



Town of Surfside

DOWNTOWN VISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 20, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.

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

Opening Items:

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Vice Chair Kula called the meeting to order at 6:10pm and recognized former Mayor Eli Tourgeman from the public.

The following Members introduced themselves:

Vice Chair Elliot Kula
Fred Landsman
George Kousoulas
Marianne Meischeid
Sandra Oliva

Absent: Chair Shaun Grenald
Asmaa Benkirane
Commissioner Barry Cohen, Commission Liaison*

Also present: Guillermo Olmedillo, Town Manager
Duncan Tavares, Assistant Town Manager
Frank Trigueros, Marketing & Special Projects Coordinator
Frantza Duval, Recording Clerk
Elinor Joseph, Parking Operations Manager
John Bambis, Police Captain
Alan Graham, Code Compliance Director
Jeff Lehman, Tourist Board Liaison

2. Approval of Minutes: May 16, 2019

Committee Member Meischeid made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion received a second from Committee Member Kousolas and all voted in favor.

*Commissioner Cohen, Downtown Vision Advisory Committee Liaison, arrived at 6:20pm

3. Meeting Recap

Vice Chair Kula spoke that a discussion item that was brought to his attention by former Mayor Tourgeman and he would like the DVAC to discuss before proceeding with the regular agenda.

Committee Member Meischeid made a motion to add "Single-Use Plastic" to the agenda. The motion received a second from Committee Member Landsman and all voted in favor.

Former Mayor Tourgeman spoke in regards to the single-use plastics ban that was passed at first reading at the May Town Commission meeting. He mentioned that approximately 10 businesses within the business district did not support the single-use plastics ban for various reasons: religious, legal, cost, as well as others. Additionally, he mentioned that he was planning to put together a petition for the local businesses to sign against the single-use plastics ban that was being proposed.

His request was for the DVAC to propose an urging resolution that the Town Commission not adopt this resolution, and to support the downtown businesses at the next Commission meeting in urging the Commission to vote against the single use plastics ban.

Discussion ensued in regards to the scope and mandate of the Committee, and whether this topic fit into that.

After further discussion Committee Member Kousoulas made a motion to remain silent on the issue of single-use plastic. The motion received a second from Committee Member Landsman and all voted in favor.

Committee Member Landsman encouraged Mr. Tourgeman to get the Surfside Business Association together and more active so that they can approach the Downtown Vision Advisory Committee with their recommendations and needs moving forward.

A. Hurricane Shutter Recommendation to Town Commission

Assistant Town Manager Tavares introduced the item and stated that after discussion at the Commission level, it was approved to be introduced as a first reading ordinance to the Town Commission during their next meeting in July.

B. New Member

Assistant Town Manager Tavares explained the difficulties they had looking for new members and the fact that the Town Commission had discussed the fact that they would like to see some diversity within the Committee. He stated that staff

is actively working in the Downtown District to solicit more membership applications to fill the specific roll.

4. Skype Meeting with Main Street America

Assistant Town Manager Tavares introduced the item and provided an update on Main Street to the Committee. He suggested that the Committee focus on this item because it is a great possibility. The Florida representative will be available at a future meeting to skype and present.

Committee Member Landsman recommended that the Surfside Business Association be involved in the Main Street conversation.

5. Discussion Items

A. Art in Public Places

Assistant Town Manager Tavares stated that Tourism Director Fast provided some sample of ordinances and requested the Committee's direction.

*Commissioner Liaison Cohen left the meeting at 7:48pm.

Committee Member Oliva mentioned the art on Giralda in Coral Gables, Assistant Town Manager Tavares mentioned the approach with the Turtles was something similar, however due to the damage it had to be moved. And discussion ensued about other sources of inspiration.

B. Parking Lot Rates (this item was discussed after 3B)

Assistant Town Manager Tavares presented the item and stated that the Town Commission requested for the Committee to revise their recommendation.

Parking Operations Manager Joseph was in attendance and provided the members of the Committee with a recap of the current rates.

The Committee was provided a re-cap memo with a side-by-side table of the current rates and what DVAC had recommended, of which was not acceptable to the Town Commission.

Captain Bambis also spoke on the item in regards to the post-mortem of the new rates proposed for on-street parking on 9400 and 9500 block of Harding Avenue.

After some discussion Committee Member Kousoulas made a motion to recommend to the Town Commission 4hours based on their original conclusion and leave the price to the Town Commission. He also asked staff to provide the Commissioners with the guidance on comparable rates. The

motion received a second from Committee Member Meischeid and all voted in favor.

C. Design Guidelines from Planning & Zoning

Item Deferred

D. Code Compliance

Code Compliance Director Graham spoke under item 5F – Loading Zones.

E. Local Business Tax Receipts and Vacancies

Item Deferred

F. Loading Zones (discussed after 5B)

Assistant Town Manager Tavares took the opportunity that Parking Operations Manager Joseph was in attendance and asked him for an update.

Parking Operations Manager Joseph stated that they are currently working on adding a loading zoning in the Abbott parking lot. Assistant Town Manager Tavares stated that they will continue to provide updates as they come available.

Assistant Town Manager Tavares introduced Code Compliance Director Graham and asked the Committee that he is available if they have any questions related to Code Compliance.

Committee Member Landsman stated that Chair Grenald was the driver for this discussion. He asked how Code Compliance deals with the code compliance issues dealing with the business district based on appearance such as paint, windows, signage, etc.

Code Compliance Director Graham gave the Committee an overview of the Town Code that references Town properties and what his departments duties are and what they actively do within the business district.

Discussion took place related to the Town alleys and who is responsible for the maintenance of each of the alleys. Assistant Town Manager Tavares mentioned that the Alley topic would come back to DVAC at a future agenda.

G. Parking Waiver Program Update

Item Deferred

6. Future Meeting Dates

Committee Member Landsman made a motion to schedule their next meeting for July 16, 2019 or August 22, 2019. The July 16th meeting is contingent to Tourist Board Director Fast availability. The motion received a second from Committee Member Kousoulas and all voted in favor.

Tourist Board Liaison Lehman and Committee Member Oliva left the meeting at 8:05pm.

Assistant Town Manager Tavares informed the Committee about the Downtown Holiday Lighting agreement that was approved by the Tourist Board. The agreement is being negotiated and will be in front of the Town Commission for their approval in their next meeting. The decision of the Tourist Board was presented to the DVAC with the amendments they requested to the design. The recommendation was made by the Assistant Town Manager, to send feedback or recommendations to the Tourist Board to be read into the public record and/or attend their upcoming meeting.

Committee Member Kousoulas spoke about the possibility of having a saying when there are expenditures made on Harding Avenue. Assistant Town Manager Tavares stated that it is not part of their charter to have a saying on what the Tourist Board approves when they have the authority per state law to spend such funds.

Assistant Town Manager Tavares further explained that the DVAC is an advisory committee to the Town Manager and not to the Commission. He further explained the RFP public process and encourage any member of the Committee to attend the Commission meeting if they wish to express their views.

After further discussion Committee Member Kousoulas made a motion to remain silent as not enough time was allowed to discuss the item and that in the future, he would like DVAC to be more involved in the Tourist Board /DVAC related items. Motion received a second from Committee Member Meischeid and all voted in favor.


7. Adjournment

Committee Member Landsman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

The motion received a second from Committee Member Kousoulas and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Accepted this 12 day of September, 2019


Shaun Grenald, Chair

Attest:



Sandra Novoa, MMC
Town Clerk