



**Town of Surfside
Post Hurricane Workshop
MINUTES
November 1, 2017
5:30 p.m.**

Town Hall Commission Chambers - 9293 Harding Ave, 2nd Floor
Surfside, FL 33154

1. Opening

A. Call to Order

Mayor Dietch called the workshop to order at 5:30 p.m.

B. Roll Call of Members

Town Clerk Sandra Novoa called the roll with the following members present: Mayor Daniel Dietch and Commissioner Michael Karukin. Vice Mayor Cohen, Commissioner Daniel Gielchinsky and Commissioner Paul were absent.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Chief of Police David Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Paul arrived at 5:32p.m.

2. Welcome – Mayor Dietch

Mayor Dietch wished Commissioner Gielchinsky a Happy Birthday. He welcomed everyone and thanked the Town's dedicated staff for their sacrifices during Hurricane Irma. Mayor Dietch stated that this meeting is to analyze what went right and what went wrong and for the public to have an input and express their concerns, keeping in mind that both the Town and the residents have responsibilities

3. General Overview – Guillermo Olmedillo, Town Manager

Town Manager Olmedillo gave an overview of the Town's hurricane preparedness process and also the Town's after action reports.

Vice Mayor Cohen arrived at 5:37p.m.

- 4. Pre-and-Post Hurricane Actions:**
 - A. Police Department**
 - B. Public Works Department**
 - C. Parks and Recreation Department**

Chief Allen, Public Works Director Stokes and Parks and Recreation Director Milian presented their pre and post hurricane activities.

Mayor Dietch opened the public comments.

- 5. Public Comments/ Q&A**

Victor May thanked the employees and the Police Department and had questions about the communications with the residents that stayed in Town. He spoke about the administration and Elected Officials' roles.

Barbara Cohen thanked the Town Staff and stated that it is a privilege to live in Surfside.

Commissioner Karukin stated that the Town of Surfside has the most dedicated and incredible staff and thanked everyone for their services. He spoke about the importance of having a Public Information Representative when it comes to social media. He stated that in moments like these the Town needs a more coordinated and professional approach to communication. He posed some questions related to the process of residents coming back home and how the shelters operated leaving a feeling of disconnect. Town Manager Olmedillo explained the process and how the shelters operated. Commissioner Karukin also stated that he received a lot of complaints related to the seaweed. Parks and Recreation Director Milian responded and stated that the Town had to wait for Miami-Dade County to respond based on priorities as the Town is not the only beach in the County and explained that the seaweed is natural and healthy for the beach life and is a part of the ecosystem.

Commissioner Paul stated that after reviewing the Town's report there are areas for improvements. She believes that the Police Department should be equipped with a better radio system and work closely with Miami-Dade County, especially when it involves elderly people that may be unable to go to a shelter. She also suggested that the Town acquire some water vehicles (motor boats).

Vice Mayor Cohen stated that the Town was saved from a disaster and that the communication from the Town was incredible. He posed questions about the water warnings that the Town has been receiving. Town Manager Olmedillo responded that the water was tested a week later by the County and that the water was deemed not safe to swim. The Vice Mayor thanked the Town for their responsiveness and the excellent management during the entire process.

Mayor Dietch commended the administration for making a difference and spoke about the challenges the Town encountered and the accomplishments. He spoke about the way the Public Works Department handled the debris removal and thanked them for their weekly updates and for making the right decisions.

Mayor Dietch spoke about the success of the Parks and Recreation Department, that with the exception of the tot lot, everything else was running a week after the storm and the feeling of being safe on the beach within that first week. He thanked the staff for acquiring a safe location to place the debris in lieu of placing it in the 96th Street Park, and by doing so, the Town was able to host the annual Spooktacular event.

One of the suggestions/concerns that the Mayor received from residents and spoke about was the possibility of providing sand bags, even if it is through a vendor, during the next storm/hurricane because it seems to be important to residents.

Another question was related to parking and the fact that the Town does not have a parking facility. The Mayor stated that the Town administration has had conversations with hotels and expressed interest in developing a more organized program for the future. Also, a mobile ice manufacturer as an enhancement to consider while residents are out of power. It was suggested to work together with the hotels to provide some room capacity in case of an emergency.

The Mayor spoke about an informal group of residents that during Wilma got together and formed Team Surfside. These residents drove around and asked people if they needed help and were good neighbors. He asked for any interested person that would like to take on the torch of Team Surfside. He asked the Town Manager to post the comprehensive report prepared by the Administration on the Town's website.

Mayor Dietch also spoke about residents' responsibilities and urged them to have a plan, prepare accordingly and have an emergency kit with essential supplies. He encouraged the Town residents to check the Town's website for information on how to be prepared as it is each individual's responsibility to secure their property. He also spoke about the Miami-Dade County mandatory evacuation and asked the residents not to take these communications lightly and to please sign up on the Town's website for code red alerts and email communications.

The Mayor spoke of the tree evaluations completed every year in February in order to work together with FP&L and get the tree maintenance needed. The Mayor stated that it is not only FP&L's responsibility to do this and asked the Manager to include some information in the February and or May Gazette before hurricane season about the residents' responsibility. Town Manager Olmedillo gave a more broad explanation of the responsibilities regarding tree trimming.

Mayor Dietch spoke about FP&L and stated they are a service provider and the Town is a customer as well as the home owners. He spoke about the recently adopted resolution to the Public Service Commission asking them for a look ahead schedule so that residents have an expectation of when they will get their power back.

Mayor Dietch thanked all the State and Local Governments and expressed how very proud he is to be an Elected Official and have the opportunity to work with dedicated Elected Officials and professional staff.

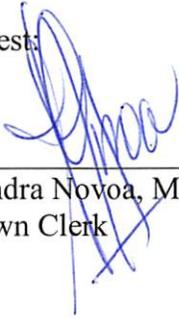
6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted this 14th day of November, 2017

Attest:



Sandra Novoa, MMC
Town Clerk



Daniel Dietch, Mayor