



City of Sunrise Historical Commission Meeting

Monday, January 8, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

Sunrise City Hall, Everglades Conference Room,
10770 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Sunrise FL 33351

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Deputy City Clerk Meryl Girard.

II. Roll Call

The following members were found to be present:

Toby Ginsburg Cohen
Bernard Shaw
Heather Clough Robinson
Roberto Fernandez III
Philip Howell
Stacy Sherman

Staff present:

Deputy City Clerk Meryl Girard

III. Oath of Office

Deputy City Clerk Meryl Girard administered the oath of office to the board members.

IV. Selection of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

MOTION A motion to appoint Ms. Ginsburg Cohen as chairperson was made by Ms. Sherman was seconded by Mr. Howell.

MOTION A motion to appoint Ms. Clough Robinson as chairperson was made by Mr. Fernandez. Motion died for lack of a second.

Ms. Ginsburg Cohen was selected as chair by a vote of 6-0.

MOTION A motion to appoint Ms. Sherman as vice chair made by Roberto Fernandez. Ms. Sherman declined the appointment.

MOTION A motion to appoint Ms. Clough Robinson as vice chair moved by Ms. Sherman was seconded by Mr. Fernandez.

MOTION A motion to appoint Mr. Shaw as vice chair made by Ms. Ginsburg Cohen. Motion died for lack of a second.

Ms. Clough Robinson was selected as vice chair by a vote of 6-0.

V. Approval of Minutes

MOTION A motion to approve the minutes of December 11, 2023 was made by Ms. Sherman was seconded by Mr. Howell. All were in favor. Mr. Fernandez abstained from voting because he was not present.

Deputy City Clerk checked with the City Clerk who confirmed that being absent from a meeting was not a valid reason to abstain from voting. Mr. Fernandez voted in favor to approve the minutes.

VI. Follow Up Items

A. Oral interview with retiring School Resource Officer (SRO).

Deputy City Clerk Girard spoke with Officer Hodgers, who said he was not retiring until July 2025. He and his supervisor were not sure why there was an interview planned, since he is not retiring yet. He did say he would be happy to come in for the interview, if the board still wished to proceed.

Vice Chair Clough Robinson said that did not make his story any less interesting. She asked if the board still considered interviewing him.

Ms. Sherman said they needed the information whether they were using it today or sometime in the future. It was not about his retirement, it was about the program, more on what he developed and how it affected the City of Sunrise and the children at his school.

Mr. Fernandez agreed, the Panther Prowl was one of the big motivations to conduct the interview, but also broadening it out. Officer Hodgers was also the adviser for the Sunrise Police Explorer unit. He understood that some of the questions removed because they were personal, and his information was protected. Some of the questions were to open up the conversation, and also to look at his contributions to the City of Sunrise. Some of the questions, such as when did he come to Broward, would lead to a history. Was he a native Floridian, he understood he served in the military, all these things open up conversations. He understood one of the requirements to become a School Resource Officer was to have served in the military. Some of the intent of the questions were to explore his story.

Ms. Sherman said some of the questions they came up with were open ended, rather than intrusive or specific. They would rather have him open up about things, then expand.

Mr. Fernandez understood, but they did need some of the factual information.

The list of Mr. Fernandez's suggested questions were distributed to the board members.

Mr. Fernandez explained this was a template he used in more than fifty oral histories. This was a collaboration of the board members, what they wanted and did not want.

The board discussed questions from the last meeting and Deputy City Clerk Girard suggested going through the list, now that Mr. Fernandez was present, to better vet the questions.

Chairperson Ginsburg Cohen said these questions were suggestions.

Mr. Fernandez said people's lives are more than just what they were today. For example, he was more than just a teacher. What happened before he became a teacher led him to do

certain things and what motivated him. This was not meant to be invasive or intrusive, but to discover Officer Hodgers' story.

The board reviewed and discussed the questions. The board decided on the following:

- Please state your full name?
- Where were you born?
- When did you begin working for the City of Sunrise?
- When did you begin serving as a School Resource officer?
- What are the qualifications needed to become a school resource officer in the City of Sunrise?
- What is the expectation and responsibilities of a School Resource Officer?
- Aside from Sawgrass Elementary School, which other schools have you served as an SRO?
- Do you supervise the Police Explorers? How long have you done that?
- What other duties do you have in the City of Sunrise?
- When did you start the Panther Prowl run at Sawgrass Elementary?
- What inspired you to start the Panther Prowl run?
- Who in the City of Sunrise and community has supported this event?
- How has your service and experience affected your life?
- What do you hope your legacy will be both professionally and personally?
- Is there anything we didn't talk about that you would like to add?

VII. New Business

A. Public Art Survey

Deputy City Clerk Girard said that Economic Development Director Danielle Lima requested all board members complete the City of Sunrise Public Art Survey. She distributed the Public Art Survey with QR code, and explained to the board how to access it from their cell phones.

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. Adjournment

Seeing there was no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Meryl Girard, Deputy City Clerk