

MINUTES OF MEETING
DANIA BEACH CITY COMMISSION
WORKSHOP – COMMISSION VACANCY
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2013 – 6:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Duke called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Mayor:	Walter B. Duke, III
Vice-Mayor:	Albert C. Jones
Commissioners:	Chickie Brandimarte Bobbie H. Grace
City Manager:	Robert Baldwin
City Attorney:	Thomas Ansbro
City Clerk:	Louise Stilson

2. Discussion Items

2.1 Process

Mayor Duke confirmed the 17 applicants' names who are still interested in serving.

2.2 Applicants Q&A Items

Mayor Duke posed five questions for each candidate.

Rich Aube, 675 SE 2nd Avenue, responded he is okay with not running again; he can serve impartially; he is available to attend meetings; he supports the airport settlement agreement; and he has resided continuously in Dania Beach in the year prior since the process began. He questioned if there was something he and the others were missing to sit on the Commission.

A brief discussion among the Commissioners ensued.

Charles Camacho, 121 NE 3rd Street, responded he has resided continuously in Dania Beach; he supports the current settlement agreement; he is available to attend meetings; and he can serve impartially. He commented he has no problem with opening up the process again; however, the current applicants are not contractors, they are residents who want to serve. He added he is a project manager for Oakland Park Academy, and he will support whatever the Commission chooses.

Paul Fetscher, 1414 Argonaut Isle, responded he has resided continuously in Dania Beach; he has no problem with not running again; he is available to attend all meetings; and he supports the airport settlement agreement, although he thinks there are more items that we could have gotten out of it.

Bruce Hannover, 617 NE 2nd Place, confirmed he has resided continuously in the City; he is okay with not running; he can serve impartially; and he is available to attend meetings. He commented unity in the community is not happening and there are issues that need attention.

Mark LaRocca, 4511 SW 34th Avenue, responded he has resided continuously in the City; he is okay with not running in the next election; he supports the airport settlement agreement, with the exception of subrogating the mortgage; and he can serve impartially. He expressed his concern with the vacancies on the Airport Advisory Board, and requested the Commission place the members back on the board.

Charles McElyea, 229 SE 2nd Terrace, commented he will help with whatever he can; he will probably run for the seat again; and he thinks there is still a lot to be done with the airport.

Ann Page, 38 SW 5th Street, confirmed she has resided continuously in the City; she will not run again; she can make the meetings; she is happy with the airport settlement agreement; and she can serve impartially. She added she questioned Paul Fetscher's residency because of something she had heard.

James Ridgely III, 880 SE 2nd Avenue, responded he has lived continuously in Dania Beach; he is okay with not running; he can serve impartially; and he generally supports the airport settlement agreement. He said the City is at a very critical point, and if we do not learn the lesson of compromise, we will miss the opportunity for growth and progress, which may take decades to recover from. He added he is data driven and analytical.

Luis Rimoli, 902 Natures Cove Road, responded he has lived continuously in the City; he is not interested in running; he can serve impartially; he generally supports the airport settlement agreement, although he is concerned with the mortgage subrogation; and he is available to attend Commission meetings. He added he is not a politician, he loves this City, and he would support James Ridgely. He asked why he and the others are not qualified to fill the seat.

Mayor Duke asked if the Commission wanted to pair the applicants down. He noted a lot of residents are upset about this, and they are concerned with all of the Commissioners. He said the eight candidates who spoke tonight were impressive.

Commissioner Grace commented all 17 applicants are fantastic because they want to serve; she was impressed with everyone who spoke tonight. Commissioner Grace motioned to not exclude the 17 people and to keep them as they are.

Mayor Duke asked if the Commission could be civil and respectful.

Mayor Duke noted he would vote for Richard Aube, Charles Camacho, possibly Paul Fetscher, Mark LaRocca, Charles McElyea, Ann Page, James Ridgely, Luis Rimoli, Clive Taylor, Louise Velo, Boisy Waiters, Jr., and Theresa West. He thinks the best qualified person is Mark LaRocca, but he is willing to compromise and work with any of the 15 he named.

Commissioner Grace chose James Ridgely as her candidate.

Commissioner Brandimarte chose Paul Fetscher.

Mayor Duke stated he can work with Dr. Fetscher, and commented on why people questioned the support for him.

Commissioner Brandimarte said she picked Paul Fetscher because it worked when he took Charles McElyea's seat when Mr. McElyea left the Commission.

2.3 Reopen the application process for the City Commission vacancy

Vice-Mayor Jones said there was no process for input from the Commissioners. He clarified he did not say that the current applicants could not reapply if the process is reopened; if we can reopen the process, we can move forward. Vice-Mayor Jones stated he is done.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Brandimarte asked if we could keep all of the applicants, open the process, and then each Commissioner would pick two. She added there are those on the Commission who do not want to seat anyone unless they have the third vote.

2.4 Resolution to allow "Vacancy" to lie on the table if no consensus to fill seat is realized; to be reopened only if the application process is allowed

Vice-Mayor Jones said that the Commission should take a break, then come back and look at this in a more positive way. He noted he is still trying to work toward filling the seat, and what was done tonight was not the process in which he had input. He commented on the fact that Mayor Duke and Commissioner Grace did not reappoint the board members because a 5th commissioner was not seated. He said the Commission should fill the board seats and take care of the vacancy at a future meeting.

Commissioner Grace noted this is unprofessional and the meeting should be closed; she will not entertain Vice-Mayor Jones' comments about her. She said no consensus will come from this workshop, and commented about saying what you mean and meaning what you say.

Mark LaRocca asked that the Commission consider reappointing the Airport Advisory Board members, noting he is against changing the board members mid-stream.

Commissioner Grace felt every board in the City is a good board, and if people want to serve they should serve. She said she voted the way she did at the last meeting because the 5th

commissioner should make the appointments; if that is not going to happen, the Commission will do what is right for those boards.

Commissioner Brandimarte supported appointing board members.

Judy Lombet said Vice-Mayor Jones told her he was wrong in saying they should open up the application process.

Charles Camacho commented he supports opening up the process if it makes things move along.

James Ridgely said even if the Commission reopens the applications, this still does not answer the question of process. The process is the first part of the question; the second piece is even if you have a process, you still need to know how to resolve a tie. He suggested the next workshop should be held to resolve the process and determine how to resolve the deadlock the Commission has now.

Mark LaRocca commented a lot happened here tonight for the first time; the Commission moved forward.

Ann Page commented the Commissioners all ran for their seats and followed a process. Just as it would have been unfair to reopen that process, it is not fair to open this process; it is an insult to all the applicants.

Commissioner Grace said she likes the process the Commission uses to select auditors and others. She felt this is the ideal way to pick the next commissioner.

Luis Rimoli commented that opening up the process tells the 17 applicants that the Commission does not want them, so why would they apply again. He noted he holds no animosity toward any of the Commissioners, but they owe the applicants to tell them why they are not qualified.

Vice-Mayor Jones said it comes down to leadership. The Commission did not start well with a process; if they all had input in the process, this would have been done. He added he does not know where we go from here because we have not defined the process.

Commissioner Grace said she will never vote to open the process for other people.


Commissioner Brandimarte commented that the applicants themselves said to open it.

Mayor Duke stated he represents a lot of people, at the least the 4,000 people who voted for him. He said some of them want the Commission to settle this airport settlement agreement and some do not care; others want the Commission to fill the vacant seat. Of all the issues of concern, the residents' number one issue is they want the seat to be filled.

3. Adjournment

Mayor Duke adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

ATTEST:



LOUISE STILSON, CMC
CITY CLERK

CITY OF DANIA BEACH



WALTER B. DUKE, III
MAYOR

Approved: November 26, 2013

