



**THE COUNCIL OF
FORT LAUDERDALE
CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS**

Minutes of February 11th General Membership Meeting
A video of this meeting is available on the CFLCA YouTube Channel on the CFLCA.org website.

- **Membership Attendance**

The meeting began with a roll call of neighborhood associations to confirm membership attendance. Members were asked to confirm their presence by saying 'here.'

- **Board Member Introductions**

Mary Peloquin introduced the board members present at the meeting, including vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, and district representatives.

- **Police Presence**

The police were present at the meeting but did not have a presentation. Attendees were invited to ask questions if they had any.

District 1 Commissioner John Herbst Introduction

The District 1 commissioner was introduced and shared his background as a former city auditor. He expressed a willingness to discuss various city concerns.

- **Urban Forestry Master Plan**

Discussion on the city's urban forestry master plan, focusing on tree canopy goals and challenges with development impacting existing trees.

- **Tree Protection and Planting**

Concerns were raised about protecting existing trees and the need for more vigorous enforcement of tree replacement policies.

- **Lockhart Park Plan**
The plan for Lockhart Park includes dog parks, multi-purpose fields, and open spaces. Discussion on the possibility of adding more trees.
- **EMS Special Taxing District**
The EMS special taxing district was discussed as a means to fund new fire stations and personnel, with a focus on transparency in tax increases.
- **Millage Rate and Taxation**
Discussion on the need to reduce the millage rate and concerns about substituting operating budgets with new taxes. Clarification on the process of setting up a district without a vote and the need for a referendum for actual taxation.
- **Public-Private Partnerships (P3)**
Evaluation of the city's approach to P3s, highlighting past mistakes and the need for a more robust process. Discussion on the financial analysis of P3 projects and the importance of learning from other cities.
- **EMS Services and Bed Tax**
Inquiry into the analysis of EMS services provided to tourists versus residents and the potential use of this data to claim a larger share of the bed tax.

Broward County Commuter Rail Projects – Joseph Yesbeck, PE and Senior VP at TYLin (Consultant for Broward County) Presentation on the Broward Commuter Rail project, its history, and its role in the PRIMO plan for transportation improvements in Broward County.

- **Broward Commuter Rail South**
The Broward Commuter Rail South project, from Aventura Station to a proposed station near Broward General, completed its environmental and project development study last summer. It received a record of decision with no significant impact and was accepted into the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts Program for funding. Broward County Transit is working on the grant application and project development, expected to be completed by the end of the year.
- **Broward Commuter Rail North**
The Broward Commuter Rail North project is set to begin its environmental and project development process later this year. It includes four stations: Deerfield Beach, Pompano Beach, Oakland Park, and downtown Fort Lauderdale. The project will address issues like traffic circulation, emergency response times, and noise. The process will involve technical analysis and community engagement.

- **New River Bridge Options**

The existing New River bridge poses challenges for marine traffic due to increased train frequency. A study proposed replacing the existing bridge with two new bridges: a low-level bridge for freight trains and a higher-level bridge for passenger trains. The higher bridge would allow 95% of boats to pass underneath when closed. Three design concepts were presented to explore aesthetic possibilities.

- **Public Meetings and Community Engagement**

Public meetings are scheduled for February 19th and 20th to discuss the Broward Commuter Rail North project and gather community feedback. The meetings aim to inform the public and address concerns related to the project.

- **Community Concerns and Questions**

Community members raised concerns about traffic impact, emergency response times, and the feasibility of bridge and tunnel options. Questions were asked about the impact of increased train frequency and the potential for roadway underpasses at key locations.

Noise Ordinance Update – Katrina Johnson, Code Compliance Manager

- **Project Development Timeline**

Discussion on the timeline for a project development, with expectations for county commission approval in March 2025 and study completion by January 2026. Construction is anticipated to be operational around 2032-2033.

- **Noise Ordinance Changes**

Katrina Johnson discussed changes to the noise ordinance effective March 7, 2025, including the addition of DVC levels, proactive noise measurement, and addressing residential complaints. The ordinance now allows for measurements from the complainant's property line in special entertainment districts.

Council Business

- **Nominating Committee and Election Process**

Dennis Ulmer presented the slate of officers for 2025-2027, with elections scheduled for March 11, 2025. Nominations can be made from the floor, and officers will serve a two-year term.

- **Neighborhood Support Night**

Announcement of the upcoming Neighborhood Support Night on February 13, 2025, featuring the Fort Lauderdale High School drum line and other surprises.

- **Fort Lauderdale North Beach Arts and Crafts Festival**
Promotion of the Arts and Crafts Festival on February 15-16, 2025, encouraging neighborhood participation to support vendors and make it an annual event.
- **Treasurer's Report**
The Treasurer's Report was presented, showing a current balance of \$4,187.19, with expenses for various events and renewals upcoming.

Meeting adjourned 8:35pm