



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

APPROVED MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
CENTRAL CITY REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022 – 1:00 PM
CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301

Board Members	Present/Absent	Cumulative Attendance September 2022-August 2023	
		Present	Absent
Ray Thrower, Chair	P	3	0
Edward Catalano	P	3	0
Linda Fleischman	P	1	0
Justin Greenbaum	P	2	1
Jason Hoffman	P	2	1
Shane Jordan	P	2	0
Joseph Maca	A	1	2
Christina Robinson	A	2	1
Scott Sheckman	P	1	0
Dennis Ulmer, Vice Chair	P	2	1

At this time, there are 10 appointed members to the Board; therefore, 6 constitute a quorum.

Staff:

Cija Omengabar, CRA Planner/Liaison
Clarence Woods, CRA Manager

Others:

Phil Schwab, FDOT Project Manager
Gorky Charpentier, FDOT Consultant
Troy Liggett, President, Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association

Communication to the City Commission:

None

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 3:31 p.m. Roll was called, and it was noted that a quorum was present.

III. Introduction of Board Members and Staff

Board members and guests introduced themselves, including new members Scott Sheckman and Linda Fleischman.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Regular Meeting: October 10, 2022

Motion by Mr. Catalano, seconded by Mr. Greenbaum to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2022 meeting. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

V. Broward Commuter Rail Update

Phil Schwab, FDOT Project Manager

Mr. Schwab gave a Power Point presentation, a copy of which is attached to these minutes for the public record.

Mr. Schwab stated the City and County needed consensus about the New River to keep the project moving North. Meetings were ongoing considering funding, costs, and impacts. He stated the City and County must also recognize that the State BCR South project was independent.

Mr. Jordan asked about the FLL Airport “doughnut” hub and Mr. Schwab said this would include additional parking, busses, and shuttles. He noted the Airport wanted to “get out of the bus business” because they clogged the Arrivals area.

Ms. Fleischman asked how the Broward commuter rail would work with other rail and Mr. Schwab said it would share rail with Brightline and freight. Shared operations would be coordinated by FDOT. Mr. Schwab discussed bridge options for trains crossing the New River.

Regarding the impact additional trains would have on traffic, Mr. Schwab stated they had done analysis on stacking and signal changes to keep traffic moving. He said service hours were 5 AM until midnight, peak service was 6:30 to 8:30. Two trains would run per hour during peak and one train per hour at other times. He said the analysis would include impacts on Police and Fire response times. Parking at each station would vary from 300 to 500 spaces, per individual analysis.

Mr. Schwab described the timeline: the PD&E studies, then design, then construction. The studies should be completed by Summer 2023, then design would begin, and in 2024 they would secure funding to being construction in 2025.

Mr. Schwab said renderings describing the tunnel/bridge alternatives, their entry/exit points and right-of-way impacts were available at:
www.BrowardCommuterRailStudy.com.

Troy Liggett, President of the Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association, said increasing to eight or nine at-grade crossings per hour would have significant impacts on neighborhoods. He said the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations would host a City presentation regarding efforts to address this. Fort Lauderdale and Oakland Park were working together to get a bridge or tunnel to alleviate those impacts. Mr. Schwab said the state was looking at particular locations to determine the feasibility of tunnels or bridges. He noted the recent focus on safety due to the numerous accidents at trail crossings.

VI. Program and Project Status Update

- NE 4th Avenue Streetscape Project

Ms. Omengebar reported they were still working on the documents. They had asked the County to extend the grant agreement deadline to December 2024.

- Incentive Programs

Ms. Omengebar stated she was still working with one applicant and she hoped there would be a presentation in December.

- Rezoning Project

Ms. Omengebar said the project would be on the Planning and Zoning Board agenda for November 16. She had added a copy of the letter that was sent out and she and Lorraine Tappen, Principle Urban Planner, had posted signs in the area. She hoped the City Commission would vote on the item on December 20 and January 10. She asked the Board to be open to a special meeting in December if they needed to meet later than December 7 to further discuss rezoning.

- CRA Façade and Landscaping Program

Mr. Woods said Mayor Trantalis had voted against this the previous evening. He thought his reasoning was that there did not appear to be criteria for selecting recipients. Mayor Trantalis objected to painting and landscaping the home of someone who had the means to do it but kept their property badly. Mr. Woods had indicated there would be a vetting of each property.

Char Thrower asked if they had done means testing in the Northwest and Mr. Woods said they had not. He said they had targeted properties that were a drag on the community, without restrictions. This had led to property values appreciating in the area. He said they did not agree to working on an Airbnb property.

Ms. Liggett said he understood that for now, the grants would go to South Middle River until the rezoning was completed. In the future, Middle River Terrace might be eligible. Mr. Woods said after they addressed one area, they would look at the next area of need, identified by the Board and residents. Mr. Liggett said Mr. Woods and Ms. Omengebar had assured him that they would target funding for homes with long-time owners who occupied them. Mr. Woods said they would begin with homesteaded properties. If they had funds remaining, they may target investment properties that were dragging the

neighborhood down. Board members, staff, and Mr. Liggett discussed “first come-first served,” means testing and vetting for applicants.

Mr. Woods said in the Northwest, they had a pilot program that relied on the homeowner obtaining three quotes for the work. After the first round, they had partnered with Rebuilding Together Broward, who had staff to handle planning, identify contractors and procure supplies. Rebuilding Together Broward also did more work than the original program, such as addressing safety issues.

Mr. Catalano said 25 members of the South Middle River Civic Association and several City staff members had recently helped a disabled, elderly old homeowner with landscaping, painting, and power washing. He hoped this was the type of homeowner the program would target.

Chair Thrower and Mr. Woods reviewed for new Board members the program the Board had approved.

VII. Communication to City Commission

Ms. Omengebar referred to the Board’s April Communication to the City Commission regarding panhandling. Mayor Trantalis’s newsletter said the City Attorney had amended two ordinances to address obstructing the right-of-way or roadway. The Police had informed Ms. Omengebar that they had enforced the ordinance for a few days but the City Attorney had told them to stop. Chair Thrower recalled the Board’s Communication involved public relations. Ms. Omengebar stated they had posted “No Panhandling” signs around the City.

VIII. Old/New Business

- 06.04.22 Communication Update
- Tentative Special Meeting for Rezoning Phase II
- December agenda item suggestions
 1. Florida Sunshine Law Discussion

Ms. Omengebar agreed to ask the Assistant City Attorney to make a presentation to the Board. Chair Thrower pointed out that some Board members were also on neighborhood boards and needed to avoid discussion of Board agenda items at those meetings.

2. Rezoning Presentation of Proposed CC-MUD District

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on December 7, 2022.

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