

TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA
TOWN COMMISSION
SPECIAL COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES

Town Commission Meeting Room
4501 Ocean Drive
Wednesday, November 14, 2007
7:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER, MAYOR OLIVER PARKER

Mayor Parker called the meeting to order at 8:23 p.m. Present were Vice Mayor Yanni, Mayor Pro Tem Clark, Commissioner McIntee and Commissioner Silverstone. Also present were Town Attorney Jamila Alexander, Town Manager Esther Colon, and Town Clerk June White.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

3. DISCUSSION REGARDING EL MAR DRIVE DUE TO THE CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED OR WILL OCCUR

Commissioner Silverstone explained he placed this item on the agenda as he believed it was better to have two lanes, rather than 15 story buildings on EL Mar Drive. He believed the fore-fathers of the Town saw the beauty of the Town.

Commissioner McIntee said it was suggested that El Mar Drive duplicate a European walkway and reminded everyone that the Europeans come to the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. He added that El Mar Drive needed two lanes for safety reasons. Commissioner McIntee said the town should look at the way the people want it to look and not the way the developers do.

Commissioner Silverstone suggested this item be placed on the November 27, 2007 to repeal Ordinance 2005-5. Mayor Parker ordered this item be placed under New Business as discussion and or action repealing Ordinance 2005-05 with instructions to the Town Attorney to prepare an Ordinance to repeal Ordinance 2005-05.

Mayor Parker polled the Commission to hear from public with a time limit. The Commission voted 3-2 to grant 3 minutes per speaker with Commissioner McIntee and Commissioner Silverstone in favor of granting an unlimited amount of time.

Vice Mayor Yanni pointed out that El Mar Drive has not changed since 1999, and said that all the Commission wanted to do was to enhance El Mar Drive. He said there were advantages and disadvantages to change. Vice Mayor Yanni believed additional workshops were needed since half the people are for it and the other half were against.

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Mayor Parker believed that back out parking was the problem and that vehicles should be kept away from the pedestrians. He believed the Town should keep the current plan.

Commissioner McIntee polled the residents as to their preference on four lanes on El Mar with the majority in favor.

Mayor Parker opened the meeting to the public with a three minute time limit.

David Nevins was concerned about getting around a garbage truck with the current plan. Mayor Parker indicated that the garbage trucks usually move over into the grass area allowing vehicles to pass.

George Harshman believed it was not possible to pass a garbage truck while it was picking up trash. He suggested the wide median strips be narrowed down. Mr. Harshman asked to suspend the limit placed on the allowable time to speak. Commissioner McIntee made the motion to suspend the three minute limit.

David T. Evans asked to suspend the time limit as he had several issues to address. Commissioner Silverstone made a motion to suspend the three minute limit. Commissioner McIntee seconded the motion. In a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-1 with Mayor Parker dissenting. Mr. Evans did not believe bicyclists would ride in the bicycle lane, but would ride on either the sidewalk or in the street. Mr. Evans was against one lane on El Mar Drive.

William Ruth suggested that the money should be spent on getting rid of the things the people did not like on El Mar Drive rather than on something they did not want.

Unidentified resident stated that cars generally slow down when they see people walking. He said traffic ran smoothly and preferred two lanes. He said only things they needed were improved drainage and utility poles.

Mary Sukerin loved the way the streets are in the Town and did not want to see anything change other than better drainage.

Reverend George Hunnsaker said he and his wife walked through Town because it was pedestrian friendly and never once walked into a telephone pole. He said people respect El Mar Drive for what it was and did not want to walk down the street feeling like they were in Manhattan.

Arlene DiMerger said two lanes were needed on El Mar Drive. She added that one lane of beach traffic would be too much and wanted El Mar Drive left the way it was.

Cindy Geesey said the plans had already been approved and saw no need to change it.

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Roseann Minnet said she was born and raised here and cared about this town. She said Lauderdale-By-The-Sea was a walking Town and she was delighted with the plan to beautify El Mar Drive. Ms. Minnet said the plan started in 2000 and public meetings were posted. She added that the plans were voted on December 15, 2004 and again in January 11, 2005. She said Lauderdale-By-The-Sea was a sleeping beauty, and if allowed to sleep, it would decay and shrivel away if the infrastructure beneath was not taken care of.

Bruce Frankle did not understand how the Commission could approve so much construction and decrease the roadways.

Ron Piersonte agreed that El Mar Drive needed some improvement but was dangerous the way it was.

Marc Furth stated that the Pelican Monument was a safety issue but people walked around it, the same way they walked around obstacles on El Mar Drive. He said there were 344 parking spaces on El Mar Drive and if they made it a single lane then all those parking spaces would be lost.

Cristie Furth said she lived and worked on El Mar for 36 years and believed a single lane would cause major problems for safety and emergency reasons. She wanted to keep El Mar Drive as two lanes.

Barbara Cole believed that the money spent for sidewalks on Seagrape Drive and Washingtonia Avenue was wasted as people walked in the street anyway, as they did on Codrington Drive and El Mar Drive.

Stuart Dodd thought El Mar was the Town's greatest asset and believed everything possible should be done to keep it that way. He urged the Commission to keep El Mar Drive as two lanes and suggested a 15 mph speed limit. Mr. Dodd suggested El Mar Drive be curved rather than keep it straight and flat. He believed that would slow down the traffic.

Maureen McIntee said the decision was with the Commission. She believed people can smile and step aside if they did fit on the sidewalk.

Charlie Riechtman believed a new suit of clothes should make a person look better and not change the person wearing it. He added that the character of the Town of Lauderdale-By-the-Sea should not change.

Frank Herrmann asked the Commission to help the people on El Mar Drive and give them a choice on the number of lanes they preferred.

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L. Peanuts Wick mentioned the \$200,000 to \$300,000 that was spent over the last twenty years on the different studies. He reminded the Commission that the changes made to El Mar Drive by the Master Plan Steering Committee increased density and withdrew setbacks. He thought two lanes with effective drainage and swales was the proper way to go.

Rosa Vitallia said drivers know they have to be careful and said that people always walk in the road. She added that El Mar Drive was two lanes all this time and asked the reason why it should be changed now.

Lisa Mitchell hoped El Mar Drive would not become a single lane for safety reasons. She pointed out that a lot of people use El Mar Drive to get out of Town during hurricane season.

Paul Novak believed everyone should thank Commissioner Silverstone for bringing up this issue. He said 15 years ago parking meters were put on one side of El Mar Drive and in effect, created one lane that lasted three months and did not work. He believed El Mar Drive was the Flagship of the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea.

Pauline McGuinness preferred keeping El Mar as two lanes. She said it needed drainage, and beautifying. Ms. McGuinness said people walk on the road because it is softer than sidewalks.

Larry McGuinness said his mother told him to walk on the sidewalk and therefore, he did. He said with big development going on people would be moving in and out and wondered where all the moving trucks would go. Mr. McGuinness thought a one lane road was a mistake.

Diane Boutin urged the Commission to reconsider.

Ernie Brandt was in favor of burying utilities and wider sidewalks. He preferred two lanes.

Guy Contrada believed one lane would create a traffic nightmare.

Mayor Parker believed two lanes were needed along with beautification, underground utilities and eight foot wide sidewalks. Mayor Parker placed on the November 27, 2007, as an alternate to the repeal of Ordinance 2005-05, an amendment to Ordinance 2005-05 eliminating the vegetation strip, the bicycle lanes, and making two ten foot lanes.

Commissioner McIntee made a motion to table to the second meeting in February 2008. Mayor Parker said a motion to table could not be made at a workshop, but could be done at the meeting. Commissioner McIntee withdrew his motion until the November 27, 2007 meeting.

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Mayor Parker felt that waiting until February, 2008 to make a decision was a mistake and believed the Commission needed to act quickly as there were two developments going on and he wanted to make sure the developers abided by the plan. Mayor Parker requested the Commission to direct the Town Attorney to prepare amendment to Ordinance 2005-05

Commissioner Silverstone suggested the Commission put a freeze on future development of properties in that area until the Ordinance is approved, amended or removed. Mayor Parker said that Oriana needed to know that they should not finish the roadway and the Commission needed to decide what it is that Oriana should do with the roadway. Commissioner Silverstone asked the people to call and voice their opinion.

Vice Mayor Yanni wanted a workshop where everyone can put their heads together and come to a decision. He requested placement on the November 27, 2007 agenda as a request to hold a workshop. Mayor Parker so ordered.

Manager Colon advised that Oriana and Mintos would need to be contacted as their plans were in place and we would have to contact Broward County Traffic possibly delaying the project. Manager Colon also reminded the Commission that there was talk of drainage and curbing and that indicated an additional expense issue.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Clark made a motion to adjourn. With no further business to discuss Mayor Parker adjourned the meeting at 10:26 p.m.

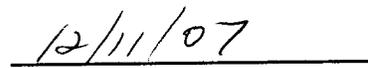


Mayor Oliver Parker

ATTEST:



Town Clerk, June White



Date