



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

APPROVED
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
CENTRAL CITY REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022 – 3:30 PM
CITY HALL - 8th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301

Board Members	Present/Absent	Cumulative Attendance September 2021-August 2022	
		Present	Absent
Ray Thrower, Chair	P	5	1
Robert Ayen	A	4	2
Luis Castillo-Olivera	A	5	1
Adam Gellar	A	2	4
Charlene Gunn	A	5	1
Shane Jordan	A	4	2
Christina Robinson	P	3	2
Dennis Ulmer, Vice Chair	P	6	0
Moshe Yehoshoua [until 4:31]	P	6	0

At this time, there are 9 appointed members to the Board; therefore, 5 constitute a quorum.

Staff:

Cija Omengebar, CRA Planner/Liaison
Clarence Woods, CRA Manager
Corey Callier, Facilities Manager
Jamie Opperlee, Prototype Inc. Recording Secretary

I. Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum

Chair Thrower called the meeting to order at 3:43 p.m. and Roll was called, and it was noted that a quorum was **not** present.

III. Introduction of Board Members and Staff

Ordinance No. C-12-26 Advisory Board
Resolution No. 13-20 Central City CRA

Board members and staff introduced themselves.

Ms. Omengebar discussed Board membership requirements.

Mr. Woods stated the Florida Legislature had determined that all Florida CRAs would terminate in 2039.

IV. Approval of Minutes

- Rescheduled Regular Meeting January 12, 2022

The Board did not have a quorum, so approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

V. Exploring Lighting Options Discussion

Board members viewed photos of closed roads. Chair Thrower noted most of the photographs looked better than the roads usually do. Ms. Omengabar said the City's Neighborhood Support Division worked with neighborhood associations to clean up the areas and the City removed the trash.

Ms. Robinson said last October she had visited every closed road and reported all issues to the City. She had visited again just prior to the meeting and said they all looked pretty good.

Mr. Callier said the City's Clean Team cleared the streets of debris, but they did not clean up the closed roads.

Chair Thrower asked Mr. Callier about lighting for the closed roads. Mr. Callier stated solar would not be appropriate but the City could consider pedestrian or street lighting. He noted that street lighting illuminated a much larger area than pedestrian lighting. He explained that in some places, there may not be enough room in the right-of-way to install a streetlight, but they could consider getting an easement from an adjacent property owner. Mr. Callier stated once they received a request for a new light, they canvassed neighbors within 100 feet to see if there were any objections.

Mr. Callier said FPL could provide an estimate of costs based on the type of fixture. He described how the FPL lighting program had changed over time. He informed the Board that there was no solar option in the streetlight master plan. He stated the cost to replace the batteries for solar lights was "astronomical."

Ms. Robinson noted the amount of foliage in most of the closed areas and suggested cutting back the trees to improve light.

Mr. Woods pointed out they did not have a large budget and lighting entailed immediate costs, plus maintenance costs going forward. Once the CRA sunsetted, he questioned whether the City Commission would agree to pay for maintenance out of the general fund.

Ms. Robinson stated NE 5th Terrace needed to be cleaned up. Mr. Yehoshoua suggested thinning out the lower part of the tree only, and noted that keeping the tree made the closure more visible for motorists.

Chair Thrower said one drawback to closed roads was that the lack of traffic led to undesirable people hanging out at the closures.

Ms. Robinson stated she was on the Sunrise Boulevard Action Committee and she would discuss the code issues in this area at their meeting the following day. She suggested the South Middle River Civic Association [SMRCA] use some of their funds to trim trees.

Mr. Yehoshoua left the meeting at 4:31.

Mr. Callier pointed out that the closures were made with the agreement that the neighborhood associations would maintain the areas. Ms. Omengebar stated there was an agreement between Neighborhood Support and HOAs that HOAs would clean the areas and the City would pick up the debris, but there was no agreement with SMRCA.

Chair Thrower said he had been told that the closings along Sunrise Boulevard had been implemented through a Broward Beautiful grant and SMRCA agreed to maintain them.

Mr. Callier explained this was how it worked with neighborhood monuments and guardhouses as well: after they were installed, the associations were supposed to maintain them.

Mr. Woods said there were three paths to pursue: consult with FPL regarding streetlights, maintenance and power for the nine road closures; determine who was responsible for trimming and cleaning/maintenance; address the criminal or homeless element who sometimes inhabited the areas.

Ms. Robinson asked about power washing and cleaning businesses on Sunrise Boulevard. Mr. Woods stated this could be part of a façade improvement program for commercial businesses.

Mr. Callier said one challenge would be where to locate a streetlight in a road closure. It depended on right-of-way. If the Board wanted streetlights, he suggested positioning them away from foliage, closer to Sunrise Boulevard.

VI. Program and Project Status Update

- Rezoning Project

Mr. Woods stated they would have the consultant finish the existing and current zoning. He acknowledged that this price would not include everything everyone wanted. The City Manager had asked Planning and Zoning to do a Land Use Plan Amendment in-house to save money and time.

Ms. Omengebar agreed to update the Board in March regarding the report completion date. Chair Thrower was looking forward to the report. He acknowledged it did not give them what some people wanted for the northwest quadrant, but it would provide a lot of what they wanted for the rest of the CRA.

- NE 4th Avenue Streetscape Project

Ms. Omengebar said they were in the FDOT permitting phase.

- Incentive Programs
 - Program and Application

Ms. Omengebar had included a copy of the budget for Board members. She said she had heard from someone who was serious about applying for a wedding venue at 603 NE 13th Street.

Ms. Omengebar said her next focus, apart from the rezoning, was to come up with innovative ideas to reach out to property owners.

- FY 2022 Area Budget

Ms. Omengebar reported they had \$500,000 plus an additional \$516,000 left from 2021.

Ms. Omengebar suggested they could bring back the design standards ideas to maintain the character of Central City.

Regarding CRA design standards, Ms. Robinson said the goal of the Sunrise Boulevard Action Committee was to create a Sunrise Boulevard business alliance and the CCRAB should coordinate with them.

VII. Communication to City Commission

None

VIII. Old/New Business

- FDOT Projects in the Area
 1. New – Intersection and Safety Improvement

Ms. Omengebar said the project at the intersection of Sunrise Boulevard and 9th Avenue would start in summer 2022.

2. Done – Sunrise Blvd. Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Program

- Online Resources – Central City CRA

Chair Thrower pointed out that the online resources were great. He asked Ms. Robinson to show this to business owners.

- March Agenda Items Suggestions

1. Discussion on City Homeless Initiative

Ms. Omengebar confirmed that someone from the Police Department and Neighbor Support would attend the Board's March meeting.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on March 2, 2022.

[Minutes written by J. Opperlee, Prototype, Inc.]