date for Award Ceremony

Public Information Staff requested members allow Department to put a recommended award ceremony date in the Commission Agenda Report for the February 17, 2009 City Commission Conference Meeting. The Committee was in favor and recommended that the award ceremony date be set for April 21, 2009, prior to the 1:30 pm Conference Meeting.

Procedure for notifying recipients & Committee annual meeting date

Chair Ellis asked those present not to disclose the recommendations made by the committee until after the City Commission has approved them in the February 17th meeting. Staff advised the recommendations would go before the City Commission on February 17, 2009.

Selection of Chair

Members selected Robert Dressler for the new chair.

MOTION: Cox/Wiley. A motion was made for Robert Dressler to serve as Chairperson. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm