

**MINUTES OF THE MARINE ADVISORY BOARD
 100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
 8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
 FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
 THURSDAY, July 17, 2012 – 6:00 P.M.**

<u>Board Members</u>	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance May 2012 - April 2013	
		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Barry Flanigan, Chair	P	3	0
James Harrison, Vice Chair	P	2	1
F. St. George Guardabassi	P	3	0
Chad Moss	P	2	1
Norbert McLaughlin	P	3	0
Jim Welch	P	3	0
Robert Dean	P	2	1
John Holmes	P	2	1
Bob Ross	P	3	0
Joe Cain	A	2	1
Tom Tapp	P	3	0
Herb Rassing	P	3	0
Frank Herhold	P	2	1
Lisa Scott-Founds (6:07)	P	2	1
Zane Brisson	A	2	1

As of this date, there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

It was noted that a quorum was present for the meeting.

Staff

Andrew Cuba, Manager of Marine Facilities
 Levend Ekendiz, Intracoastal Facilities Dockmaster
 Matt Domke, Downtown Facilities Dockmaster
 Sgt. Kevin Shults, Marine Police Staff
 Adrienne Ehle, Public Works Department
 Jim Koeth, Public Works Department
 Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to the City Commission

None.

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Flanigan called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and roll was called.

II. Approval of Minutes – June 7, 2012

Motion made by Mr. Ross, seconded by Mr. Herhold, to approve as stated. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

III. Statement of Quorum

Chair Flanigan noted that a quorum was present.

IV. Waterway Crime & Boating Safety Report

Sgt. Shults reported that there have been no boat break-ins in District 1 for the past five weeks. The only recent issue has been some small engine thefts along the isles, after which a suspect was arrested. Over the past four weeks, there have been five similar thefts in this area, which are currently being investigated.

Ms. Scott-Founds arrived at 6:07 p.m.

Sgt. Shults continued that there was high turnout for July 4 and the recent Yacht Club show. There were no incidents during the holiday.

Mr. Rassing referred to a recent *Sun-Sentinel* news article regarding boating crime. Sgt. Shults said he was not approached or interviewed with respect to this article, and did not feel it was entirely accurate. He advised that this type of crime is specific to individuals who know the worth of items and a market in which they can be sold. The effort required for a thief to obtain some of these items is often minimal. He concluded that boat owners are advised to take more appropriate precautions in securing valuables.

Chair Flanigan recalled that efforts are underway to facilitate the loading and unloading of barges in Las Olas Marina, and asked if there are any navigational issues that could stand in the way of this process. Sgt. Shults said he was aware of no such obstacles. Chair Flanigan requested that this effort be added to the Board's upcoming visioning discussion.

Mr. Tapp stated that a resident had brought an issue to his attention regarding the "Rocket Man" business at George English Park. He explained that the Parks and Recreation Department issues a renewable monthly permit to the business. The individual had reached out to him after experiencing what seemed to be "less than safe" conditions. He added that Mr. Cuba has discussed the issue with the Marine Police Unit regarding the possibility of surveillance into this operation.

Sgt. Shults advised that Rocket Man is a company that uses a JetLev-designed product. They had petitioned the City to operate within George English Park,

subject to stipulations and approval of Parks and Recreation. While the only issues that might apply to the Marine Unit are navigational, it had come to his attention that there are potential conflicts with boaters and other problems that would need to be addressed by Parks and Recreation.

He added that at this operation, when an individual is "flying," he or she may only control the direction in which the device is guided; Rocket Man remotely controls the unit's power. The unit is not submersible, and in the event of a crash over water, the user would float. The personal watercraft operator who accompanies the flyer, however, appears to feel it is necessary to move the watercraft very quickly in the direction of a user who may be in distress. For this reason, the Marine Police Unit has given multiple warnings to the personal watercraft operator, and has recently issued two speeding citations related to these navigational issues.

Mr. Tapp observed that when ramps are in use by boaters, this situation appeared to be potentially dangerous. Sgt. Shults noted that while danger may be a matter of perception, this does create the opportunity for conflict. He pointed out that some "flyers" appear to be relatively skilled at operating the direction of the device, while others show significantly less control.

Mr. Tapp commented that it was possible for the watercraft to cross the path of another vessel when following an individual user, and asked if it could ultimately restrict other boaters from full use of the basin. Mr. Welch advised that the operation appears to "take over" use of a launch ramp, limiting the average boater's access to this ramp.

Mr. Holmes asked if Rocket Man has provided the City with proof of liability insurance. Mr. Cuba stated that a condition of the business's permit is the provision of proper insurance.

Sgt. Shults said while it was likely that this and similar operations would grow in popularity and become more common, there are significant constraints on the space it could use in Fort Lauderdale. He concluded that it would ultimately be necessary to iron out these issues in order for the operation to have positive exposure.

Mr. Tapp noted that other concessions, such as waverunners and jet skis, must create corridors in which swimmers and motorized watercraft are kept strictly apart from each other. He asked if the operation might be steered toward another area where there would be less conflict. Mr. Cuba advised that he would bring the issue to the attention of Parks and Recreation management and discuss it further with them. He observed that the business is a Parks issue rather than a marine issue, although Sgt. Shults reiterated that the Marine Police Unit will continue to monitor the operation through the end of July. If the potential for

reckless operation, conflict, or navigation is seen, it will be brought to the attention of Parks and Recreation for their review.

Mr. Cuba clarified that one issue is the confined area of the basin at George English Park; a similar business operating on the Intracoastal Waterway does not present as many potential concerns, as it is over a wider body of water. Ms. Scott-Founds pointed out, however, that these concessions have been successful in confined areas in other cities. Sgt. Shults advised that wakes are a concern at other locations, and noted that the concession is inhibited by inclement weather.

Mr. Herhold asked if the Marine Police Unit's monitoring of the operation was related in any way to the monthly permit renewals. Sgt. Shults said while he assumed this may be a factor in the renewal process, he did not know the exact date on which the permit would be up for renewal.

Steve Bertone, member of the public, stated he had witnessed two incidents with the operation at George English Park, including an experience when two waverunners following a flyer blocked a path to the floating docks. He cited another incident in which power to the Jet Lev system was cut, making the flyer fall into the water. He concluded that he felt systems such as this one should be operated at a safe distance from boats and boaters. Mr. Cuba reiterated that he would send a copy of the meeting minutes to the Parks and Recreation Department, and would inform them of the specific issues Mr. Borono had cited as well.

Mr. Tapp suggested that further discussion of this issue could be made an Agenda Item for a future meeting, and Parks and Recreation could be invited to attend. He noted that the operation could be successful at other locations, such as Mills Pond Park, with fewer safety concerns for boaters. Sgt. Shults proposed that the owner of the Jet Lev system could also be invited to attend an upcoming Board meeting to provide more information on the specifics of the system.

Mr. Herhold asked what would happen if an individual purchased a similar system for personal use, as this could result in a less controlled situation. Sgt. Shults advised that a user would still be required to obey navigational laws, such as observing speed zones.

Motion made by Mr. Tapp, seconded by Mr. Ross, that the Board make [this issue] an Agenda Item at their next meeting, and include the people that are involved, including the operations professional, including Parks and Recreation, and the Marine Patrol. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

V. Permit Application – Private Usage of Public Property – Sec. 8-144 – 711 Cordova Road / Rick J. Burgess

Rick Burgess, Applicant, explained that he recently purchased this home, which has an adjacent dock across the street; the previous property owners had a permit for the dock's use. He had the dock inspected, at which time some issues with the seawall were identified; in order to have these breaches repaired, however, Mr. Burgess is required to show that he is allowed to hire a company for this work. He requested that a permit be issued in his name in order to improve and ultimately use the dock.

Mr. Rassing asked if there were plans to expand the dock. Mr. Burgess confirmed that there were no such plans: he intended only to rebuild the seawall, install a footer, and replace some damaged planks on the dock.

Mr. Guardabassi asked why the Applicant was required to come before the Board. Mr. Cuba advised that if an individual chooses to use and maintain the dock, he or she is required to submit this Application.

Motion made by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Ross, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Mr. Herhold asked if it would be possible to distinguish between applications of this nature and applications involving more complex issues. He pointed out that this would lessen the expense required of an applicant. Mr. Cuba observed that Mr. Burgess's Application was very thorough, and that applicants may choose to include additional information, such as photographs. He pointed out that the application was necessary in this case because the dock is City property.

VI. Presentation – City of Fort Lauderdale Visioning – Adrienne Ehle

Adrienne Ehle and Jim Koeth, representing the Public Works Department, showed a PowerPoint presentation to the Board on how its members may become more involved in the City's visioning initiative.

Ms. Ehle explained that visioning is a planning process that engages the community in creating a future destination and shared aspirations for the City. Several different communities, neighborhoods, and organizations have become involved in this process, from homeowners' associations to schools, universities, and advisory bodies. The Visioning Committee was established in 2009 in order to guide this process.

Ms. Ehle recalled that in fall 2011, the City held four open houses, one in each City Commission district, with the intent of letting residents know this initiative was underway. Some issues raised at these meetings include community identity, the local economy, jobs, neighborhoods, and livability. There have also been a number of stakeholder meetings and interviews throughout the City,

which raised issues such as transportation and mobility, community identity, sustainability, and adaptation.

Mr. Koeth stated that the City is now in the process of gathering public input on its vision for the future; the City is expected to achieve this vision through use of a strategic plan, which includes a budget process, a community investment plan, scorecards to monitor progress, and an annual action plan to be reviewed each year.

The draft strategic plan lists "Six Cylinders of Excellence," which are infrastructure, public places, neighborhood enhancement, business development, public safety, and internal support. Each of these aspects has its own set of goals and objectives, as well as policies on how these goals may be met.

Mr. Koeth advised that over the next few months, City Staff will make presentations to the City's various boards, neighborhood associations, business groups, and any other entities that request them. Tools in the visioning process include an interactive website, telephone town hall meetings, "meetings in a box," neighborhood forums, and an upcoming City-wide survey, as well as ongoing Visioning Committee meetings. He briefly described how these tools are used to encourage residents' participation in this process.

The current phase of the process focuses primarily on gathering public input. In September and October, additional workshops and surveys will be held, and the visioning process is expected to be complete in early 2013. Mr. Koeth concluded by encouraging the Board members to become involved in developing a vision for the City.

Mr. Rassing asked if the City Commission would need to give final approval on the City's vision. Mr. Koeth confirmed this, stating that the intent is to create an overall shared direction for Fort Lauderdale's communities, based on public input. The ideas brought forth by the public will be compiled over the next few months. He added that both individuals and organizations such as advisory boards may make recommendations.

Mr. Dean asked if the City Commission would decide which recommendations would be selected or how these recommendations would be implemented. Mr. Koeth said the Commission would make both decisions, although Staff can make suggestions on implementation as well.

Mr. Herhold advised that the Board is committed to the expansion of the Las Olas Marina, and asked if it would be appropriate to submit this suggestion when the visioning process is already underway. Chair Flanigan added that a consultant has been retained to look at this proposed development, and the

project has been endorsed by various City advisory bodies. Mr. Koeth and Ms. Ehle agreed that the inclusion of this proposed project would be appropriate.

Ms. Scott-Founds asked if the Board must enter its recommendations into the interactive website. Mr. Koeth said this was encouraged for individuals; as a Board, he suggested that they communicate their vision to the City Commission through use of the meeting minutes.

Mr. Guardabassi asked if the City wanted broader recommendations, such as maintaining the City's status as "Yachting Capital of the World" through the development of improved infrastructure for yachts. Chair Flanigan added that the issue of barges loading and unloading at Las Olas Marina should also be included. Mr. Koeth said the recommendations could be very broad or could include specific actions toward achieving a particular aspiration. He emphasized that there were no set rules for the visioning process.

Mr. Tapp recalled that part of the previous vision established for Fort Lauderdale was its status as "the Venice of America." He felt the City should develop and maintain its waterways appropriately so this goal may be realized. This would include dredging to keep the City's canals open.

Mr. Cuba advised the members to access the interactive website and provide their visions for the City, in addition to sending a communication to the City Commission. He pointed out that the more individuals who recommend a specific vision or idea would help the cause. Mr. Koeth agreed, stating that the website tracks how many times a particular recommendation is made.

Vice Chair Harrison asked if the recommendations would be weighted according to who provides them: for example, if a recommendation made by an individual would carry the same weight as a recommendation made by an advisory body or a group of people. Mr. Koeth said he did not know if a collective recommendation would be weighted differently than a proposal made by an individual. He advised that the public input process would still be ongoing in September, so the Board would not need to determine their recommendation(s) at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Holmes asked if the County was involved in the visioning process. Mr. Koeth said the development of a vision was part of an initiative by the City Manager, and the City Commission would make the final decision on the vision that is accepted.

It was noted that the Board does not meet during the month of August. Chair Flanigan proposed that each member send his or her comments on the Board's vision to Mr. Cuba's office; the top five or eight comments would be compiled on a spreadsheet and sent back to the Board members for further discussion during

their September meeting. Mr. Koeth reiterated that it would not be too late to submit a collective vision in September or October.

The Board discussed specific proposals that might be submitted, such as allowing barges to load and offload at specific locations in the City, the use of City-owned property on the Dania Cut for “a rack and stack” boat storage facility, and the Pollution Solution vessel. Mr. Cuba requested that the members send him their recommendations by August 20 so he would have sufficient time to compile them into a list. He reminded the members to send them to his office without copying them to other Board members, in keeping with the Sunshine Law.

VIII. Reports

- **Las Olas Marina Redevelopment Concept Update**

Mr. Cuba advised that the Marina Mile Association will meet at 8 a.m. on Thursday, July 19, for a discussion of the concept of a welcome center on-site.

- **Sailing Program Update**

Mr. Cuba stated that Mr. Luscomb is preparing a PowerPoint presentation on the sailing program to be shown at the next Board meeting. He reported that the students are advancing quickly and the coaches are doing a very good job. He encouraged the members to visit the north side of the Las Olas Marina, where the program is held, to see the program in action.

- **ICW Dredging Update**

Mr. Cuba advised that a copy of the canal dredging status report was provided to the members. Work on Task Orders 6 and 7 are underway at present. He added that the Florida Inland Navigational District (FIND) funding is still on track to begin dredging the Intracoastal Waterway on June 17, 2013.

- **Commission Agenda Reports**

At the July 10 City Commission meeting, Task Order 6 for the ICW dredging project was approved, as was the motorized watercraft concession discussed at the Board’s June meeting.

IX. Old / New Business

Mr. Rassing distributed copies of a document on the creation of a yachting welcome center as part of the proposed Las Olas Marina redevelopment, which would be discussed by the Marina Mile Association on July 19. He explained that

there has been an effort to make Port Everglades an accepted stop for cruise ships in order to actively promote the yachting business. A welcome center would provide a place where yachts may clear customs, learn about activities and destinations in the City, and make repairs. Mr. Rassing suggested that this issue be placed on the Board's September Agenda so they could endorse the creation of this center.

Chair Flanigan observed that the most current plans for the Las Olas Marina redevelopment include a marina village, which would be likely to include a visitors' or welcome center. He felt it might be more appropriate to make further recommendations once the project's footprint has been resolved. He noted, however, that there has not been a receptive response to the relocation of customs at this time, although it is possible this will change as the proposal develops.

Mr. Rassing asserted that the present was a good time to raise the issue of a welcome center. Chair Flanigan said the early designs of a marina village were likely to include an information center or similar facility, although the design is still in development.

Mr. Herhold reported that this issue was also discussed at a recent meeting of the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF), which would like to be involved in the process of this proposed development. He stated that the Association rendered a consensus opinion that a welcome center was needed.

Chair Flanigan asked if the minutes of the MIASF meeting could be forwarded to Staff for dissemination among the Board members. Mr. Herhold advised that while the minutes are confidential, a summary could be provided so the Board could review them before the September meeting.

Chair Flanigan continued that the City Manager has placed a great deal of emphasis on the visioning process for the City. He observed that the Board may be the only City advisory body planning to submit input on this process, which would reflect positively on their desire to be involved.

Mr. Cuba advised that he would be out of town from August 10-August 21. He assured the members that their visioning recommendations would be compiled prior to the September meeting, as planned.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.