

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
DANIA BEACH CITY COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2008 – 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Reverend Timothy Shellman, Sr., St. Ruth Missionary Baptist Church, gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

3. Roll Call

Present:

Mayor:	Albert Jones
Vice-Mayor:	Anne Castro
Commissioners:	Bob Anton
	John Bertino
	Patricia Flury
City Manager:	Ivan Pato
City Attorney:	Thomas Ansbro
City Clerk:	Louise Stilson

4. Presentations and Special Event Approvals

4.1 Results of Citizen Satisfaction Survey – City Manager Ivan Pato

City Manager Pato presented a PowerPoint with the results of the Citizen Satisfaction Survey, which is attached to and incorporated into these minutes. He requested that the following comments be included in the record:

“The City has accomplished more in six years than the City has seen in decades, much of the credit goes to our elected officials and our staff. During the past six years many complicated and difficult challenges were met head on. Among the many accomplishments: we re-established the City’s financial footing, established the City’s website which provides easy access to information and communications with the public and expanded our cable TV channel to re-broadcast our commission meetings on Thursdays, we addressed numerous and long overdue infrastructure needs, refurbished and upgraded our park facilities, remodeled and expanded City Hall, professionalized our code compliance efforts, addressed complicated collective bargaining issues, replaced outdated compensation plans, significantly reduced health care and recruiting

costs, successfully obtained funding by the County for our downtown library, and we are building a new fire station out west. We purchased 109 Park St., a critical property that will facilitate construction of the library and the governmental campus concept. All this will ignite the much needed redevelopment of our downtown.

It appears we missed our previous window of opportunity. We have failed to spur redevelopment and promote economic development, the Dania Jai Alai Casino is on hold and the economy is in a recession, however, with the CRA Director now on board we are moving in the right direction, this will position the City rightly when the market turns around. While we may not always agree, there is no doubt that this management team as a whole has moved the City forward.

Clearly there is room for additional improvements, but as the recent Citizen Satisfaction Survey suggests, we are definitely on the right track. Citizen perception of our services has improved and great strides are being made in each department. We have rattled some cages and ruffled some feathers; obtaining a consensus in this City can be quite difficult, these are predictable results of change. Considering the magnitude of the advances made in the City, our ability to maintain an even keel has been quite extraordinary.

You are aware of the many challenges facing you and this City, not just in the financial arena but also with redevelopment, the many unfunded mandates coming out of Tallahassee, difficult collective bargaining issues and declining revenues. We also face challenges with Broward County such as the expansion of the airport and a TIF-less CRA. As you know, I have built strong relationships with several County Commissioners; I believe that will help us deal more effectively with the County when difficult issues arise. We have also built better relations with the City of Hollywood, Florida Department of Transportation, South Florida Water Management District and other agencies.

We face challenging times, it is important that we continue our commitment to the goals you have set and maintain the strength and unity of your executive team. We need to stay the course.”

Commissioner Flury noted one of the most important gauges is to see how we compare with other cities and suggested we look at areas that need improvement and implement a plan.

Commissioner Bertino pointed out that Dania Beach is the oldest city in Broward County, and therefore it will take some time for us to catch up to the newer cities.

Mayor Jones stressed the importance of giving the citizens of Dania Beach an opportunity to voice their opinion. He was pleased to see that we are moving in the right direction.

## 5. Proclamations

### 5.1 National Public Works Week

Mayor Jones presented the National Public Works Week proclamation to Dominic Orlando, Director of Public Services, and staff from the Public Services Department.

## 6. Citizen Comments

Jennifer Calderon, 6955 NW 186<sup>th</sup> Street Apt. #F111, noted she received a water bill for \$800 for one month. She stated tenants are living in the duplex, but the plumber noticed a leak on an outside pipe. Ms. Calderon asked the Commission if they could do something about her bill.

The Commission told Ms. Calderon to contact the City Manager.

Commissioner Flury commented that staff should know that the City Manager should first deal with these issues before it comes to the City Commission.

City Manager Pato noted he would look into the matter. He further indicated that we should revise the Ordinance because the current one does not give him any discretion other than to waive the sewer portion of the bill.

Fay Bartelmes, 214 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Terrace, commented on the passing of Dr. Helen Udell, a very active member of our community. A memorial will be held at Frost Park on Saturday, April 26, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Scott Stuart, 5431 SW 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented on Item #9.1, and said that 50% of the residents are not owners. He asked the City for help in contacting the owners of the properties who are non-residents. Mr. Stuart noted the neighbors he has contacted have shown a very positive attitude regarding the traffic control situation in that area.

Commissioner Bertino advised that the property owner information could be found on the Property Appraiser's Website and through the tax rolls.

Vice-Mayor Castro wondered if the City could provide a letter asking the property owners to contact the City if they had any objections. The Commission agreed for the City to prepare a letter for Mr. Stuart's group to mail.

Patricia Tyra, 2912 SW 54<sup>th</sup> Street, Estates of Fort Lauderdale, thanked City staff for the tour of the City.

## 7. Consent Agenda

***Items added to Consent Agenda: Item #7.7 and Item #9.2 was moved to the Consent Agenda***  
***Items removed from Consent Agenda: #7.3, #7.5, #7.6, #9.2***

### 7.1 Minutes:

Approve Minutes of April 8, 2008 City Commission meeting

7.2 Travel Requests:

Request of Jeremy Earle, CRA Director, to attend the American Planning Association Annual Conference and Training in Las Vegas, NV, from April 26, 2008 – May 2, 2008 (Estimated cost \$2,455.50) *(Continued from April 8, 2008)*

Request of Albert Jones, Mayor, and Ivan Pato, City Manager, to travel to Tallahassee, Florida on April 23-24, 2008 (Estimated cost \$630.00/per person; remaining budget: Mayor & Commission \$1,635.00, City Manager \$5,684.00)

Request of Ivan Pato, City Manager, to attend the FCCMA Conference in Marco Island, FL, from May 28-31, 2008 (Estimated cost \$1,002.00; remaining budget \$4,682.00)

Request of Louise Stilson, City Clerk, to attend the 2008 FACC Annual Conference in Naples, FL, from June 29-July 2, 2008 for certification purposes (Estimated cost \$803.70)

**Resolutions**

7.3 RESOLUTION #2008-062

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DANIA BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT IF AWARDED, AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT (INCLUDING TIME EXTENSIONS) WITH THE FLORIDA INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT WATERWAYS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR GRANT ASSISTANCE PERTAINING TO THE CITY OF DANIA BEACH MARINA RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; FURTHER, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Attorney Ansbro read the title of Resolution #2008-062.

City Attorney Ansbro responded for Commissioner Flury that there will be a meeting with the FAU attorney on Friday, April 25, although a decision has not yet been reached. He noted the Mayor should meet with Mr. Brogan to try to move this matter forward.

Mayor Jones advised he has not received a return call from FAU President Brogan, but will continue to call every day until someone gets back to us.

Commissioner Anton volunteered to contact President Brogan again.

**Commissioner Flury motioned to adopt Resolution #2008-062; seconded by Commissioner Bertino. The motion carried on the following 5-0 Roll Call vote:**

<b>Commissioner Anton</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Vice-Mayor Castro</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Bertino</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Mayor Jones</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Flury</b>	<b>Yes</b>		

7.4 RESOLUTION #2008-064

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DANIA BEACH, FLORIDA, CREATING THE GRANT ADVISORY BOARD; PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND TERMS OF MEMBERS, AS WELL AS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES; PROVIDING ASSURANCES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; FURTHER PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

7.5 RESOLUTION #2008-066

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DANIA BEACH, FLORIDA, PROVIDING AN ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008 FOR THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; FURTHER, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Attorney Ansbro read the title of Resolution #2008-066.

Vice-Mayor Castro noted she has been in touch with our CRA attorneys and although this is good as a temporary measure, the CRA needs to operate as its own entire legal entity. She commented that for the upcoming budget we have to do things the right way, such as charging the CRA for Mr. Earle’s office space, and any other legal and financial issues. Vice-Mayor Castro further stated that the CRA needs to adopt its own policies in accordance with the law.

Commissioner Bertino would like Attorney Moskowitz to lay out the procedure that the CRA should follow to be legally correct.

**Vice-Mayor Castro motioned to adopt Resolution #2008-066; seconded by Commissioner Anton. The motion carried on the following 5-0 Roll Call vote:**

<b>Commissioner Anton</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Vice-Mayor Castro</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Bertino</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Mayor Jones</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Flury</b>	<b>Yes</b>		

7.6 RESOLUTION #2008-065

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DANIA BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE A FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE LEASE AGREEMENT EXISTING BETWEEN THE CITY OF DANIA BEACH AND DANIA BEACH GRILLE, INC. TO GRANT AN ADDITIONAL OPTION TO THE TENANT TO EXTEND THE LEASE ANOTHER FIVE (5) YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 15, 2014 TO FEBRUARY 15, 2019; PROVIDING FOR A RENTAL ADJUSTMENT BASED UPON A CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FORMULA; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; FURTHER PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Attorney Ansbro read the title of Resolution #2008-065.

Vice-Mayor Castro recognized Mr. Demas for being a good corporate citizen. She further asked for a provision to be included in the lease, stating that if the lease is extended for another ten years it can only be extended to Mr. Demas’ heirs.

City Attorney Ansbro clarified that the First Amendment to the agreement already covers this requirement.

Commissioner Flury preferred that any change in ownership in the corporation come before the Commission.

Louis Demas said he should not be punished by not being allowed to sell the corporation to another person.

Commissioner Anton is comfortable with leaving the contract as is. He remarked Mr. Demas is a very good tenant who has on many occasions, helped the City by opening his business bathroom for the use of the general public.

Commissioner Bertino noted Mr. Demas has placed a capital investment in the property, and agreed the contract is fine as it stands.

Mayor Jones clarified with City Attorney Ansbro that if Mr. Demas sells the corporation to anyone other than his daughter, it needs to come before the Commission for approval.

**Vice-Mayor Castro motioned to adopt Resolution #2008-065; seconded by Commissioner Anton. The motion carried on the following 5-0 Roll Call vote:**

<b>Commissioner Anton</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Vice-Mayor Castro</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Bertino</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Mayor Jones</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Flury</b>	<b>Yes</b>		

### **Addendum**

#### 7.7 RESOLUTION #2008-070

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DANIA BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT IF AWARDED, AND EXECUTE AN URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; FURTHER, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

### **Ordinances (Title read by City Attorney)**

#### 9.2 ORDINANCE #2008-014

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DANIA BEACH, FLORIDA APPROVING THE REQUEST MADE BY THE PROPERTY OWNERS, ARNOLD AND SHARON NEARN, TO REZONE PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF DIXIE HIGHWAY, SOUTH OF 1496-1502 SOUTH DIXIE HIGHWAY, DANIA BEACH, FLORIDA, AND LEGALLY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A", A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS ORDINANCE; CHANGING THE CURRENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY FROM RM-2 (MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL), TO C-3 (COMMERCIAL); SUBJECT TO CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; FURTHER, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. **(FIRST READING)**

**Commissioner Anton motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda, with the addition of Item #9.2 and Item #7.7, and the exception of Items #7.3, #7.5, #7.6 and #9.2; seconded by Commissioner Bertino. The motion carried on the following 5-0 Roll Call vote:**

<b>Commissioner Anton</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Vice-Mayor Castro</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Bertino</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Mayor Jones</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Flury</b>	<b>Yes</b>		

**8. Bids and Requests for Proposals**

There were no proposals at this meeting.

**9. Public Hearings and Site Plans**

**9.1 ORDINANCE #2006-022**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DANIA BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN ELEMENT OF THE LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ACCOMMODATE A REQUEST MADE BY LEIGH ROBINSON KERR AND ASSOCIATES, INC., TO REDESIGNATE FROM “COMMUNITY FACILITIES” TO “MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL” (12-13.5 DWELLING UNITS/ACRE) FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4200 SW 54<sup>TH</sup> COURT, DANIA BEACH AND LEGALLY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT “A”, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; FURTHER, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. **(SECOND READING)** *(Continued from April 8, 2008)*

City Attorney Ansbro read the title of Ordinance #2006-022, and noted that the applicant requested a continuance until the May 13, 2008 City Commission meeting.

Mayor Jones opened the Public Hearing. Seeing as there was no one to speak in favor or opposition, he closed the Public Hearing.

**Commissioner Anton motioned to continue Ordinance #2006-022 until the May 13, 2008 City Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Bertino. The motion carried on the following 5-0 Roll Call vote:**

<b>Commissioner Anton</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Vice-Mayor Castro</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Bertino</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Mayor Jones</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Flury</b>	<b>Yes</b>		

**9.2 ORDINANCE #2008-014 *Moved to Consent Agenda***

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DANIA BEACH, FLORIDA APPROVING THE REQUEST MADE BY THE PROPERTY OWNERS, ARNOLD AND SHARON NEARN, TO REZONE PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF DIXIE HIGHWAY, SOUTH OF 1496-1502 SOUTH DIXIE HIGHWAY, DANIA BEACH, FLORIDA, AND LEGALLY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT “A”, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS ORDINANCE; CHANGING THE CURRENT ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY FROM RM-2 (MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL), TO C-3 (COMMERCIAL); SUBJECT TO

CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; FURTHER, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. **(FIRST READING)**

9.3 RESOLUTION #2008-059

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DANIA BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE DELEGATION REQUEST SUBMITTED BY JILL COHEN OF MILLER LEGG AND ASSOCIATES ON BEHALF OF THE PROPERTY OWNER, MARINA MILE PARK OF COMMERCE, LLC, TO CHANGE THE RESTRICTIVE NOTE ON THE PLAT KNOWN AS THE "ISGETTE'S RUNWAY" PLAT, PREVIOUSLY RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 158, PAGE 18, AND GENERALLY LOCATED AT THE EAST SIDE OF SW 30<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SOUTH OF STATE ROAD 84; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; FURTHER, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. *(Continued from April 8, 2008)*

City Attorney Ansbro read the title of Resolution #2008-059.

Corinne Lajoie, AICP, Principal City Planner, advised the request was to change the note on the plat to allow an office and vocational technical school. She further clarified that the vocational school would not be tax exempt.

Mayor Jones opened the Public Hearing. Seeing as there was no one to speak in favor or opposition, he closed the Public Hearing.

**Vice-Mayor Castro motioned to adopt Resolution #2008-059; seconded by Commissioner Bertino. The motion carried on the following 5-0 Roll Call vote:**

<b>Commissioner Anton</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Vice-Mayor Castro</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Bertino</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Mayor Jones</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Flury</b>	<b>Yes</b>		

9.4 RESOLUTION #2008-063

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DANIA BEACH, FLORIDA APPROVING THE VARIANCE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY THE CITY OF DANIA BEACH PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT FROM CHAPTER 26, "VEGETATION", SECTION 26-48, "INTERIOR LANDSCAPING FOR ALL VEHICULAR USE AREAS", FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1201 STIRLING ROAD, DANIA BEACH; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; FURTHER, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Attorney Ansbro read the title of Resolution #2008-063.

Corinne Lajoie, AICP, Principal City Planner, noted this is a variance to reduce the required interior landscape area and the number of trees provided on site for the new Public Services Complex. The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval of the request.

Mayor Jones opened the Public Hearing. Seeing as there was no one to speak in favor or opposition, he closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Anton motioned to adopt Resolution #2008-063; seconded by Commissioner Flury.



Commissioner Flury noted we need to provide the necessary landscaping and increase the tree canopy at the Public Services Compound. She thought it would be in bad taste and unfair to people submitting this type of request, to approve this variance. Commissioner Flury remarked we should set the example.

Dominic Orlando, Director of Public Services, responded that we need to include the Southwest Community Center on the same site and that is the reason for the variance request. He said we have parking problems as well as other issues with the Community Center on this site.

Commissioner Anton suggested adding more trees around the Community Center.

Director Orlando noted the only way to do that would be by taking away parking.

Commissioner Bertino asked who owned the adjacent property to the south of the Public Services Complex. He thought we could ask the owners to let us plant some trees which would also benefit their property.

Director Orlando advised the Jehovah's Witness organization own the property and they are willing to sell it.

Discussion followed between Director Orlando and the Commission regarding the possibility of including trees along the Public Services property lines.

Patty Hart, 517 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, noted that Liberia Economic and Social Development (LES) is purchasing the Jehovah's Witness property. She suggested City staff contact Henry Graham and ask him if they would be willing to let the City plant some trees which would improve their property as well.

Commissioner Anton withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Bertino volunteered to contact LES and get Director Orlando involved in their discussion.

**Vice-Mayor Castro motioned to continue Resolution #2008-063 until the May 13, 2008 City Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m.; seconded by Commissioner Bertino. The motion carried on the following 5-0 Roll Call vote:**

<b>Commissioner Anton</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Vice-Mayor Castro</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Bertino</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Mayor Jones</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Commissioner Flury</b>	<b>Yes</b>		

## 10. Commission Comments

### *Heard after Discussion Items*

#### 10.1 Commissioner Anton

Commissioner Anton complimented the Public Services Department for their continuous efforts to serve the needs of the citizens of Dania Beach. He further noted that there were a few negative comments on the Citizen Satisfaction Survey regarding some of the street services. Commissioner Anton did not want people to get the wrong impression and clarified that there are a lot of issues we have dealt with in that department due to our old infrastructure.

Commissioner Anton commented he attended the Airport Part 150 Scoping Group meeting which deals with the mitigation for the damages caused by noise and pollution with the proposed expansion of the Airport south runway. He noted they are looking for volunteers to sound proof their homes and sign away the Avigation Easements to the airspace over their house, even if it causes serious damage. This group is supposed to bring back cost estimates in two weeks.

## 10.2 Commissioner Bertino

Commissioner Bertino commented on the passing of Dr. Helen Udell, a life-long resident of our City.

Commissioner Bertino noted the Relay for Life event had an excellent turnout. He was pleased to see our community contributing to such a good cause.

Commissioner Bertino has received several calls from citizens asking why the State is ripping out the old curbs and replacing them with new curbs, when they were not broken. He asked if anyone had an answer to this.

Dominic Orlando noted that in order to make this section of the City ADA compliant, they are having a slightly different elevation. He indicated that everything will be square and plumb, they will also be installing new medians, landscaping and resurfacing. Director Orlando confirmed for Commissioner Flury that the entire work should be completed within 240 days from the beginning of the project.

## 10.3 Commissioner Flury

Commissioner Flury complimented the Relay for Life organizers for putting together a great event.

## 10.4 Vice-Mayor Castro

Vice-Mayor Castro left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

## 10.5 Mayor Jones

Mayor Jones noted that he, together with City Manager Pato and CRA Director Earle, spoke at the Lions Club and they were very appreciative for their attendance.

Mayor Jones noted he attended the Plywood Regatta which was held at the Beach on April 19-20.

Mayor Jones commented he attended the Willow Manor Retirement Home 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary event. He commended the facility's administration for doing a great job.

Mayor Jones noted the Relay for Life event was very successful.

## 11. Discussion and Possible Action

### *Heard before Commission Comments*

#### 11.1 Limousines of South Florida Agreement

*Withdrawn from Agenda*

#### 11.2 Designated smoking areas for Parks Ordinance – Kristen Jones, Director of Parks and Recreation

Kristen Jones, Director of Parks and Recreation, noted all of our Parks are going green. She asked the Commission if we could designate smoking areas in the parks, especially around the playground areas. Director Jones advised some cities have already implemented this law.

It was the consensus of the Commission for Director Jones to bring forth a plan for consideration.

Director Jones responded for Commissioner Flury that drinking is prohibited at all parks. She further noted that she is working on preparing one consolidated sign for the parks that would help people find the information they need.

#### 11.3 Election Date Changes – Mayor Jones

Mayor Jones noted this idea has been discussed several times, but nothing has been done. He hoped for an opportunity to bring an action to move forward. Mayor Jones pointed out that if we move the Elections to November, we could have a better voters' turnout. He finally noted that due to the way economy currently is, we need to be fiscally responsible and implement whatever measures are necessary to save taxpayer money.

Commissioner Anton foresees the lack of a primary as a drawback because too many candidates would be running, therefore he would like the voters to make a decision on it. Commissioner Anton commented that a lot of people vote on national elections, but not on municipal elections, although the local politicians are the ones who deal with the people's quality of life issues.

Commissioner Flury noted the cost is not her great concern because elections are important to municipalities. She pointed out that it is difficult for new people to get elected without a primary election, since the incumbent will generally win.

Commissioner Bertino does not want to do away with the primary election. He noted that the national ballot contains too many items and people lose interest in the municipal elections.

Vice-Mayor Castro noted that she would like statistics on how many people do not vote the whole ballot. She suggested we contact the Supervisor of Elections office for this information. Vice-Mayor Castro also feels the primary election is important because it serves as a filter to allow the stronger candidate to win. She was not in favor of seats or districts, although we may have to do that if we move to November. Vice-Mayor Castro suggested we place several questions on the straw ballot to delineate what our concerns are or prepare a survey before November.

Mayor Jones noted the Commission did not act on the suggestions made by the Charter Review Board in 2004. He noted the primary election was not beneficial to African Americans in the past. Mayor Jones would like to hear how the voters feel about the proposed changes.

Vice-Mayor Castro proposed non-binding ballot questions which would include: the high costs of the election, moving the election to November, and the possibility of eliminating the primary.

Vice Mayor Castro left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Commissioner Anton reiterated that voters do not pay attention to local candidates during national elections. He stressed the importance of having new people become part of our municipal government.

Commissioner Bertino suggested including a question on the ballot asking the voters if they would be in favor of cutting services and maintaining a lower tax or vice-versa.

Commissioner Flury would like to review the election questions before they go on the ballot. She thought the questions should read: “the Commission is considering....; would you be interested or in favor of...”

Commissioner Anton noted there are a lot of issues to be discussed and thought the statistical data from the Supervisor of Elections office would be very useful.

City Attorney Ansbro noted that if the Commission is willing to sell Boisey Waiters as surplus property, it would need to be a referendum question.

It was the consensus of the Commission to place the Boisey Waiters property on the ballot.

Mayor Jones noted we could also ask the people about extending the Mayor’s position to a 2-year term. He commented this would provide Mayors the opportunity to follow through on things they would like to get accomplished during their tenure.

Commissioner Bertino pointed out that the Dania Beach Charter specifically designates five Commissioners. The Mayor is a ceremonial position, so if we want the Mayor to have more power than the rest of the Commissioners, we would need to make it an elected Mayor. He thought that if we make the Mayor’s position a 2-year term, you bring a façade of power to a position that our Charter never intended it to be.

Commissioner Anton noted that people look at the Mayor as a recognized leader of the City, irrespective of the power. He thought the smart way to go was to have a Mayor-Commissioner for a 2-year term only, with no additional power.

Commissioner Flury clarified that the Vice-Mayor should not be 2-year term position. She would agree to a 2-year term for the Mayor's position only.

It was the consensus of the Commission to include the 2-year Mayor question on the ballot.

Commissioner Bertino would like people to run for the position of Mayor so the citizens of Dania Beach vote for the person they want to be their Mayor.

## 12. Appointments

There were no appointments at this meeting.

## 13. Administrative Reports

### 13.1 City Manager

City Manager Pato had no comments.

### 13.2 City Attorney

City Attorney Ansbro had no comments.

### 13.3 City Clerk – Reminders

Wednesday, May 7, 2008 – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 15, 2008 – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 27, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.

CRA Board Meeting followed by a City  
Commission Workshop – Site Plan Review  
City Commission Meeting  
Abatement Hearing  
City Commission Meeting

## 14. Adjournment

Mayor Jones adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF DANIA BEACH

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LOUISE STILSON, CMC  
CITY CLERK

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ALBERT C. JONES  
MAYOR-COMMISSIONER

Approved: May 13, 2008