

**FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING**  
**APRIL 3, 2012**

Agenda Item	Page
City Commission Reports	10
1. Events and Matters of Interest including Bumper Stickers available from the Metropolitan Planning Organization about Vehicles Allowing for a Distance of Three Feet from Bicycles	10
2. Community Gardens	10
3. Middle River South Middle River Sunrise Boulevard Community Redevelopment Area	10
4. Broward County Ordinance; Requiring Contractors to Provide Equal Benefits to Domestic Partners of Employees	10
5. Victoria Park Civic Association Meeting Concerning Traffic Issues	10
6. Riverwalk Lighting	10
7. Lauderdale Memorial Gardens Cemetery; Burglaries	10
8. South Federal Highway Repavement Project	10
9. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant	10
10. Florida Department of Transportation Streetscape Projects	11
11. Municipal Elections; Charter Revision Board	11
12. Panhandling; Website	11
13. Completed Master Plans; Comprehensive List	11
14. Automobile Repairs in Residential Areas	11
15. Sunset Memorial Gardens; Fence	11
16. Water Leaks; Code Amendment	11
17. Shut-Off of Water Accounts; Notification Procedures	11
18. Neighborhood Street Lighting	12
19. Sun Trolley; Signage in Governmental Buildings	12
20. South Middle River; Half-Way House; Crescent House	12
OB Fort Lauderdale Grand Prix Association, LLC; Grand Prix 2013	1
I-A Permitting Process Improvement Project	1
I-B Redevelopment of Aquatic Complex – Proposal Submitted by Recreational Design & Construction, Inc.	2
I-C City Attorney Selection Process	6
I-D Rescheduling July 3, 2012 City Commission Regular and Conference Meetings to July 10, 2012	7
I-E Broward League of Cities – Appointment of Director, Alternate and Second Alternate	7
I-F Code Amendment – Solid Waste Services	7
I-G Policy Permitting Absent City Commission, Board and Committee Members to Participate in Meetings Via Electronic CommunicationsMedia Technology	8
I-H Code Amendment – Prohibition of Begging, Panhandling and Soliciting on Certain Designated Property	8
I-I Proposed Lien Settlements – Special Magistrate and Code Enforcement Board Cases	8
III-A Communications to the City Commission and Minutes Circulated For the Period Ending March 29, 2012	9
III-B Board and Committee Vacancies	9
City Manager Reports	12

**CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING      1:34 P.M.      April 3, 2012**

Present:                    Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler  
                                 Commissioners Bruce G. Roberts, Charlotte E. Rodstrom, Bobby B.  
                                 DuBose and Romney Rogers

Also Present:            City Manager                    Lee R. Feldman  
                                 City Auditor                    John Herbst  
                                 City Clerk                        Jonda K. Joseph  
                                 City Attorney                    Harry A. Stewart  
                                 Sergeant At Arms                Sergeant Joel Winfrey

**OB - Fort Lauderdale Grand Prix Association, LLC; Grand Prix 2013**

Mayor Seiler received unanimous consensus for the City Manager to negotiate for this event. The City Manager would be negotiating with the same representatives who presented the idea to the Commission previously, although the group has expanded. The first choice time frame would be the last weekend in September of 2013. Commissioner Rodstrom wanted mention of Fort Lauderdale to be included in all marketing. Mayor Seiler asked that representatives work closely with the district commissioner.

**I-A – Permitting Process Improvement Project**

Amy Knowles, Assistant To The City Manager, reviewed slides on this topic provided as Exhibit 1 to Commission Agenda Report 12-0609 and attached to these minutes.

Ms. Knowles explained for Commissioner Rogers that some steps that are considered necessary (but do not make sense) will be examined to confirm they are truly necessary by looking at the code and confirming it is being properly interpreted.

Laura Gambino, Economic Development Division of Sustainable Development, continued review of the slides starting with Slide 6, Summary of Results; Ella Parker, Sustainable Development, continued with Slide 9, Legislative; Valerie Florestal, Structural Innovation Division of City Manager's Office, with Slide 10, Technology; John Madden, Building Division, with Slide 11, Communication and Outreach; William McDonough, Treasury, with Slide 12, To Get From Here; Ms. Knowles with Slide 14, Projected Impacts; Terry Burgess, Building Services Division of Sustainable Development, with Slide 15, Implementation Timeline. Ms. Gambino elaborated upon the implementation timeline as well as staff's intention to benchmark progress and emphasized that it will take quite a bit of time.

Commissioner Rodstrom questioned eliminating the thirty-day call-up provision and providing site plans to the Commission electronically. Vice Mayor DuBose suggested hardcopies be provided by request. In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, the City Manager explained that staff found that the term, neighborhood compatibility, is undefined. He assured her that rewriting of the zoning code will include the community. Commissioner Roberts wanted some type of a process like the call-up. Vice Mayor Du Bose wanted more insight as to how staff reached the recommendation concerning the call-up provision. Sam Poole of Berger Singerman, a member of the team that developed these recommendations, commented on the call-up provision item. Applicants cannot determine from reading the code what the City expects. The code should be specific enough so that the call-up is not necessary. It is really about clarity of the City's vision and not be a situation of negotiating individual projects from the dais. The goal would be for the

criteria to be spelled out in the code. The City Manager indicated that some cities have institutionalized community outreach at the beginning of the process. Commissioner Roberts emphasized that neighborhood involvement is the key. Commissioner Rogers felt it is important to simplify the process and that will help all around. In response to Vice Mayor DuBose, Ms. Gambino explained what staff had done in terms of tracking, using a checklist, and making sure the applicant has a plan initialed by the planner and the applicant at the onset. Vice Mayor DuBose wanted more strengthening of notice and inquiry from stakeholders in this area. Commissioner Roberts agreed that there is need for communication to the community upfront to avoid call-ups. Commissioner Rodstrom agreed as well and commented that email should not be the only form of communication. Mayor Seiler agreed with commissioners' comments. He went on to comment about the perception that the permitting process was in need of improvement. The Mayor and Commission commended the team participants and the department in general. Discussion ensued on the timeline and updates to the Commission. Mayor Seiler emphasized the importance of publicizing the results. The City Manager indicated the goal is to have a continuous process review in a new area every two months. The Commission will receive updates.

### **I-B – Redevelopment of Aquatic Complex – Proposal Submitted by Recreational Design & Construction, Inc.**

Jim Blosser, esenting Recreational Design & Construction, Inc. (RDC), provided a brief historical chronology concerning this project including their outreach meetings with the community, users, International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF), Beach Redevelopment Board, Beach Business Improvement District, boat show and Tourist Development Council. The objectives are a world-class venue including an ISHOF facility; cost not to exceed \$25 million not including the garage and commercial component; transparent and open design that is open and inviting to the public; no commercial uses on the public portion west of Seabreeze; retain Alexander Park as open space. Parking has been increased to 593 spaces plus 35 spaces within Ron Jon complex. There is more green, open space on the site than currently exists. As to there being less noise, less traffic and less visual impact, RDC worked hard to balance the needs of neighbors, business interests, users and ISHOF. As to the commercial use, the RFP called for a water themed component. The proposal includes a world-class Ron Jon complex with a water-oriented component that will economically assist the venue operation and enhance the area south of Las Olas Boulevard. He went on to read letters of support from U.S. Diving of Indianapolis, Indiana; U.S.A. Swimming of Colorado Springs, Colorado; U.S. Masters Swimming of Sarasota; National Drowning Prevention Alliance of Fort Lauderdale and U. S. Synchronized Swimming, Inc. of Indianapolis, Indiana, that are attached to these minutes.

Bernard Zyscovich of Zyscovich Architects, representing RDC, noted highlights of the revised redevelopment plan, dated April 3, 2012, that was provided by Joe Cerrone and made a part of the record. He drew attention to changes. The parking has been increased. The garage has been extended to the north. Provision has been made in the dive well deck for aquatic stadium. The dive well and 50-meter swimming pool have been flipped so the two competitive pools are adjacent to each other. He elaborated upon view features and how future development would allow for the stadium to surround the dive pool and provide additional buffering. Therapy pools could be included if the City chooses to have an operator. He noted changes to the swimming pool design. Zyscovich is working with Ron Jon in Cocoa Beach on a new campus recreation entertainment facility and therefore already has an ongoing working relationship.

Joe Cerrone, representing Recreational Design & Construction, Inc., discussed swapping of the dive well and 50-meter pool. The moveable floor was moved to the existing 50-meter pool. The

new 50-meter pool will be more shallow and comply with international water polo, synchronized swimming and so forth. Changes were made in collaboration with ISHOF and other organizations that offered guidance. The existing pool at grade is now more multi-purpose. Adjustments were made to the dive well in the hopes that Royal Caribbean and Cirque du Soleil will be interested and this component can become an aqua stadium. It is 20 feet deep. The public improvements portion is at \$24.864 million and the parking garage at \$7.5 million.

Debbie Harvey, president of Ron Jon Surf Shop, provided information about Ron Jon and its brand.

Mr. Cerrone indicated that private component is estimated at \$9.7 million. With consensus to negotiate with the City Manager, RDC will return in forty-five days with a design build agreement for the east side and a developer's agreement for the west side and be ready to begin the Development Review Committee process. The construction schedule would be eighteen months. RDC would hope to start construction by February, 2013.

Mayor Seiler thought there should be prominent identification that the facility is home of the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

Bruce Wigo, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), of International Swimming Hall of Fame, provided a yearbook on the history of ISHOF and elaborated upon ISHOF's goals. He provided a resolution of ISHOF supporting the RDC proposal that was made a part of the record. The changes made were instrumental in securing support of (noted) organizations. He agreed with Mayor Seiler about prominent identification of ISHOF's location at the Aquatic Complex.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

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Art Seitz, 1905 North Atlantic Boulevard, supported the Aquatic Complex (Complex) plan developed by staff last summer; however, he opposed this item. The Complex should be a trailhead for the A-1-A greenway. He wanted a world-class attraction that accommodates lucrative events like the IndyCar race, and includes a restaurant with Intracoastal views. He contended that RDC's former financier was foreclosed upon, and elaborated upon legal issues faced by another. He thought the City will lose \$500,000 per year on this facility which should provide year-round benefits, but offers little to attract families and children. This proposal should include a business plan. The City's property to the east (D.C. Alexander Park) should not be given to this developer. There is time to issue a new RFP.

Fred Carlson, member of the Central Beach Alliance, wanted unity on this project; however, there is an implication of undue influence related to this bid, with which he does not agree. The time to re-bid may have passed, but he urged the Commission to involve the public in order to mitigate these concerns. He was concerned that, on the eastern end of this project, the Ron Jon shop will encroach on a sidewalk and park (D.C. Alexander Park). Mayor Seiler pointed out that this property has never been designated as a park. Nonetheless, Mr. Carlson thought Ron Jon should be asked to grant 20 feet of setback on the front to relieve any congestion caused by extending up to the property line of the park and sidewalk.

John Weaver, president of Central Beach Alliance, personally supported this item. He read the CBA's letter to the Commission, dated January 11, 2012. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes. He recalled the City's scaled-back proposal for \$29 million, as opposed to about

\$21 million for this item. Ultimately, the City could owe funds to RDC, if this project is re-bid and RDC is not awarded. Although ISHOF supports the proposed item, he thought the studies it commissioned for the original bid should be performed again for comparison sake. He agreed with the letters of support for the redevelopment of ISHOF that were submitted. He thought (D.C. Alexander Park) is \$20 million worth of property being turned over to (RDC) which is not included in the City's (\$29 million) proposal. The beach will eventually reach maximum capacity on private land; it is unnecessary to allow private development of City property. He thought this project design includes input from ISHOF and City staff, and is ready to move forward. As for rebidding, there could be better ideas, although the CBA likes use of a local contractor, but it may be necessary to utilize a contractor that is outside of the city. He expressed concern about the cost significantly increasing if this plan was not prepared properly.

Anne Hilmer, Idlewyld Improvement Association, indicated that her comments will be restricted to the proposed site plan, although she has concerns about the RFP process. She posed the following four questions: 1) what events are being planned for the open covered area between the pools and how frequently will these occur, and what is the allowable noise level; 2) where will the timing board be placed, and in what direction will the lighted numbers face; 3) in terms of a possible future aquatic stadium over the dive well, what would be involved with covering the dive well; and, what would be the frequency, noise level, crowd control and traffic patterns for Cirque performances; and 4) what is the exact amount of green space included in this site plan. Mayor Seiler noted that her questions will be addressed later in the meeting.

Mary Fertig, Idlewyld Improvement Association, recalled that related projects over the years were supported by the Beach Redevelopment Board, but questioned by the community. She elaborated upon the features of the plan presented last year that made it unacceptable. However, this plan addresses many prior concerns and includes increased parking; enlarged open space on the west side of Seabreeze Boulevard; and D.C. Alexander Park was left as open space. There will be more questions regarding whether the proposed will meet current zoning requirements or require variances when a site plan, as opposed to a conceptual plan, is presented. She indicated that RDC presented the most recent plans to the Association, and members' ideas were incorporated. Similar to the Bahia Mar project, she wanted the City to impose strict conditions that address noise, landscaping, environmental issues, and frequency of special events. She asked that the part of the greenway that should link with Bahia Mar be delineated. The north portion of City property on the east side of Seabreeze is the last open green space along the beach, so she urged the City to carefully consider what is to be built, that there will continue to be a demand for it in the future. She questioned how the portion of this project fronting A-1-A will impact traffic, as traffic congestion is presently a concern. As a resident, she felt the pertinent questions to be answered are what is to be built; how is it to be constructed; and is it cost effective.

The City Manager clarified that the City is the operator of the Complex under this proposal, not a third party. Ms. Fertig noted that the Association's concern is related to event scheduling. In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, the City Manager confirmed that any non-City event would be included on the Commission agenda for consideration; and Commissioner Rodstrom explained that community outreach is utilized (to alert the public of) City events. Ms. Hilmer questioned whether there is a ceiling on the number of events. Mayor Seiler pointed out that Commission approval will be required for each event. There would not be unlimited events.

Shirley Smith, member of the Central Beach Alliance, indicated that there are bleachers at the Complex that have not been repaired. She did not want the City to give away green space. She contended that there is plenty of parking at the beach, although it is undesirable because it is

costly. The City should allow free beach parking before 9 a.m. to Fort Lauderdale residents. She and Commissioner Rodstrom discussed 5<sup>th</sup> Street with respect to it being either one-way or two-way street.

Dave Burgering, head coach of the Ft. Lauderdale Diving Team, supported this item. He questioned what party will be responsible for the plan details. He thought some aspects need to be refined such as placement of the teaching pool behind the dive well. He urged the Commission to move forward.

Bradley Deckelbaum, chairman of the Beach Redevelopment Board, preferred the original design to this current plan; however, he supported the design for the west side. Although he shared many of the same concerns related to this project's history, it is time for this to be developed. Provided staff works with the development team to control costs and to ensure that there is a feasible operational plan for the facility, he urged the Commission to move forward with a design/build agreement for the portion west of Seabreeze, including a caveat of placing a time certain for when the agreement will be reached. As for the portion east of Seabreeze, he did not care for this design. He agreed with Ms. Fertig that whatever is built here should not be a fad, but rather something that will be lasting. In terms of long-term leases or property sales, he was concerned because the portion of the property that is being built on was not included in the original RFP. The RFP only included the southern portion. Mr. Cerrone clarified that the RFP simply specified that development would be subject to deed restrictions applicable to the park. Mr. Deckelbaum noted that the current plan involves two separate projects: a design/build agreement for ISHOF and a development agreement for City-owned land east of Seabreeze. He encouraged the Commission to put the (City-owned land) portion out for bid, if it is not kept as a City park.

There was no one else wishing to speak.

At Mayor Seiler's request, Mr. Cerrone provided further clarification about the dry land training facility proposed to be located north of the dive well. It is outdoors. The weight room is indoors. In response to Commissioner Rogers, Mr. Cerrone indicated it is about the same square footage that presently exists, 1,200 square feet. The City Manager explained due to height limitations it could not be accommodated on the parking deck. Mayor Seiler concluded that this is a detail that will be worked through.

In response to Mayor Seiler, it was clarified that the Beach Redevelopment Board voted 11-1 in favor of the proposal. In response to a comment that the project is \$76 million, Mayor Seiler clarified that it has never been that amount.

The following responses were provided to Mr. Hilmer's questions.

As to event planning for the open-air area between the two pools, Mr. Cerrone pointed out that the City would be managing the facility. RDC has retained probably the most premier aquatic engineer who will be helping, along with the coaches, to decide where the timing board will be located. The City Manager explained today's proposal is a concept; such details will be worked out in the site plan. An aquatic stadium is not part of the plan; but the design would accommodate it in the future. Mr. Zyscovich advised that there is 73,500 square feet of green space on the plan which is significantly more than the previous plan; it does not include anything on the east side.

Mr. Zyscovich explained for Commissioner Rogers the purpose of the 54 surface parking spaces is additional parking, access to the garage, staging and service. Paved area around the garage is needed. Commissioner Roberts commented that the (D. C. Alexander) park space provides a venue in which to hold events and generate revenue to fund the facility. The revenue is needed. In response to the question of use of the park from a legal standpoint, the City Attorney thought it was included in the first proposal and that proposal was examined. If the Commission decides to go forward, he will look at this again. In response to Vice Mayor DuBose, Mr. Zyscovich advised that there are three traffic lane widths provided and flow within the garage is two-way. Valet parking could be used for a large event. There is flexibility. He provided further explanation on traffic flow relating to the garage. Mr. Wigo responded to Commissioner Rogers' question and explained why he is satisfied with the pool components. Commissioner Rogers felt the structure needs to be driven by the financial structure. The City's original intent was to incur minimal cost. He questioned why there has been only one proposer. To assure that the City is getting the best bang for its buck, he suggested the contract provide for a guaranteed maximum price. He agreed with Commissioner Roberts concerning use of the park property to generate revenue and pay for the facility operation. Commissioner Rodstrom wanted to request something in writing from the Tourist Development Council as to their annual commitment to operations as previously discussed. Also, ISHOF will be raising funds for interior improvements to the museum. In response to Commissioner Rogers' question, Mr. Cerrone noted RDC's experience with a similar project of size and complexity for Miami, \$32 million, Grapeland Water Park. In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, the City Manager advised that the contract will provide for flexibility to change the use of the wave pool, for example. He noted that there will be three associated contracts. Mayor Seiler felt there is certainly no surplus of parking in the area; parking is assuredly needed. He reiterated his comment as to signage needs for both the aquatic center and ISHOF. He wanted to make sure the greenway width is adequate. As to a shaded area for the dry land facility, he felt this could be worked out by the experts.

Once the Commission indicates it approves of the design, the City Manager indicated that he will negotiate lease agreements for the Ron Jon and ISHOF facilities and a design-build guaranteed maximum price open book contract with RDC for the aquatic center without the Commission's specific direction. He believed forty-five days would be sufficient. The City Attorney thought that timeframe was very optimistic, assuming compliance by the developer. Mayor Seiler suggested a tentative timeline of forty-five days with the matter coming back to the Commission on May 22.

### **I-C – City Attorney Selection Process**

Mayor Seiler noted that the City Attorney has agreed to stay onboard until a replacement is selected. He noted that the firm that handled the City Manager search also handled the County Attorney search. He suggested a screening committee. Commissioner Rodstrom raised the idea of Commission members offering three nominations for the position itself, however, Mayor Seiler wanted only interested individuals to be considered and he did not want the Commission to be burdened with the associated leg work in the process. She was concerned about individuals who might also be registered lobbyists. Mayor Seiler thought a broader committee would address that concern. Vice Mayor DuBose liked the process used for the City Manager's selection. The firm used made a concerted effort to address concerns about diversity. Mayor Seiler was agreeable with that approach and was pleased with the same firm although he felt the fee should be less. In response to his question, the City Attorney advised that if the Commission wishes to waive the bidding requirement, it could find that it is in the best interests of the City to do so. The City Manager indicated that with the new purchasing provisions, he

was confident that the amount will be within his discretion. With this being a charter position, Mayor Seiler preferred the City Manager submit three proposals and have the selection be made by the Commission. Mayor Seiler asked the City Manager provide for the proposals not to exceed \$25,000 and no minimum be included. He also suggested the proposals be presented to the Commission on May 1. On May 15, the Commission would make appointments to the screening committee. He suggested there be seven members with one nomination by each member of the Commission, one consensus appointment and the City Attorney would serve as the seventh member. Mayor Seiler suggested the consensus appointment be a member of the Bar. The City Attorney suggested that the consensus appointment be made last. Discussion ensued concerning the consultant selection process. Commissioner DuBose requested a memorandum from the City Attorney concerning the selection process and the new ethics code. In response to Commissioner Rogers, the City Attorney indicated that the ethics provisions do not apply to hiring employees; a contract attorney would be different. Commissioner Rogers asked about individuals serving on the screening committee who may be vendors in the future. The City Attorney did not see a problem.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Robert Walsh, 401 E. Las Olas Boulevard, urged appointment of an attorney already on staff to serve during the interim. Mayor Seiler explained the system of checks and balances and emphasized the importance of each office being independent of the other. During the interim, the City Attorney has agreed to continue to serve.

Commissioner Rodstrom asked the City Attorney to determine if the ethics ordinance prohibits individuals who are lobbyists from serving on the screening committee.

#### **I-D – Rescheduling July 3, 2012 City Commission Regular and Conference Meetings to July 10, 2012**

There was no objection. There was consensus for the first meeting after the break to be August 21.

#### **I-E – Broward League of Cities – Appointment of Director, Alternate and Second Alternate**

There was consensus approval for Vice Mayor DuBose to continue serving as a director, Commissioner Rodstrom to continue serving as alternate and Commissioner Rogers as second alternate.

#### **I-F – Code Amendment – Solid Waste Services**

The City Manager indicated staff noticed that the code needs updating to coincide with current practices of \$2 million. The amendments would include increasing liability insurance coverage level and change the definition of gross revenues, removing some revenue exclusions where the City is losing an opportunity to collect franchise fees. Commissioner DuBose noted that reference to the definition change is not mentioned in the backup. The City Manager offered to followup with a more detailed explanation concerning the definition. He went on to explain that although the code does not generally set specific limits on liability coverage, requests for proposals generally do. However in this case the code speaks to liability limits. It was a matter of not referring to the code historically. This has to do with all of the private haulers who are servicing commercial accounts.



There was consensus approval on that portion of the item relating to the amount of liability insurance coverage. The portion relating to the definition of gross revenues will be submitted at a future meeting.

**I-G – Policy Permitting Absent City Commission Board and Committee Members to Participate in Meetings via Electronic Communications Media Technology**

The City Attorney advised that most jurisdictions that have responded to their inquiry are pretty much in line with the Commission resolution adopted on July 7 (2010). One or two jurisdictions exempt scheduling conflicts and others allow non-quasi judicial absent board members to vote. It will require the Commission to determine that scheduling conflicts are extraordinary in accordance with the Attorney General's opinion that requires extraordinary circumstances in order to participate electronically. He recommended the current resolution be amended to include that scheduling conflicts are extraordinary circumstances if the Commission decides this to be the case. The other amendment would be that all members, physically or electronically, shall be permitted to vote because participation for quasi-judicial members is not allowed to start with.

Mayor Seiler did not object to telephonic participation but was uncertain about voting. Discussion ensued on the topic wherein Vice Mayor DuBose elaborated upon his reason for advocating and supporting the concept and discussion on the specified reasons.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Robert Walsh, 401 E. Las Olas Boulevard, emphasized the importance of members of the City Commission being physically present at the meetings. He did not support electronic voting.

The City Attorney responded to Vice Mayor DuBose's question as to notice being provided by the requesting member, explaining, for example, if a member did not comply with the seven-day notice provision and gave notice an hour before the meeting and staff was unable to provide connection, the member would not be able to participate.

There was consensus approval including the following reasons: personal illness, matters relating to a family death or illness, City business, vacation or business out of Broward County once a year.

Note: The City Commission recessed at 5:13 p.m. and addressed Conference Item I-I at approximately 9:39 p.m. in the City Commission meeting room on the first floor of City Hall.

**I-I – Proposed Lien Settlements – Special Magistrate and Code Enforcement Board**

No objection.

**I-H – Code Amendment – Prohibition of Begging, Panhandling and Soliciting on Certain Designated Property**

The City Attorney indicated this ordinance is proposed in response to the request to do something about panhandling in the downtown and other areas. It was concluded that aggressive panhandling should be banned citywide and the City's authority be exercised under the laws involving a captive audience and certain locations, those being bus stops, on buses, within fifteen feet of sidewalk cafes, parking lots, garages operated by the City, City parks,

within fifteen feet of ATM machines, within fifteen feet of the exit or entrance to City or commercial buildings and private property unless there is permission from the owner.

In response to Commissioner Roberts, the City Attorney agreed to change city building reference to governmental building. Commissioner Rogers wanted the ordinance to reach further and mentioned areas where there is evidence of economic impact. There are businesses that closed because of the proclivity of panhandling in the area. Commissioner Roberts wanted to expand throughout the Downtown Development Authority area. Although he agreed, Mayor Seiler was concerned that over-reaching would risk everything being thrown out by a judicial challenge. He wanted to first take this step. Commissioner DuBose spoke of his personal research into areas of the country with such legislation and those that did not withstand judicial challenge. He agreed with the idea of following staff's recommendation as a first step. Commissioner Rogers was concerned about the activity in the medians and roadways and the related public safety issue. The City Attorney advised that there is a state statute on soliciting on the roadways. For the City's ordinance, the City will have to provide counsel if the individual does not have their own counsel. Whereas, the public defender would be responsible with respect to violation of a state statute. Commissioner Rogers felt the dynamics of the state statute should be part of the educational component as well as enforcement. The City Attorney felt the change from city buildings to governmental together with the educational campaign would resolve the problem that occurred at the Charcuterie.

There was consensus approval with the change of city buildings to governmental. Mayor Seiler asked if it would be possible for an ordinance to be presented on April 17. The City Attorney explained customary advertising of both readings that would not be possible for a first reading on April 17 due to the required newspaper lead time and the ten-day in advance requirement. Mayor Seiler asked it be presented for consideration as quickly as possible.

### **III-A – Communication to City Commission and Minutes Circulated for Period ending March 29, 2012**

#### **Planning and Zoning Board**

The Board recommended by consensus to streamline the review process for certain small impact uses. Some examples that came up included areas such as the beach, where the code specifically defines certain uses and leaves the discretion to approve others as "tourist serving" by the Planning and Zoning Board, and also recommended to authorize staff to use their discretion regarding some of the smaller public purpose requests, either at the Development Review Committee or administrative level, preventing the necessity of bringing these applications before the Board for approval and making the process easier and less expensive for applicants.

Mayor Seiler noted this topic was raised earlier this evening (in the regular meeting). He asked that the Board be thanked and informed that the idea is in the works.

### **III-B – Board and Committee Vacancies**

Note: Please see regular meeting item R-05.

### **City Commission Reports**

#### Events and Matters of Interest including Bumper Stickers available from the Metropolitan Planning Organization about Vehicles Allowing for a Distance of Three Feet from Bicycles

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events and matters of interest.

#### Community Gardens

In response to Vice Mayor Rodstrom, the City Manager indicated staff intends to move forward with this topic at the next Planning and Zoning Board's meeting. Urban farming will be addressed at a future date.

#### Middle River South Middle River Sunrise Boulevard Community Redevelopment Area

In response to Vice Mayor Rodstrom, the City Manager indicated an advisory board could be established based on direction from the Community Redevelopment Area Board of Directors or the Commission. There was consensus agreement that there should be an advisory board.

#### Broward County Ordinance; Requiring Contractors to Provide Equal Benefits to Domestic Partners of Employees

Vice Mayor Rodstrom had provided copies of this ordinance to the Commission and asked for their feedback at the April 17 meeting as to whether the City should adopt a similar ordinance.

#### Victoria Park Civic Association Meeting Concerning Traffic Issues

At the request of Mayor Seiler and Commissioner DuBose, Vice Mayor Rodstrom agreed to make arrangements for Broward County representatives to be present at this meeting. She noted that City staff will also be present.

#### Riverwalk Lighting

Commissioner Rogers noted a constituent's view on the need for better lighting on the Riverwalk. He hoped this issue will be on a future agenda.

#### Lauderdale Memorial Gardens Cemetery; Burglaries

Commissioner Rogers requested followup on recently reported break-ins at Lauderdale Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

#### South Federal Highway Repavement Project

Commissioner Rogers provided a verbal status report on this project.

#### Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant

Commissioner Rogers asked the City Manager to look into a complaint he received about chlorine used for cleaning seeping into nearby outdoor air conditioning units and corroding them.

Florida Department of Transportation Streetscape Projects

Commissioner Rogers requested the City Manager determine the dollar figure associated with Florida Department of Transportation streetscape project cutbacks and the City budget funds for this area of need.

Municipal Elections; Charter Revision Board

Commissioner Rogers referred to the recent poor voter turnout and wanted to give direction to the Charter Revision Board with respect to changing municipal elections to November and consider staggered terms of four years. There could be two, four-year terms instead of three, three-year. Mayor Seiler did not want to have this discussion at such a late hour.

Panhandling; Website

Commissioner Rogers suggested a blanket endorsement of the charities shown on the City's website for donations as an alternative to individual donations directly to panhandlers. Commissioner DuBose referred to actions taken by other cities in this regard and offered to furnish information that would be helpful. Commissioner Rogers requested this be scheduled on a future conference agenda.

Completed Master Plans; Comprehensive List

Commissioner Rogers thought it would be helpful to review the comprehensive list of completed master plans recently distributed and give direction as to priority and so forth. Commissioners Roberts and DuBose requested a copy.

Automobile Repairs in Residential Areas

Commissioner DuBose referred to complaints from several areas in District III and wanted to look at the ordinance on this topic to see if enforcement could be improved upon. He requested this be scheduled on a future conference agenda.

Sunset Memorial Gardens; Fence

Commissioner DuBose requested a status report on this item.

Water Leaks; Code Amendment

Commissioner Roberts pointed out that there is no flexibility in the code to make adjustments to water bills where there has been a significant leak. The instance reported was undetected because the water flowed into the adjacent canal, but once found, it was quickly fixed. Mayor Seiler agreed with respect to accidents that the user should not be placed in a high volume category. He also wanted the matter addressed immediately. There was consensus approval to bring an ordinance forward for a vote at a regular meeting.

Shut-Off of Water Accounts; Notification Procedures

Commissioner Roberts requested the City Manager look into the notification procedures relating to the shut-off of water accounts. He referred to two instances of long-time residential

customers that had never had their accounts shut off in the past. Commissioner DuBose agreed.

#### Neighborhood Street Lighting

Commissioner Roberts indicated that the City Manager is looking into a comprehensive approach to neighborhood street lighting. Some discussion ensued about energy efficient lighting and possible savings. The City Manager elaborated upon putting in place a standard for each type of street.

#### Sun Trolley; Signage in Governmental Buildings

Commissioner Roberts advised that other area governmental buildings are displaying press-on stickers promoting use of the Sun Trolley. He asked if they could also be displayed in City buildings. There was consensus approval.

#### South Middle River; Half-Way House; Crescent House

Mayor Seiler wanted to pursue a remedy for issues relating to Crescent House. The City Manager noted the statute prohibits these homes from creating a public health, safety and welfare issue. He believed the City should take any and all action necessary, including litigation if necessary. In response to Commissioner Rodstrom, Mayor Seiler felt it is a matter of the supervisory staff not being upfront with their superiors. The City Attorney indicated this came to his attention today. He was not certain there would be a cause of action. He offered to look into it and report back. Some discussion ensued as to potential courses of action and requirements for operation of such a facility. There was consensus approval to move forward.

#### **City Manager Reports** - none

There being no other matters to come before the City Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 p.m.