

**MINUTES OF THE MARINE ADVISORY BOARD
 100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
 8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
 FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
 THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.**

| <u>Board Members</u> | Attendance | Cumulative Attendance May 2014 - April 2015 | |
|----------------------------|------------|--|---------------|
| | | <u>Present</u> | <u>Absent</u> |
| Barry Flanigan, Chair | P | 1 | 0 |
| James Harrison, Vice Chair | P | 1 | 0 |
| F. St. George Guardabassi | P | 1 | 0 |
| Norbert McLaughlin | P | 1 | 0 |
| Jim Welch | P | 1 | 0 |
| Robert Dean | A | 0 | 1 |
| John Holmes | P | 1 | 0 |
| Bob Ross | A | 0 | 1 |
| Joe Cain | P | 1 | 0 |
| Herb Ressing | P | 1 | 0 |
| Frank Herhold | P | 1 | 0 |
| Zane Brisson | P | 1 | 0 |
| Erik Johnson | P | 1 | 0 |
| Jack Newton | A | 0 | 1 |
| Jimi Batchelor | P | 1 | 0 |

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
 Jonathan Luscomb, Supervisor of Marine Facilities
 Officer Travis O’Neill, Marine Police Staff
 Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to City Commission

Motion made by Vice Chair Harrison, seconded by Mr. Ressing, to send a communication to the City Commission that the Marine Advisory Board endorses the Marine Industries Association of South Florida’s (MIASF’s) recommendation that the bridge stay open at least 40 minutes per hour after plans for All Aboard Florida are implemented. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Flanigan called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and roll was called. The Chair introduced Walter Duke, Mayor of Dania Beach, and his wife Lisa Duke, who were present in the audience.

II. Approval of Minutes – April 3, 2014

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

III. Statement of Quorum

It was noted that a quorum was present.

At this time Chair Flanigan requested that Mayor Duke describe some of the issues Dania Beach had experienced regarding the building of their marina. Mayor Duke distributed a handout to the Board members, explaining that the Dania Beach Marina is a 120-slip municipal facility with seven day docks, 21 transient slips, and a super-yacht component. At the time of his election in 2009, the overall condition of the beach was poor and the marina needed to be redone. Since that time, the town's residents have been educated regarding the importance of the marina and its impact on the local boating community.

Mayor Duke continued that the emphasis was placed on recreational boaters. Rebuilding funds were sought from the Florida Inland Navigational District (FIND) and the Broward County Marine Advisory Committee vessel registration program, which ultimately provided \$4.5 million in grant funds for the \$7.5 million project. A \$2.4 million low-interest loan was also executed. The intent was to balance a return on the taxpayers' investment while remaining part of the recreational boating community.

He described the marina's customer base as owners of 30 ft. to 50 ft. vessels, as well as some trawlers, with a 20 ft. height limit at the bridge. Ultimately, \$900,000 was contributed from the town's General Fund. The marina redevelopment will be completed on June 2, 2014, and will be followed by further waterfront revitalization such as new parking and lighting.

Mayor Duke concluded that in addition to the marina, there are mega-yacht and shipping facilities located on the Dania Cutoff Canal. The town is working with the City and County to enhance its boatyards with landscaping, lighting, and signage, which will benefit the town's tax base. He felt that Dania Beach and Fort Lauderdale can work together to enhance the local marine economy.

The Board discussed the Mayor's presentation, including the replacement of the entire marina, its previous occupancy of roughly 50%, its partnership with FIND and Broward County, and the importance of the town's vision for its beach and marina. He

emphasized the need to present Fort Lauderdale as the Yachting Capital of the World and show its place in the global boating community and economy. He encouraged the Board to continue reaching out to the City's leadership to promote its vision for how Fort Lauderdale fits into a regional and global economy.

Chair Flanigan thanked Mayor Duke for his presentation, noting that aerial photos of the municipal docks in Palm Beach were also provided to the members. He stated that these docks have 98% occupancy of 83 slips and bring in approximately \$3.2 million/year. Chair Flanigan concluded that both the Dania Beach and Palm Beach Marinas are very successful facilities, even though one is long established and the other is just starting out, and hoped that this information will be reviewed by the City Auditor and City Commission.

The following Item was taken out of order on the Agenda.

V. Waterway Crime & Boating Safety Report

Officer Travis O'Neill of the Marine Unit reported that four vessel accidents occurred in April, with one injury as a result. Other occurrences included an incident of burglary on a boat, for which an arrest was made the same night, and the theft of a boat stolen from a yard on 3rd Avenue. The Marine Unit conducted 68 safety checks and issued 62 warnings and eight tickets.

The members briefly discussed the State law regarding anchored vessels, noting that a provision may be passed to allow local governments to regulate the distance from a private residence at which a vessel must anchor overnight. This would affect only those local governments not participating in the pilot anchorage program.

Officer O'Neill concluded that on May 17, 2014, as part of National Safe Boating Week, the Marine Unit will conduct a two-day action plan at George English Park. This will be primarily an educational event, including safety checks.

IV. Marine Advisory Board Election

- **Chair**

Mr. Herhold, seconded by Mr. Holmes, placed Barry Flanigan's name into nomination for Chair. In a voice vote, Chair Flanigan was unanimously re-elected.

- **Vice Chair**

Mr. Herhold, seconded by Mr. Brisson, placed James Harrison's name into nomination for Vice Chair. In a voice vote, Vice Chair Harrison was unanimously re-elected.

VI. Discussion – Potential Floating Dock Enhancements

Mr. Cuba recalled that different artistic components have been proposed for the City's floating docks, including artwork on the docks themselves and decorative wraps for the concrete pilings. Randall Vitale, member of the Riverwalk Trust Board of Directors, advised that there have been suggestions of adding iconic pieces of artwork to the City's structures, including public art, gateways, and bridges, to enhance the beauty of Fort Lauderdale. As a result, the Art Institute has assigned a competition among students to design artwork for the pilings.

The Board discussed the proposed enhancements with Mr. Vitale, clarifying that it would be preferable to find private sponsors to cover the costs of the artwork, as it could be difficult to obtain City or County funds for the project. Student renderings are being prepared and will be available for viewing in June. Mr. Vitale confirmed that decorative wraps seem to be the preferred medium for the artwork, although he was not aware of the potential lifespan of the proposed wraps.

Vice Chair Harrison recommended that decorative lighting, including underwater lights, also be considered to enhance the floating docks. He described the optimum conditions for underwater lighting, noting that the heat generated by non-LED or fluorescent lights could help deter barnacles.

The following Item was taken out of order on the Agenda.

VIII. Old / New Business

Mr. Rassing distributed copies of a recent newspaper article on All Aboard Florida, asserting that discussion of this project should be a regular Agenda Item each month. Vice Chair Harrison advised that the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) recently met with the project's stakeholders to discuss an environmental impact study that will be released in June 2014. After its release, there will be a 45-day public review period, during which All Aboard Florida will hold meetings and hear public comment in each of the affected counties.

The Board discussed the logistics of bridge closures, the possibility of moving the tracks or shifting trains, the number of trains per hour that will be using the bridge, and other civic groups that have expressed concern with noise and bridge or street closures. It was clarified that the Florida East Coast (FEC) railway is not responsible for generating the environmental impact study and has no influence upon it, although All Aboard Florida is owned by FEC. The members ultimately determined that they wished to send a message to the City Commission in favor of keeping the bridge open for 30-40 minutes per hour.

Motion made by Vice Chair Harrison, seconded by Mr. Rassing, to make a statement to the Commission that the Marine Advisory Board backs the Marine Industries Association's request that whatever happens with All Aboard Florida and the FEC and

CSX trains, that the City has guaranteed that the bridge will remain open a certain amount of time each hour and that the recommended amount of time is 40 minutes. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Mr. Rassing reminded the Board that a fundraising regatta will be held on May 17, 2014, to benefit Hospice by the Sea.

Mr. Herhold reported that a public forum is scheduled to discuss the possible expansion of the Convention Center, which could include a small harbor with mega-yacht dockage.

VIII. Reports

- **July 15th Reminder**

Mr. Cuba stated that the Board will meet on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 instead of Thursday, July 3, due to the proximity of the Independence Day holiday.

- **Commission Agenda Reports**

Mr. Cuba continued that the Board's recent communication to the City Commission, requesting that the Commissioners direct Staff to perform an analysis of the potential annual dockage rates of the Las Olas Marina, has been directed to the City Auditor for further attention. The City Auditor has been asked to report back to the Mayor on this topic at the May 6 City Commission meeting.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.