

**APPROVED**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD (EDAB)**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE**  
**8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2013 – 3:45-5:15 P.M.**

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Attendance – January thru December</u>		
		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Sheryl Dickey, Chair	P	5	0
Kit Denison, Vice Chair	P	5	0
Jason Scott Crush	A	4	1
Al Calloway	P	4	1
Cary Goldberg	P	4	1
Jason Hughes	P	5	0
George Mihaiu	P	5	0
Cort Neimark	A	3	2
Denyse O’Grady	P	4	1
Dev Motwani	P	5	0
John Scherer	P	5	0

At this time, there are 11 appointed members to the Board, which means 6 would constitute a quorum.

**Staff**

Alfred Battle, Economic & Community Reinvestment Manager  
Karen Reese, Economic Dev. Rep., Economic & Community Reinvestment  
Patricia L. Smith, Secretary III

**Communications to City Commission**

**Motion** made by Mr. Goldberg and seconded by Mr. Denison that the Board support the Parklett pilot program in hopes of promoting more economic development as well as increased comfort for pedestrians. **Motion** passed unanimously.

**I. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum**

Chair Sheryl Dickey called the meeting to order at 3:55 p.m. It was noted a quorum was present at this time.

## II. Introductions

The Board, staff members, and guests introduced themselves.

## III. Approval of April 10, 2013 Minutes

**Motion** made by Mr. Goldberg and seconded by Mr. Scherer to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2013 meeting. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

## IV. The Wave

Chair Dickey introduced Elizabeth VanZandt, Planning & Design Manager, Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Ms. Van Zandt showed a presentation and spoke about the project the DDA is currently working on. Ms. VanZandt spoke about the utility box wrap program that the DDA is currently involved in. She stated that some of the wraps include directional information, architecture, arts, etc. Ms. VanZandt further stated that the DDA is working with the construction site of the courthouse to create a wrap that is more aesthetically pleasing for the fence. She went on to speak about various other projects the DDA is currently working on.

Ms. VanZandt spoke about the 2.7 mile WAVE project that will run from Sistrunk Boulevard to 17<sup>th</sup> Street Causeway with 10 stations that will include streetscape improvements and real-time information. She stated that they are aiming for solar power. Ms. VanZandt spoke about the DDA's partner's, Tri Rail, will oversee design and construction, City of Fort Lauderdale, Broward County as the owner/operator, Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Federal Department of Transportation and the Federal Transportation Administration. She also spoke about the benefits of the project.

Ms. VanZandt showed the Board the proposed route design and potential extension routes.

She stated that the WAVE was named in the 2014 New Starts Annual Report which is important because this means that the Wave would be recommended for funding the following year. She stated that the project has about an 80 - 85% support level. There will be a public hearing on June 4 with a final public hearing on July 2, 2013.

The station charrettes will begin shortly and the public will be invited.

A Board member wanted to know what would happen with the Broward Boulevard Tunnel. Ms. VanZandt directed the Board to the rendering in the presentation as one concept.

It was asked what the ridership cost would be. Ms. VanZandt stated that currently \$1.00 is being considered with a fare-free or reduced rate zone also being considered. Monthly or annual fare rates are preferred.

Ms. VanZandt stated that the streetcar in Seattle was installed at the end of the downtown area in 2009 and the economic impact has risen into the billions with Amazon locating there and currently expanding. She believes that Fort Lauderdale should expect great economic impact also.

The Board thanked Ms. Van Zandt for coming and presenting this information to the Board.

#### **IV. Old/New Business**

Board Chair introduced Diana Alarcon, Director of Transportation & Mobility. Ms Alarcon began by speaking about the Light Rail project and stating that she is extremely excited about it.

It was asked when was anticipated completion and Ms. VanZandt stated that the goal is 2016 with the first tracks being laid in 2014.

The Board wanted to know which extension/expansion might happen first, the Airport or the Sistrunk and Ms. Alarcon stated that the Airport and the Port is a more natural extension because of traffic mitigation however the Sistrunk extension is also being discussed. Ms. VanZandt also state that there are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Community Redevelopment funds that could be tapped into to assist in the expansion.

Ms. Alarcon stated that staff is working on a program pilot called Parklett for one year. This will be an extended outdoor space in the right-of-way that is available to the general public. The business owner would pay for the lost parking revenue to the City. There are no additional parking requirements for the business needed. The program has been extremely successful in other cities. The pilot will allow the City to make any necessary changes or improvements to the program.

**Motion** made by Mr. Goldberg and seconded by Mr. Denison that the Board support the Parklett pilot program in hopes of promoting more economic development as well as increased comfort for pedestrians. **Motion** passed unanimously.

Ms. Alarcon discussed the workshop that was recently held for the Las Olas Community and stated that a traffic engineer is going to be hired to look at the concerns of the community and to create an overall traffic plan that will go from the canal heading east to the intercoastal and also heading north and south and what type of traffic calming would help. She also stated that the City is working on on-street parking for Broward Boulevard and way-finding signage.

Ms. Alarcon discussed the challenges in creating a true walkable community.

She stated that the City hired a consultant who did a study and presented quick action items to the Commission. Staff has accomplished the three that are within it's control and the City has hired a consultant to do a study regarding Las Olas & Brickell traffic as part of the consultant's action items.

The Board discussed the Shippey House.

Ms. Alarcon discussed the upcoming Transportation Summit and invited the Board to attend and participate.

The Board thanked Ms. Alarcon for coming to speak with them.

- **New Business**

Discussion was had regarding the marina fire marshall requiring the boat yards to develop a plan where none currently exists to build a paint area that would meet federal paint guidelines. It was stated that the economic impact for Fort Lauderdale is huge. It was stated that what is currently happening with boat and yacht painting in Fort Lauderdale has been working for decades (ex: Allied Marine) with no incident.

Mr. Motwani offered space in his building in the downtown area as an incubator. Staff offered contacts and the Board discussed the type of businesses that could be housed there.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by Patricia L. Smith, Secretary III]