



LauderBriefs

Updates from City Commission Meetings

The City of Fort Lauderdale hosts City Commission meetings in person at various temporary locations. If any person wishes to address the City Commission, the person shall sign up using the City Clerk's iPad. The public can listen to and view City Commission meetings on [FLTV](#), [YouTube](#), Comcast Channel 78, and AT&T U-verse Channel 99. To learn more about City Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.gov/citycommissionmeetings.

In case you missed them, the following are highlights from the Fort Lauderdale City Commission meetings on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. The video is available at youtube.com/cityoffortlauderdale, and the vote summary will be available later this week at fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING

Commission Provided with an Update on the Lockhart Park Development Project

The City Commission received a progress update about the development of Lockhart Park with a presentation that outlined an updated site plan and cost estimates. Design development drawings are 60% complete and include plans for grading and draining, water and sewer service, lighting, architectural design, landscaping, wayfinding, and signage. All plans are pending approval. The site plan proposes a community center, dog park, fitness area, open space, pickleball courts, a playfield, and more. The overall preliminary cost for the project is approximately \$30 million, with Miami Beckham responsible for nearly \$17 million and the City responsible for the remainder. The next steps for this project include completed construction drawings, bidding and award of a contract, the start of construction, and more. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-2025 and the project could be completed in early to mid-2026. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3TXUn7L.

Commission Explores a Process for Sponsorship Opportunities for City Events

The City Commission discussed a proposal to collaborate with businesses and organizations through a sponsorship program for city events such as the Great American Beach Party, Sistrunk Festival, holiday light-up events, and more. The program would aim to boost community engagement and raise funds for City projects. The proposal included three sponsorship tiers, where the sponsor would fund 10%, 15%, or 20% of the total budget for a given event. The approval process may include the submission of an application from a prospective sponsor which would be reviewed by a committee and reviewed by the City Attorney before being approved or rejected. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3TZS4kw.

Commission Discusses New Legislation Regarding Public Camping and Sleeping

The City Commission reviewed new legislation recently signed by the Governor of Florida that prohibits individuals from camping or sleeping overnight on any public property. The law, which goes into effect October 1, 2024, prohibits counties and municipalities from allowing any

person from regularly engaging in public camping or public sleeping on any public property, including streets, sidewalks, or in parks with or without a tent or temporary shelter. Local municipalities, including the City of Fort Lauderdale, will be responsible for enforcing the law and could be held liable for expenses and attorney fees that result from a successful civil suit brought by a county resident, business owner, or the Attorney General. The law also permits counties to designate areas for public camping and sleeping if certain conditions are met, including implementing a safety plan and certifying that there is no available space at existing shelters for the homeless population of the County. The Commission expressed a need to collaborate with Broward County and neighboring cities, along with an urgency to address the legislation and begin developing a plan. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4aDJSMy.

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Commission Approves Cooperative Agreement for Fire Rescue Services with Broward County

The City Commission approved a regional interlocal agreement between Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue, the Broward County Sheriff's Office, and Broward County for cooperative fire, rescue, EMS, and special operations response. The agreement allows for the closest available unit, regardless of agency affiliation, to respond to a life-threatening emergency and provide assistance. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3vBVHnn.

Commission Honors Marathon Swimmer Diana Nyad with a State Historical Marker

The City Commission approved a resolution authorizing a State Historical Marker at the Las Olas beach promenade entrance to honor marathon swimmer Diana Nyad. Nyad is well-known for her achievements in swimming and was inducted into the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame. At the age of 24, she was the first to swim across Lake Ontario from north to south. Later, she set a new record by swimming around Manhattan Island in 7 hours and 57 minutes, swam 102.5 miles from the Bahamas to Jupiter, Florida, and became the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida without a shark cage. The Florida Historical Marker Program marks significant historical sites and individuals across the state. The placement of the State Historical Marker is contingent upon State and City approvals. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3vC1eud.

Commission Accepts Grant to Complete a Citywide Vulnerability Assessment

The City Commission voted to accept a \$59,000 grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that will fund the completion of a citywide vulnerability assessment. This assessment will help the City identify and prioritize adaptation strategies to improve our resiliency to the impacts of climate change. Completion of the citywide assessment is required to be eligible for state grants which will help fund capital improvement projects. Following the assessment, the city will initiate project to address future flooding and other risks. In total, the city has been awarded \$219,000 since May 2022. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3vDmakz.

Commission Approves \$33.8 Million Agreement for Dorsey Riverbend Improvements

The City Commission approved an agreement with Man-Con Incorporated for the Dorsey Riverbend Stormwater Improvements project in the amount of \$33.8 million. The project includes installation of new stormwater infrastructure, repairs to existing infrastructure, and

construction of a new stormwater pump station which will improve drainage and reduce the impacts of flooding in the neighborhood. In addition to stormwater infrastructure investments, the project involves improvements to roadways, relocation of utilities, and restoration of swales. For details, visit ftlcity.info/3J5UOq8.

Commission Approves Resolution to Plat a Portion of Land as Bal Harbour Village Plat

The City Commission passed a resolution approving a plat known as Bal Harbour Village Plat, located at 2201 NE 19th Street. The resolution had been deferred at the previous meeting to allow time to address the retention of open space on the property. Approval of the plat is a ministerial act, and the resolution does not address a future site plan or potential construction of office space, which would have to be reviewed by the Development Review Committee. The nearly 2-acre plot of land currently houses a church and an associated parking lot. Broward County requires the recording of a plat in the public records before a building permit can be issued for new structures in most circumstances. The applicant is subdividing the parcel into seven lots for single-family residences and one tract limited to 10,000 square feet of office use. For details, visit ftlcity.info/4aEFtJd.

Commission Rezones Several Locations as Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Districts

The City Commission approved four ordinances that rezone City-owned properties so that they are designated as Parks, Recreation, and Open Space districts. The properties have been used and maintained as public park spaces and rezoning them in such a manner offers significant protection. That includes limiting the use of the property to typical park and open space activities and putting restraints on the ability to sell, transfer, or lease the property for more than one year without a unanimous vote of the Commission. Hector Park, 0.16 acres of land located near SE 9th Avenue and SE 11th Street, previously was zoned as Residential Single Family/Low Medium Density. For details about this ordinance, visit ftlcity.info/43INkD1. Major William Lauderdale Park, 0.42 acres of land located near SW 4th Street and Palm Avenue, was previously zoned as Residential Multifamily Low Rise/Medium High Density. For details about this ordinance, visit ftlcity.info/3xkOtEX. Virginia Shuman Park, 0.36 acres of land located near SE 9th Avenue and S. Rio Vista Boulevard, was previously zoned as Residential Single Family/Low Medium Density. For details about this ordinance, visit ftlcity.info/4adytmP. The fourth property, 1.75 acres located along Federal Highway south of E. State Road 84, was previously zoned as Heavy Commercial/Light Industrial. For details about this ordinance, visit ftlcity.info/3xjLc8Q.

Commissioner Glassman Named as City's Vice-Mayor

Commissioner Steven Glassman, who represents District 2, was designated as Vice-Mayor by the City Commission, with a one-year term that began on Tuesday, April 2. The Vice-Mayor performs the duties of the Mayor in the event of sickness, absence, or other temporary incapacity of the Mayor, or in the event of vacancy of the position. Commissioner Glassman has served on the Commission since 2018. District 3 Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman previously held the title. For details, visit ftlcity.info/43KUalf.

City Manager Greg Chavarria Announces Resignation

Greg Chavarria announced that he will resign as City Manager for the City of Fort Lauderdale in 60 days to attend to personal matters. He was appointed as City Manager in July 2022 and previously served as Assistant City Manager. The City Commission will work to find a replacement to fill the role.

Information

For more information on the April 2, 2024, Commission meetings, visit fortlauderdale.legistar.com/calendar.

Upcoming City Commission Meetings

The next regularly scheduled City Commission meetings will occur on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at NSU Art Museum – Horvitz Auditorium, 1 E. Las Olas Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.