

TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH



Manager's Minute – January 2020

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 Adjustments & Appeals
Code Enforcement Board
Financial Advisory Board

Upcoming Events:

January 29, 2020 – Census Complete Count Committee Meeting

February 4, 2020 – Town Commission Regular Meeting

February 17, 2020 – Town Hall Closed in observance of President's Day

February 18, 2020 – Town Commission Regular Meeting

March 21, 2020 – Spring Fling Community Event

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

INTRODUCTION

On January 20, Highland Beach and many neighboring municipalities were closed to honor Dr. Martin Luther King. The "MLK" holiday was enacted at the federal level through legislation signed by President Ronald Regan in 1986. Dr. King, through his activism and inspirational speeches, played critical role in ending the legal segregation of African-American citizens in the United States as well as the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

During Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s leadership of the modern American Civil Rights Movement, from December 1955 until April 4, 1968, African Americans achieved significant and genuine progress toward racial equality in America. Dr. King is widely regarded as America's pre-eminent advocate of nonviolence and one of the greatest nonviolent leaders in world history.

King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his work combating racial inequality through non-violent resistance and has also been posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. He continues to be remembered as one of the most influential and inspirational African-American leaders in history. I encourage everyone to take a moment out of their busy schedule next month, Black History Month, to learn about the tremendous work of Dr. King and the modern civil rights movement.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

—Strength to Love, 1963

Public Health Awareness: The United States Congress designated January as Cervical Health Awareness Month. More than 13,000 women in the United States are diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer each year, but the disease is preventable with vaccination and appropriate screening.

During January, NCCC and its many local chapters across the country highlight issues related to cervical cancer, HPV disease and the importance of early detection. While NCCC chapters host events throughout the year, January is a month with a special focus as chapters celebrate Cervical Health Awareness Month and work to spread the word in their communities. To find out how you can contribute, take part in the advocacy or find more information, please visit <https://www.nccc-online.org/>.

COMMISSION ACTIONS

Below are actions recently taken by the Town Commission:

- Approved contract extension with Waste Management
Provides waste collection services with Waste Management for the next 3 years.
- Approved a resolution adopting the local mitigation strategy 2020
Allows the Town eligibility for mitigation funding in the future.
- Marine Facilities
Evaluates the review and approval process for seawalls, docks, boatlifts and bulkheads (all marine facilities). Second reading is scheduled for February
- Approved a resolution agreeing to maintain crosswalk improvements on SR A1A
Outlines the Town will maintain the facilities installed with the crosswalk enhancement project on SR A1A.

You may request a copy of the above-mentioned ordinances and resolutions from the Town Clerk's Office or visit the [Town's website](#).

Upcoming Town Commission Items:

- Parking Ordinance:
Revises and modifies the current parking regulations. The revisions and modifications do not affect the Construction Handbook. Town staff has consolidated resident and Commission feedback and 1st Reading is scheduled for February 4, 2020 .

- **Accessory Structures:**
Addresses the process in which vacant lots with docks following demolition of the principal structure are handled. Tabled by the Planning board until further information can be gathered to be again presented to the Planning board.
- **Right of way Ordinance:**
Updates code to specifically address how improvements made within row will require a review and approval by the Town. To ensure minimize obstructions and road way drainage.
- **Advisory Board member call in or video attendance**
Town staff and the Town Attorney are looking into the possibility of remote access to meetings for advisory board participation.

DID YOU KNOW?

Earth Day is April 22, 2020 and this year marks 50 years of Earth Day. Earth Day was a unified response to an environment in crisis — oil spills, smog, rivers so polluted they literally caught fire.



On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans — 10% of the U.S. population at the time — took to the streets, college campuses and hundreds of cities to protest environmental ignorance and demand a new way forward for our planet.

The first Earth Day in 1970 launched a wave of action, including the passage of landmark environmental laws in the United States. The Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts were created in response to the first Earth Day in 1970, as well as the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Many countries soon adopted similar laws.

Earth Day continues to hold major international significance: In 2016, the United Nations chose Earth Day as the day when the historic Paris Agreement on climate change was signed into force.

The enormous challenge — but also the vast opportunities — of action on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for the 50th anniversary. Climate Change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable. For more information visit <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2020/>.

UPCOMING CULTURAL EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

Feb 6 at 2 pm

Lecture: Resident Channe Fodeman presents “Motivation/Procrastination”

Feb 6 at 5 pm

Concert: Sweetheart concert – Dolce, Workowski, Guastafeste (priority seating for library card holders)

Feb 20 at 2 pm

Lecture: Resident Judy Herman presents “Braintertainment,” a fun program of tips and tricks to improve your memory

Feb 20 at 5 pm

Concert: Rhythm Chicks (singing and dancing)

These programs are generously sponsored by the Friends of the Highland Beach Library

OPERATIONS AND PROJECTS

Employment Opportunities: Currently, the Town is accepting applications for one (1) position. Information on the job as well as the job description can be found on the Town’s website at www.highlandbeach.us/employment-opportunities/.

Are you interested in becoming a poll worker? Ms. Wendy Sartory Link, Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections is currently looking for election day poll workers. On Election Day, over 4,000 election workers are needed at the precincts in Palm Beach County. If you would like to be a Poll Worker for Palm Beach County please visit www.pbcelections.org or contact the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections office at (561) 656-6200.

Are you interested in working for the US 2020 Census? See the flyer on the last page of this newsletter for more information.

Census 2020 Update: April 1st is Census Day. It is extremely important that all the residents in Highland Beach are counted. This is a once in 10-year opportunity for Highland Beach to have an accurate count of our residents. For more information, visit the Town’s website at <http://highlandbeach.us/census-2020/>.



Legislative Update: Commissioner Gossett-Seidman attended Palm Beach County Days in Tallahassee to advocate the appropriation requests submitted by the Town for drainage and crosswalk enhancement projects. On the Opening Day of the Legislative Session 2020, both bills were formally introduced to the House. They are slated for funding from the State’s General Fund. Tagged HJ137 for Drainage Improvements, it was determined for one-time funding through the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The HJ138 tagged for Crosswalks was set for one-time funding through the Department of Transportation (FDOT) to take effect July 1, 2020.

In the next step, the bills will be heard by both the Senate and the House Appropriations Committee, sometime between now and mid-to late-February. If and when the bills pass, they must be signed into law by Gov. DeSantis. The session ends mid-March. Commissioner Gossett-Seidman was successful in meeting with over 20 key players, while at the state capitol, advocating for the passage of our two appropriations bills.



Additionally, the House Workforce Development & Tourism Subcommittee passed HB 1011, relating to short-term rentals (STRs), by a vote of 10-5. While the bill passed this subcommittee, several representatives expressed concern with the bill as written and said they would not support the bill in future committees unless significant changes. Among other things, HB 1011 will preempt the regulation of short-term rentals to the state and undo local ordinances adopted since 2014. Allowing cities to have a voice in this process will help ensure any legislation regulating short-term rentals balances the rights of ALL property owners and not just those of the investor-owned ‘mini-hotels’ that are negatively impacting Florida neighborhoods.



Lastly, Florida lawmakers advanced a proposal that would create a statewide Office of Resiliency and establish a task force to begin looking into how best to protect the state's 1350 miles (2,173 kilometers) of coastline from rising oceans. Shortly after taking office a year ago, Governor Ron DeSantis pledged to invest \$2.5 billion during his four-year term to protect water resources and help restore the Everglades. He has attacked algae blooms and red tides, and has pledged to reduce the pollutants that get into the state's lakes, waterways and coastal waters. While welcoming the governor's proposals, environmentalists want the governor and the Legislature to do more — particularly in reducing the pollutants that contribute to the greenhouse gases that scientists blame for the warming global temperatures.

Coastal Resiliency Partnership Update: The Town, 6 other municipalities (Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Highland Beach, Lake Worth Beach, Lantana, Ocean Ridge) and Palm Beach County have approved an agreement to conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment. The municipalities and County set a Jan. 15 deadline for consultants to submit proposals on how they would conduct the vulnerability assessment, and will select one in February to do the work. The consultant's tasks will be completed in two phases, with two tasks to be completed by June 30. The remaining tasks will be finished and a final report issued by March 31, 2021.

The consultant also will create a geographic information system-based interactive mapping tool that can be updated with new data and will allow users to zoom in on a specific neighborhood to see climate

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change impacts or zoom out to see regional impacts. The assessment will evaluate the vulnerability of people, property, water and transportation infrastructures, critical facilities, the economy and natural resources.

The governments have budgeted \$366,797 to do the work and will share its cost, supplemented by a \$75,000 Florida Department of Environmental Protection grant to Boynton Beach. Boca Raton will pay the most, with the City Council approving the \$85,000 expenditure on Nov. 26. The county will pay the least, \$20,000, since only small pockets of unincorporated areas are located within the assessment region. By working together, the cities and towns reason they can get more bang for the buck by avoiding duplicate spending and operating more efficiently.

Current Requests for Proposals: (1) Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System (2) Scada Programming and (3) Crosswalk enhancement project are available on the Town's website. At the end of the month, two additional requests for proposals will be advertised and available on the Town's website. Please visit <http://highlandbeach.us/highland-beach-procurement/>.

Police Department Update:

A Message from the Chief

Highland Beach is such a desirable place to live and we hear all the time from residents that they love living here and feel "so safe". As a Police Department we never take that for granted and we make the safety and security of our community paramount in everything we do. Though we do experience very little crime, intermittently we have certain types of isolated incidents of property crimes that we see most of and that we should all be aware of and they are thefts.



From time to time thefts are reported from residents' homes or apartments. Most every one of these crimes were committed by persons allowed in the home such as; service, maintenance, repair workers, cleaning people and care givers. It is important to remember that the person allowed in your home could be someone that may steal from you so, if you are unable to supervise them while they are there, you should always secure your valuables! If you do not feel comfortable if you are alone when someone else is in your home, ask a relative, friend or neighbor to be with you at that time. It only takes a few minutes to do what's necessary to prevent losing anything that belongs to you.

The thefts also occur to vehicles. In most every reported incident the vehicles that were entered were left unlocked. If we have a vehicle stolen, the vehicle was left unlocked and the keys left in the vehicle. These crimes are predominately committed during the overnight hours in the cover of darkness, in parking lots, garages and driveways. The best way to stop these types of crimes is by simply locking your car doors when it's unattended, especially during the overnight hours. Remember, this a crime of opportunity and working together we can eliminate these types of preventable crimes. If you need further information or we can help with any crime prevention efforts, please feel free to contact us.

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Texting Ban

Starting in 2020, Police Departments throughout Florida began issuing tickets instead of warnings to motorists stopped for texting and driving. Florida recently has banned texting and driving but it has only been enforced as a “secondary” offense – meaning that motorists could be cited for texting if they were stopped for other reasons such as speeding. The law made it a “primary” offense, allowing police to pull over motorists for texting behind the wheel. The law also bars motorists from talking on cell phones in school and work zones, unless the motorists use “handsfree” electronic devices. Tickets issued for a first offense carry a \$30 fine, plus court costs, which reach more than \$100. The fine jumps to \$60 and up to more than \$150 with court costs, for a second violation within five years.



Don't Text and Drive – it's the Law!

Public Works Update: The department has been working through regularly scheduled maintenance projects such as: flushing fire hydrants, valve exercising program, updating the GIS system, and installing a new actuator. Light bulbs around the Town Hall Complex have been updated. The department is also looking into motion activated lights to conserve energy. Coronado and Highland Beach Club condominium have the crosswalk flags installed at their crosswalks. Toscana's Board of Directors and the management team at Delray Sands has provided approval to install the flags at their crosswalk, which will be installed within the next few weeks.

Code Enforcement Update: Many have heard the common trope that you're more likely to be killed by a falling coconut than by a shark attack. While this claim has not been factually proven, it is a fact that an object as heavy as a coconut, falling from heights from as much as 50 feet, can seriously injure or even kill a person. For this reason, it is important coconut palms are maintained, particularly in the right-of-way, so that they do not pose a hazard to the general public.

The Town of Highland Beach Municipal Code of Ordinances states in Section 28-10(a) “The owner, and/or lessee of land subject to this chapter shall be responsible for the maintenance of all landscaping located on their property and on adjacent public rights-of-way...”. Unfortunately, this means that property owners can be held liable for injuries caused on their property due to circumstances such as falling coconuts.

When coconut palms are found to pose a hazard to the general public, the Town of Highland Beach will notify the property owner with a Courtesy Notice or a Notice of Violation, depending on how imminent the risk. There are no penalties associated with these initial notices and a simple trimming of the coconuts will close the case and dismiss the violation. However, if the warnings go ignored it can result in potential fines and liens on property as well as the liability of someone being injured on the owner's land. If you see any coconut palms that may be posing a hazard to the public, please notify the Town of Highland Beach Code Compliance Department so that we can address it with the owner.

Advisory Board Highlight:

The Natural Resources Preservation Advisory Board has been established to provide constructive advice and counsel to Town departments and boards, and to the Town Commission, with a broad outlook towards environmental and natural resources preservation, protection and conservation. The actions, decisions and recommendations of the Natural Resources Preservation Advisory Board shall not be final or binding on the Town Commission but shall be advisory only.



The Town's Natural Resources Preservation Advisory board met on January 8th. During the meeting, the board discussed various ideas to educate the public on the importance of recycling and making life style changes that positively affect the environment.

To view the meeting visit: <http://highlandbeach.us/media-archives-minutes/>

BUILDING DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Properties Under Construction

- 4206 Intracoastal Drive – Demolition and new single-family construction
- 2352 South Ocean Blvd – New single-family construction
- 4015 South Ocean Blvd – Demolition and new single-family construction
- 4215 South Ocean Blvd – Seawall construction
- 4513 South Ocean Blvd – Demolition
- 4403 Intracoastal Drive – New single-family construction
- 4410 Tranquility Drive – New single-family construction
- 4005 South Ocean Blvd – New single-family construction

Properties Soon to be Constructed

- 1100 Highland Beach Drive – Future seawall construction to be approved by the Town Commission
- 4513 South Ocean Blvd – Single-family demolition and duplex construction
- 2727 South Ocean Blvd – Dock and boat lift
- 4200 South Ocean Blvd – Reconstruct 4 units to 3
- 2352 South Ocean Blvd – Pool, deck, dock and seawall
- 4205 Intracoastal Drive – Future New single-family construction

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

Labadie.



 **Save the Date**
Saturday, March 21, 2020, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
3614 S. Ocean Blvd, Highland Beach Florida, 33487

Spring Fling
Community Event
Additional information to follow

Created by: Town Clerk's Office



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