



## January 2021 General Membership Minutes

### 1. Welcome and Call to Order

The General Membership (VIRTUAL) meeting was held on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 6 PM via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm and was presided over by President Melinda Bowker. Melinda Bowker reviewed the agenda and introduced the guest speakers.

### 2. Attendees

30 attendees were online at the beginning of the Virtual meeting.

The roll was called by the President and the following 2020 Board members were present: Melinda Bowker, Mercedes Loy, Nicole Marsala, Debra Picker, Linda Davis, Michele Rhule, and Steve Rifkin.

Board Members which were not present included: James Bartholomew and Carol Kalliche

A quorum was met since 7 of 9 Board members were present.

### 3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the board meeting held on Monday, December 1, 2020 at 5pm, via Zoom, were emailed by Melinda Bowker to the 2020 board members for review prior to today's meeting. A motion was made by Nicole Marsala and seconded by Steve Rifkin to approve the December 1, 2020 meeting minutes. All were in favor. The motion passed.

### 4. Officer/Director/Committee Reports

Melinda Bowker reviewed the agenda, introduced the special guest speakers, reminded everyone of the need to renew their membership and of the upcoming election on Jan 28, 2021 at 6:30PM. She then requested any board or committee member who had a report deliver it at this time.

- a. Officer Report – None
- b. Director Report – None
- c. Committee Reports:
  - i. Issues and Strategies – None
  - ii. Communications and Marketing – None
  - iii. Membership- – None
  - iv. Event and Social – None

## January 2021 General Membership Minutes

### 5. Special Guests from City of Fort Lauderdale Public Works Department Present on City Infrastructure Updates, Green Initiatives, Health of our Waterways, and Drinking Water Quality

Raj Verma, Public Works Director, City of Fort Lauderdale was unable to attend the meeting and, in his place, sent Talal Abi Karam, Assistant Public Works Director-Utilities to represent him. Melinda Bowker introduced Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director, Sustainability Division, who opened the presentation by introducing Omar Castellon, Chief Engineer, City of Fort Lauderdale. Information was presented on the following topics:

- a. Omar Castellon, Chief Engineer, City of Fort Lauderdale and Krishan Kandial, Project Mgr., Public Works, City of Fort Lauderdale discussed the following presentation:

Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19FebDFikhah5RdVuCi4QUYOFgANYGx2e/view?usp=sharing>

- **City infrastructure** status update focused on the District 4 Projects, with an overview of how to navigate the LauderWorks Software to access all the projects in our district and in the system. Approved projects are updated once a month in LauderWorks. LauderWorks can be accessed from the following link: [LauderWorks - City of Fort Lauderdale, FL](#)
- Various projects in District 4 and their statuses were overviewed, including:
  - Water & Sewer – 33 active projects
  - Storm Water – 12 active projects
  - Seawalls – 2 active projects
- Redundant Sewer FM (Force Main) Project was discussed. This 18-month project requires replacement of 27, 745 ft of pipe. 77% of the project has been completed and activated and the project is on target to meet its completion date of July 2021.
- Downtown Gravity Main Improvement Project is slated to start June/July of 2021 and last 6 months. The pipe will run 920 feet and will replace 12-inch pipe with 15-inch pipe. The Gravity Main Project will impact Las Olas, however directional drilling will be used for the project minimizing the need to break the street surface and placing the pipe deeper underground making for a more resilient system going forward.

**Action:** Omar Castellon will provide Melinda Bowker with a copy of the Power Point presentation for distribution to the DFLCA membership. See link above.

## January 2021 General Membership Minutes

**Action:** Talal Abi Karam requested DFLCA inform its membership of the importance of not flushing wipes and paper towel into the sewer system and will send Melinda Bowker available pamphlets or signs on this subject. (pending)

- **Drinking Water** status update focused on review of the 2019 Water Quality Report. All safety standards are being met.
  - At this point Talal Abi Karam discussed the water source (Biscayne Aquifer) and issues with the water safety and color. Discussed was how the water, which contains organic tannins, gets its color from the source. Water color is a secondary (aesthetic) parameter, but one that is easily detected by the user. Currently the color of the water in District 4 averages between 14 and 17, which is still within compliance. Alternatives and treatments of the water, to correct the color, are being explored; however, it is known that the 5 Ash Water Facility needs to be replaced. A modern plant such as the Field Dixie Treatment plant, which has more modern technology (reverse osmosis), typically puts out water which has a color number of 5. Projected timeline for the replacement of a 50,000,000-gallon water facility such as 5 Ash is 3 to 5 years. The Five Ash water facility is 60 years old and there are established maintenance programs which should keep it operational, including during hurricanes, for the next 3 to 5 years.
- b. Dr. Nancy Gassman, Asst Public Works Director, Sustainability Division, City of Fort presented the attached presentation:
- Link:
- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bB19Hz6NLkdudIEjxXZOWTWKmhN1u3JZ/view?usp=sharing>
- **Green Initiatives Sustainability Action Plan** status showed the target to reduce GHG (“Green House Gases”) in 2020 by 20%. Current calculations (through November) show the reduction is at 19% and on target to reach their goal after final calculations for 2020. Initiatives which contributed to the GHG reduction include: fleet fuels reduction and right size vehicle usage; increased tree canopy via developer requirements and tree giveaways; energy efficient thermostats in government buildings; solar arrays and parking meters; placement of car electric charging stations. Various awards and recognition have been received by the city regarding the Green Initiatives.
  - The above initiatives were reached despite the Covid pandemic which required one person per vehicle usage, more use of rescue, police and fire department

## January 2021 General Membership Minutes

vehicles and other changes to maintain a safe workforce. City and maintenance crews have continued to be on the job throughout the pandemic the entire year.

- **Health and quality of our water ways** status started with the definition of the parameters considered for water quality. The three major categories are: Chemical (nutrients & oxygen); Physical (Temperature & Color); Biological (Algae & Bacteria). Bacteria is monitored by most groups. Discussed were the current groups monitoring and the locations. The city has contracted with Miami Water Keepers and 10 sites will be monitored on a weekly basis. The results will be posted on Swim Guide ([theswimguide.org](http://theswimguide.org)) . Also discussed was the difference between beach and inland water ways standards.
- Various initiatives taken by the city to minimize water contamination include elimination of septic tanks; reduction of boat discharges; improved storm water runoff; ordinances to reduce pet waste, fertilization, and landscape debris from getting into storm water; sanitary sewer releases minimized by pipe replacement, lockage reduction, replacement of force main; canal debris removal program which removed 604 ton of debris in 6 months and 70 tons of floating debris. The Canal Debris Enhancement Program continues to be ongoing.
- Bacterial fecal monitoring was discussed, including the origin of non-human bacterial contributions (birds) to the measurements. Recovery of the system after breaks in the sewer system were discussed. Due to natural bacteria die off and water tides the Tarpon river returned to average measurements in approximately a month. In general, bacterial loads always are higher after a rain event, therefore it is not recommended to be in inland waterways after a storm.

**Action:** Dr. Nancy Gassman to provide the link to the Broward County Dashboard website which conducts the quarterly monitoring. See: Link to Broward County Water Quality Data

<https://www.broward.org/NaturalResources/Lab/AboutUs/Pages/canalwaterquality.aspx>

- c. Questions and Answers session had been mainly addressed during the presentation. No further questions were raised.

### 6. Downtown Fort Lauderdale Civic Association Annual Meeting and Election is Thursday, January 28, at 6:30pm

- a. Presentation of Nominations of 2021 Officer and Board Members by the Nominations Committee was made by Steve Rifkin as follows:

## January 2021 General Membership Minutes

Position	Last Name	First Name	Condominium
<b>President</b>	Bowker	Melinda	NuRiver Landing
<b>Vice President</b>	Marsala	Nicole	NuRiver Landing
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Jones	Sonia	NuRiver Landing
<b>Communications Secretary</b>	Lubetkin	Ian	NuRiver Landing
<b>Treasurer</b>	Picker	Debra	WaterGarden
<b>Director 1</b>	Davis	Linda	350 Las Olas Place
<b>Director 2</b>	Loy	Mercedes	350 Las Olas Place
<b>Director 3</b>	Kalliche	Carol	Las Olas Grand
<b>Director 4</b>	Rhule	Michele	NuRiver Landing
<b>Director 5</b>	Rubbo	Lianne	Las Olas by the River

Since there are 10 candidates, there are sufficient candidates as required by the by-laws (not less than 7 or more than 11).

- b. Melinda Bowker reminded the membership of the importance for all to renew the membership dues on their anniversary date.

### 7. Las Olas Mobility Working Group Project

- a. Melinda Bowker and Debra Picker held a short discussion on the importance of being involved in this project. Discussion on addition of bike lanes, in the area from Andrews going west to 3rd Ave, and the removal of trees on Las Olas to create additional parking for the merchants has been on going. The merchants have different views than the residents of the neighborhood.

**Action:** Melinda Bowker to make available website and upcoming meetings so all residents can attend and participate on the polls taken during the meetings. (Update: Link to website to be sent in Association correspondence on Thursday, 1/28/2021. Melinda is confirming that working group meeting invites can be shared beyond Working Group Members and associated neighborhood board members)

Also see link here: <https://www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/transportation-and-mobility/transportation-division/working-groups/las-olas-boulevard-mobility-project>

- b. Melinda Bowker discussed planned changes to scooter regulations which will affect both commercial and privately owned scooters. Scooters are not to be used on the Riverwalk or the Beach area.

**Action:** Membership contact Melinda Bowker via email if there are issues with enforcement of the revised scooter codes. (will send reminder to Association on correspondence on Thursday, 1/28/2021)



## January 2021 General Membership Minutes

### 8. Federal Courthouse—Downtown Location/Purchase Confirmed-Hudson Site

- a. Melinda Bowker gave an update on the completion of the selection process for the Federal Court house site, on 11<sup>th</sup> court and SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Due to time constraints site pictures were not be shared.

### 9. Any other business

Currently DFLCA has 152 members in what has been a challenging year.

### 10. Adjournment

A motion was made by Debra Picker to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Mercedes Loy. All were in favor of adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by Melinda Bowker at 7:12 pm.

**Minutes prepared by: Sonia Jones Candidate for 2021 Recording Secretary**

**Minutes approved by: Board on Annual Membership Meeting held on January 28, 2021**

**Recording Secretary Approval:**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sonia Jones".

**Date: 01/28/2021**