

TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH



Town Manager's Monthly Report – April 2019

BOARD VACANCIES

The Town Commission welcomes and encourages residents to get involved by attending meetings and participating in Town Boards. All interested residents can download a Talent Bank Application from the Town's website at www.highlandbeach.us or pick up an application in the Clerk's Office at Town Hall.

Current Vacancies:

Board of Adjustment & Appeals
Code Enforcement Board
Natural Resources Preservation
Advisory Board
Planning Board

Upcoming Meetings:

April 10, 2019 – Planning Board Regular Meeting

April 30, 2019 – Town Commission Workshop Meeting

May 7, 2019 – Town Commission Regular Meeting

Check meeting updates on our website <http://highlandbeach.us/media-archives-minutes/>

CROSSWALKS

The Town Commission voted to move forward with crosswalk enhancement project to improve pedestrian safety. The improvements will include the installation of solar power pedestrian activated crosswalk signage, pavement flush mounted LED crosswalk indicator lights and minor landing improvements to ensure minimal ADA compliance. The project is currently in the design phase and as more information becomes available, we will communicate the updates to the community.

TOWN COMMISSION VACANCY

Currently, the Town Commission has a vacancy for an unexpired term ending 2020. If you or someone you know may be interested in filling the vacancy, please submit a Letter of Interest and updated Resume to the Town Clerk, Lanelda Gaskins by the close of business on Tuesday, April 9, 2019. The application period will be followed by an application review period and public interviews. The public interview portion is anticipated for the last week in April. Please note that the schedule is subject to change but we will publicly notice any information or changes. For further questions, please contact Town Hall at 561-278-4548.

BACTERIA TESTING

With the recent concerns regarding red tide and the bacteria found within the ocean, the Town has begun monthly testing of the non-potable water within the Town. The results are posted on the Town's website each month. If there are ever any results that cause concern, the Town will send out a notification to the residents to ensure everyone is aware of the conditions.

REBROADCAST SCHEDULE

Beginning at the end of the month, we will restart the broadcasting of all Town Commission and Advisory Board meetings. Town Commission meetings will rebroadcast on HBTv (Channel 99) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. for one week. Advisory Board meetings will air on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 7:00 p.m. for one week.

45TH ANNIVERSARY – COUNCIL/MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT

We are pleased to announce that January, 2019 marked the 45th year anniversary of the Town's Council-Manager form of government. At the March 26th Town Commission meeting, the Town was recognized by the Florida City and County Manager's Association.

ELECTED OFFICIALS – WELCOME AND THANK YOU

We would like to welcome recently elected Evalyn David to the Highland Beach Commission. Staff looks forward to working with her through the upcoming years of your term. Also, we would like to extend a special thank you to former Commissioner Elyse Riesa for dedicating her time, expertise and knowledge to the Highland Beach Commission.

WATER TASTING CONTEST RUNNER UP

The Town of Highland Beach entered into the American Water Works Association Florida Section VI Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest. The contest was held on March 19, 2019 in Deerfield Beach. We are pleased to announce that the Town of Highland Beach placed 2nd amongst the competing communities. Amazing job to our staff in the Water Plant.

FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 BUDGET KICK-OFF

As the year continues, be prepared for the beginning stages of the budget process for the upcoming 2019-2020 fiscal year. During this time, the Manager's Office will coordinate with the departments, staff, Financial Advisory Board and Town Commission to evaluate last year's data and provide measurables using a strategic approach. A strategic budget approach develops a plan that supports a long-range vision for the future of the Town.

FINANCIAL AUDIT

In accordance with Florida Statute 218.39 governing annual financial audit reports, the Town is currently in the process of completing our annual audit with Grau & Associates. The conclusion of the audit remains consistent with years prior that the Town's overall financial condition is strong. The Town continues to balance recurring expenditure needs with recurring revenue sources, while providing services on a continuing basis.

TURTLE SEASON

This is a friendly reminder that Turtle Season is in full swing and continues until October 31st. During this time make sure to be aware of the lighting requirements for those on the east side of A1A. If you should notice a disturbed turtle nest, please contact our Turtle liaison for Highland Beach, Barbara James at 561-289-1109.

SPRING FLING

Saturday March 23, 2019 from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM the Town held our annual community event in the Town Hall Parking lot. The event was a great success and it was wonderful to see the community come together to celebrate the start of Spring. A special thank you to the vendors, the band (The Good Ol' Guys), the event sponsors and the Town staff. We can not wait for next year's event.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF MEMBERS

We have added a few new members to our great team. If you have not had a chance to meet them, feel free to stop by Town Hall and introduce yourself.

Marshall Labadie, Town Manager, joins the Highland Beach community from Michigan where he served as the Development Services Director for Charter Township of West Bloomfield. He has over 20 years of municipal experience. He has a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Economics from Michigan State University and a Master's degree in Management from Walsh College. He is an active member of Florida City and County Management Association and an active member of the International City/County Management Association.

Matthew Lalla, Finance Director, is a Certified Public Finance Officer with nearly 30 years of local government financial management experience in the State of Florida. He has a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Policy Studies (double major) from Syracuse University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.

Jeffrey Massie, Building Official, is a certified Building Code Administrator, Standard Building Inspector, Standard Plans Examiner, and Certified General Contractor. He has a BS/BA in Physics and Modern Languages from Virginia Military Institute (double major) and a BS in Meteorology from Penn State University. He enjoys playing golf, reading technical manuals, and the opera.... just not all at the same time.

Jason Manko, Code Enforcement Officer, is a certified with the Florida Association of Code Enforcement as an officer with over 15 years of regulatory experience, primarily. He has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Florida Atlantic University. He is also a former Firefighter/EMT.

Terisha Cuebas, Assistant to the Town Manager, has been with the Town for about 2 years serving previously as the Deputy Town Clerk. She has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Florida International University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Florida Atlantic University. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

Beverly Wright, Deputy Town Clerk, joins us from the City of Delray Beach, where she served as the Police Information Specialist Records Supervisor in the Police Department. She has a Bachelor's degree in Organization Management from Palm Beach Atlantic University.

SPECIAL TOPIC

Beach Access - The Town is in the process of identifying and evaluating potential beach access points throughout Town in order to provide public safety and increase municipal service operations. We are working to create mutually beneficial partnerships with ocean front homeowners and condominium associations that have beach access, for the acquisition of land area to construct multi-use access points. Obtaining beach access is of critical importance to the Town for the maintenance of the shoreline, public safety, potential sand nourishment projects and overall beach preservation. Adequate beach access could potentially minimize costs and impacts to beach front aesthetics within the Town. Anyone interested in participating and/or discussing options please contact the Manager's Office at 561-278-4548.

Keep an eye out for the upcoming HIGHLANDER newsletter.

If you have any questions, concerns or issues, please contact Terisha Cuebas, Assistant to the Town Manager to schedule an appointment.