



## **City of Sunrise Historical Commission Meeting**

Monday, April 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 4:00 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  
Stacy Sherman

Staff present:

Administrative Assistant II Bernita Sherrod

#### **III. Open Discussion**

No one was present.

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

MOTION A motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2024 was made by Stacy Sherman was seconded by Heather Clough Robinson. All were in favor.

#### **V. Old Business**

Bernita Sherrod went over follow up notes from Deputy City Clerk Meryl Girard from the March 11, 2024 meeting.

Ms. Sherrod advised the Board that Anne Pato, former secretary to Mayor John Lomelo, will be attending the next Historical Commission meeting on May 13, 2024 to be interviewed.

An attempt was made to reach Lt. Cardinale for an interview, but Deputy Clerk Meryl Girard had not received a response. Ms. Girard will reach out to him again. Photographs from the Chief of Police's Administrative Aide, Terry Soto, were received of Officer Ben Hodgers and Lt. Craig Cardinale.

Ms. Girard reached out regarding the Panther Prowl photographs, and was still waiting for a response.

No information was available from Human Resources pertaining to a list of retiring employees yet.

No response has been received pertaining to photographs of Board members.

An explanation of information regarding coloring books was provided. The Fire Rescue Department's coloring books were obtained from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). They were mostly pre-designed based on the current safety message, but sometimes were customizable with the agency's name. Deputy City Clerk Meryl Girard spoke with the Marketing Department about this. They provided guidance on what to consider when creating a coloring book for the Historical Commission, such as drawings, targeted distribution, printing, etc. Once those things were determined, a quote could be solicited for budgeting purposes.

Stacy Sherman commented that the Historical Commission should decide when all members were present to see if they want pursue having a coloring books done. Ms. Sherman suggested looking into someone who would be willing to volunteer to do the illustrations. She suggested each Historical Commission member come up with a list of approximately ten (10) ideas pertaining to the City's history that could be considered for the coloring books, and decide from that list. Ms. Sherman also suggested putting the information out to art classes in high schools, the Senior Center and other locals as a contest for illustrations that could be included in the coloring book.

Roberto Fernandez stated this should not be thought of as just coloring book, but also an activity book. Mr. Fernandez said hypothetically there could be 20-25 pages per book, and the book would not consist of just illustrations. His thought when suggesting the \$5,000 to \$10,000, was allocating approximately a \$3,000 to \$4,000 budget for an illustrator with the rest going toward printing. Mr. Fernandez felt the narrative of the coloring/activity book should include the post office, the upside-down house, the police department, etc., to combine a variety of municipal services showcasing the City, and not just its history. He suggested setting aside time at one of the meetings to decide on content options.

Chairperson Toby Ginsburg-Cohen suggested including information and illustrations pertaining to the beginning of the City to present time in the coloring/activity book.

Mr. Fernandez questioned if the City had an internal printing service, or if it was contracted out.

Ms. Sherrod advised that she would find out.

Philip Howell suggested the book should be done in color. He understood that the books would be for children, but adults would be looking at them as well. Mr. Howell felt doing the coloring/activity book in black and white would not do the residents a service.

Mr. Fernandez said the book would likely be printed in black and white with a front cover in color.

Bernita Sherrod presented thank you letters for Ann Pato and Robert Labelle, for their donations, to Chairperson Toby Ginsburg-Cohen to sign.

Ms. Sherrod reported that Deputy City Clerk Meryl Girard had not received information yet pertaining to digital content or display cases for the lobby in for City Hall.

Roberto Fernandez emphasized his interest in what the City's plans were for the display cases, as he had concerns pertaining to the historical artifacts that are currently on display. He did not want the artifacts to become damaged.

Toby Ginsburg-Cohen asked how many books would be printed.

Roberto Fernandez explained that would be a cost conversation.

Ms. Ginsburg-Cohen questioned where the coloring books would be distributed.

Roberto Fernandez felt that would be just a matter of figuring out what groups the Historical Commission wanted to give the books to.

Ms. Ginsburg-Cohen wanted to know if they would be allowed to distribute them at schools.

Roberto Fernandez stated that once the coloring/activity book is produced, it could also be done as a PDF and be made available on the City's website.

Mayor Ryan arrived at the meeting to address the Historical Commission. He felt the idea of doing a PDF for the coloring/activity book was a great idea. He felt the concept could be improved upon as the project progressed.

Mayor Ryan thanked the Commission for their hard work and dedication to the City's history. Mayor Ryan felt the Historical Commission had some great ideas and suggestions. He suggested giving the books to some of the early education centers, as a way to introduce the younger generation to the City. Mayor Ryan felt the cultural evolution of the city should be shown, and suggested maybe engaging with Broward College to see if they could provide interns to do some of the illustrations.

Philip Howell commented on the great customer service he received and witnessed when visiting City Hall. He stated that everyone in the City had always treated him nicely.

Mayor Ryan was glad to hear that. Mayor Ryan mentioned the Compassion Center that was put into place during Covid. He felt that everyone should be heard with dignity and respect. Mayor Ryan stated that during Covid, city staff went above and beyond to ensure residents' concerns were being addressed.

Roberto Fernandez asked Mayor Ryan if he would be available to be interviewed to discuss his history with the City.

Mayor Ryan felt the Historical Commission could gain a wealth of knowledge from retirees.

Mayor Ryan stated that he had spoken to Ron "Alligator Ron" Bergeron about the history of the City. He mentioned that Mr. Bergeron stated that he had lived through 25-31 municipalities while growing up. Mr. Bergeron had tales of riding through Sunrise in an airboat before it was developed. Mayor Ryan felt he would be a good candidate to interview, and will see if he can contact him.

Bernard Shaw and Stacy Sherman shared memories of the City before it was developed.

**VI. New Business**

Ms. Sherrod said that Ms. Girard received a report from the Sunrise Center for Chess Excellence about the Chess Queens program. The report spoke about Dr. Amelia Hernandez, a chess master at the center. Ms. Girard planned to reach out to Dr. Hernandez about scheduling an interview.

**VII. Adjournment**

Seeing there was no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

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Bernita Sherrod, Administrative Assistant II