



City of Sunrise Historical Commission Meeting

Monday, March 11, 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 4:00 by Chairperson Toby Ginsburg Cohen.

II. Roll Call

The following members were found to be present:

Toby Ginsburg Cohen
Bernard Shaw
Heather Clough Robinson
Roberto Fernandez III
Philip Howell
Ketty Andre – absent (unexcused)
Stacy Sherman

Staff present:

Deputy City Clerk Meryl Girard

III. Open Discussion

No one was present.

IV. Approval of Minutes

MOTION A motion to approve the minutes of February 12, 2023 was made by Mr. Fernandez was seconded by Ms. Sherman. All were in favor.

V. Follow Up Items

A. Interview with Retiring Police Officers

Ms. Girard reported she emailed Chief Ransone about interviewing Lt. Cardinale, and he gave his approval to proceed. She asked if the board wanted set something up for next month. The board members agreed. Ms. Girard will reach out to Lt. Cardinale and coordinate.

Ms. Sherman suggested getting a photograph of Officer Hodgers. She recommended summarizing the interview, combine it with a photograph and post it on one of the screens in the lobby area of city hall, as part of the story. This could be something that was rotated out monthly.

Chairperson Ginsburg Cohen asked about the Panther Prowl.

Mr. Fernandez said he wanted to get the photograph they discussed during the interview of Officer Hodgers, him as a child, with his father, at the event that inspired the Panther Prowl. He suggested reaching out to the Police Public Information Officer Department to see if they can share their photographs from the Panther Prowl. This would aid in telling the Panther Prowl story. Mr. Fernandez also suggested getting Officer Hodgers' official headshot, as well as Lt. Cardinale.

Mr. Shaw wondered if the Human Resources Department had a list of employees that were retiring. That way the board could see potential people to interview.

Ms. Girard said that Deputy Mayor Scuotto sent out information in his Constant Comment email about resident Michael Moore, a former heavyweight boxer who was being inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in June. Perhaps the Historical Commission may consider reaching out to Mr. Moore for an interview. The board agreed and Ms. Girard will contact Deputy Mayor Scuotto initially about this.

Chairperson Ginsburg Cohen suggested reaching out to Grand Master Hikaru Nakamura at the Sunrise Center for Chess Excellence about an interview with the Historical Commission.

B. Photographs of Advisory Boards

Ms. Girard reached out to the Marketing Division since they coordinate engagements with the City's contracted photographer. The photographer charged an hourly rate and there were fourteen active boards, so that unbudgeted expense would add up quickly. Perhaps it would be more prudent to request board liaisons take photographs of their boards, and email them in.

Chairperson Toby Ginsburg Cohen was concerned about people being notified in advance, so they could dress properly.

Ms. Girard will follow up on this and report back.

VI. **New Business**

A. Historical Museum Donations

Ms. Girard shared a recent donation from former employee Anne Pato. Ms. Pato began working for the City in 1972. She served as Mayor John Lomelo's secretary and later was Code Enforcement Supervisor, then moved to Capital Projects. She worked for the City of Sunrise for 30 years. The donation was a blue 1992 Sunrise Chamber of Commerce commemorative Christmas ornament of the Upside-Down House. The board members suggested it be placed in the glass case area in City Hall lobby.

The board members suggested the ornament be displayed in the glass case in the City Hall lobby. They also requested reaching out to Ms. Anne Pato about coming in for an interview.

Ms. Sherman felt this interview should take precedence over any other.

Ms. Girard said she received a box last week from Mr. Robert Labelle addressed to the Sunrise Historical Commission. Mr. Labelle was Anne Marie Labelle's son. She was Mayor John Lomelo's Administrative Aide.

The Historical Commission members opened and reviewed the items in the box. It contained a variety of Mayor John Lomelo's memorabilia. Some of the items were:

- Frank Sinatra, engraved cigarette lighters and matchbooks
- Campaign pins to Re-Elect Mayor John Lomelo as Mayor and to elect John Lomelo to U.S. Congress
- Bobby Vinton Pin
- Plastic ruler "Re-Elect John Montgomery, Council Seat 2"
- POW/MIA Bracelet of Cdr. James Hutton, 10/16/65
- Campaign material "Elect Anne Marie Labelle Mayor," 9/10/85
- Six photo albums from various events, including Council Chambers of first City Hall
- Photo album with signatures of Mayors from 1973 National League of Cities Conference in San Juan Puerto Rico
- A letter from Mr. Labelle to the Sunrise Historical Commission from the Labelle/Roarke families (Anne Marie Labelle was Richard Rourke's daughter). He sent the information in memory of his mother and grandfather, Ms. Anne Marie Labelle and Councilman/Council President Richard Roarke to display as the Historical Commission saw fit.

Mr. Fernandez asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Labelle from the board.

Ms. Girard said Leisure Services sent over some items from Sunrise Comic Con held on March 2nd at the Sunrise Civic Center. There was a program autographed by all the celebrities in attendance and two posters from the event. She showed the information to the Commission members.

Mr. Howell reported the Classic Car Show held at Welleby Park on Saturday was well attended and a very successful event. There were many children in attendance. The Fire Department handed out coloring books and helmets.

Ms. Sherman said the Coast Guard Auxiliary she volunteered with also handed out coloring books at events. It was a good educational tool, it helped the children understand the function of the coast guard.

Mr. Fernandez suggested the board consider coming up with a coloring book for historical purposes.

The board members discussed this and agreed. Perhaps reach out to Fire or Police and get additional information about their budget and how they put the coloring book together.

MOTION Mr. Fernandez moved to request the city allocate \$5,000 - \$10,000 for a coloring book with a variety of historical topics. Mr. Howell seconded. All were in favor.

VII. Old Business

A. Interview with Officer Ben Hodgers

Ms. Girard asked if the members had any input or comments on the interview dialogue that was in the minutes.

Ms. Sherman said the minutes reflected all the good information from the interview. They just needed to follow up with the photograph.

Ms. Sherman asked when they can start displaying things on the screen in the lobby, including what format would the material have to be in. Also, if there are no cases, at least they can start displaying that way.

Mr. Fernandez asked for some guidance on how to produce and start displaying digital content. Also, the information that was currently on the shelves needed to be rotated. It was exposed to sun and that was damaging. They needed some direction from the City on how to start developing displays. He felts for the sake of protecting the objects on display right now, this needs to be done. He had no objections to pulling everything, and leaving an empty case.

Mr. Fernandez said in the interim, they can display things that are disposable.

Chairperson Ginsburg Cohen asked about the chess display and also suggested a display on the Florida Panthers.

VIII. Adjournment

Seeing there was no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Meryl Girard, Deputy City Clerk