

## June 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

### 1. Call to Order

The DFLCA Board (Virtual) meeting was held on Monday June 7, 2021, via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 4:42 pm and was presided over by President Melinda Bowker. Melinda Bowker provided the agenda.

### 2. Roll Call

Five attendees were online at the beginning of the Virtual meeting. Melinda Bowker called the roll. The following 2021 Board Members were present: Melinda Bowker, Nicole Marsala, Ian Lubetkin, Lianne Rubbo and Michele Rhule. 2021 Board Members not present were Sonia Jones, Debra Picker, and Linda Davis. A quorum was met since 5 of 9 Board members were present.

### 3. Admin

- **Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting on Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

Sonia Jones emailed the minutes of the Board meetings held on Monday, May 3, 2021, via Zoom, to the 2021 board members for review prior to today's meeting. A motion was made by Nicole Marsala and seconded by Lianne Rubbo to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting held on May 3, 2021. The motion unanimously passed.

Melinda shared that Mercedes Loy is moving from Downtown Fort Lauderdale. Although she has served on the Board for 11 years, she will not be eligible to serve on the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Civic Association because she will not live in the City.

- **Updates from any Board Members/Committees-work/concerns/updates from past month**

**President's update**

Melinda Bowker requested any board or committee member who had an update of information or concern from the past month to deliver their report. There were no updates or reports.

Director Report – Melinda spoke with Courtney Crush, the attorney representing the *Aviva on the River* Developer. Aviva is listed on the 6/15 City Development Review agenda to be discussed by the Commissioners at 6:00 PM. (As stated in the prior meeting, a public record submission package is available to all at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cBUppvEY6f00-6OaBBVdPG5mwIn8gu-o/view?usp=sharing>)

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Lianne expressed concerns that were previously shared regarding how Aviva will stage their tenants/restaurants, parking with only 111 parking spaces, valet service, loading/unloading, etc. Melinda asked Lianne if *Las Olas by the River* had issued a formal or official letter to Aviva expressing their concerns. Lianne was unsure if that happened but will be investigating that question with Ken Joseph President of Las Olas by the River HOA.

Melinda elaborated on the issue and questioned where the valet would be working, and will they be using the County Garage as a parking area for cars? Previously Melinda asked Courtney Crush if the lighting plans for Smoker Park had been finalized. She also shared questions that had previously been expressed by Lianne. Melinda suggested that we not put our concerns in writing but wait to hear how Courtney Crush and/or the Commission responds to the questions at the DRC.

Melinda informed us that the public attendance rules have been changed and now the only way to participate in a Commission meeting is to be in person.

There was a side discussion clarifying the mango tree that will be removed from the Smoker Park/Aviva building site and the current installation of the monkey bars in Smoker Park.

**Action:** Melinda said she would respond to Lianne's question on valet and loading and unloading after a discussion with Courtney Crush.

**Action:** Lianne to follow up on if Las Olas by the River had issued a formal or official letter to Aviva expressing their concerns.

- **Current Membership Stats – Tabled**

### New Business

- 4. Date for Next Membership Meeting and Potential In-Person Event - Tabled**

### Old Business

- 5. Las Olas Mobility Group Update:**

Ben Rogers, the head of Transportation and Mobility, responded to Melinda's questions about bike lanes. At June 1<sup>st</sup> Commission meeting, there was a discussion on removing the dedicated bike lane configurations on Las Olas. We had requested that there be no on-street parking along Las Olas, that our section of Las Olas be kept the same with wide sidewalks, that the bike lanes be on the north and south side of the street going east and west,

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Mr. Hudson, Charlie Ladd, Attorney Robert Walker and Jenni Morejon with DDA spoke at the June 1 Commission Meeting. They have a concern about the traffic flow and gridlock that may occur on Las Olas if bike lanes are installed. They opposed the dedicated bike lane with a barrier to protect the cyclist. The business community also does not support the concept of bike lanes on Las Olas. Ian also suggested that bringing the Scooters back into the community would ease some of the traffic congestion.

Melinda suggested that the DFLCA maintain opposition to on-street parking in the downtown neighborhood and include no on-street parking in our adjacent neighbor called Shoppes and furthermore that we still support the idea that we have a dedicated protected bike lane that would connect to other dedicated protected bike lanes in adjacent neighborhoods. A motion was made by Lianne Rubbo and second by Michele Rhule that Melinda draft a letter on the behalf of the DFLCA Board and send it to the Fort Lauderdale City Commission prior to their voting on this issue. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Action:** Melinda will draft the letter regarding the latest Las Olas Mobility Group changes and submit to the Board members for review prior to ending to the Fort Lauderdale City Commission.

### 6. Any other business

Melinda Bowker asked if there was any other business and there was none.

### 7. Adjourn

A motion was made by Lianne to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Nicole. All were in favor of adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by Melinda Bowker at 5:42.

**Minutes prepared by: Michele Rhule June 7, 2021 Recording Secretary Substitute**

**Minutes approved by: Board on Annual Membership Meeting held on August 2, 2021**

**Recording Secretary Approval:**



**Date: August 3, 2021**