

Town of Melbourne Beach

TOWN COMMISSION WORKSHOP AUGUST 7, 2024 MEETING COMMUNITY CENTER – 509 OCEAN AVENUE

MINUTES

Commission Members:

Mayor Alison Dennington

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie

Commissioner Corey Runte

Commissioner Marivi Walker

Commissioner Adam Meyer

Staff Members:

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro

Town Attorney Ryan Knight

Town Clerk Amber Brown

1. Call to Order

Mayor Alison Dennington called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Town Clerk Amber Brown conducted roll call

Commission Members Present

Mayor Alison Dennington

Commissioner Marivi Walker

Staff Members Present

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro

Town Clerk Amber Brown

Commission Members Absent

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie

Commissioner Corey Runte

Commissioner Adam Meyer

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Mayor Alison Dennington led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comments - 7:15

After being acknowledged by the Mayor, members of the public should state their name and address for the record. The Commission encourages citizens to prepare their comments in advance. Each individual will have three (3) minutes to address the Commission on any topic(s) related to Town business, not on the Agenda.

Bruce Larson – 1502 Pine – Spoke about having an engaged citizenry and thinks having a way to have more engagement is good, there are several things in the Land Development Code that need to be looked at.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about her frustration with the lack of a follow-up process when someone says in a meeting that they will get more information later, specifically with Planning and Zoning.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro said this is not a big issue because Planning and Zoning has done just about everything the Commission has requested.

Mark McBride – 312 Second – Wanted to know what the status is on scheduling the next Short Term Rental Workshop.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro said the Town Attorney has not provided dates he is available so it has not been scheduled yet. Said there are also other dates and things they need confirmation on first, but will get with the Town Attorney soon.

Sue Martin – 2202 Rosewood Drive – If a resident has an issue how can a citizen get an issue looked at right away. Is the Town planning on doing a parade for the surfer for getting a gold medal?

Mayor Alison Dennington said you could go to the Planning and Zoning meetings and raise issues there. Also said you could contact any Commissioner by email and have them raise that issue. Doesn't know if a parade is being planned but suggested bringing it to the Park's Board.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro said you could reach out to her or come to a Commission meeting.

5. New Business

A. Discussion on creating a municipal citizens academy – 25:35

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about how the point of the citizens academy would be to educate residents about the Town Government and would be just for residents. It would

be basic modules on different aspects of the Town such as Town Commission, budget, Planning and Zoning and Board of Adjustment, all other boards, Public Works, etc.

Commissioner Marivi Walker spoke about liking the idea of educating the public and getting people to volunteer. She is all for it and hopefully it will encourage involvement.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about proposing having it be in person in order to get people engaged and make sure they are paying attention. It can be done in the Community Center. People could either go through all of the modules or just pick and choose which modules they want to attend. It could be a six-month or nine month program that meets once per month.

Dawn Barlow – 1710 Pine St – It is encouraging to see increasing involvement and is in favor of it. Suggested looking at existing programs to get feedback and direction. Would be helpful to understand the communication strategy and channels.

Anna Butler – 312 Avenue A – Thinks it is a good idea. Getting fresh people at the meetings would be important. Some people would be more willing to attend because it would have set times, where Commission meetings have no time limits.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about how some people do not want to attend Commission meetings, but would be more likely to attend the academy.

B. Discussion on creating a Citizen Advisory Board – 46:45

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about how the Citizen Advisory Board could meet to discuss referendum items, budget issues, or public records issues prior to a lawsuit being filed. Proposed hosting the Citizens Academy then at the end of the program the members would be the test run of the Citizens Advisory Board. Mentioned that you cannot control who the residents go to first, but if they are not the appropriate Board, they can point them in the right direction.

Commissioner Marivi Walker brought up the order of doing things, would the residents go to the Citizens Advisory Board first with an issue?

Bruce Larson – 1507 Pine – Spoke about how residents should not go to the Board with issues. They should first go to staff for a resolution. The Board should help streamline things such as the items going to Planning and Zoning. This could expedite items. Don't wait to form the Board until after the academy, start it now.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about an example could be for Short Term Rentals, the Town Attorney would review the Code and propose changes from the legal standpoint. Whereas the Board could come up with the issues that they are having with Short Term Rentals and ideas to fix it. Spoke about how one thing the Board can do is review and propose changes to the charter. Suggested lobbying the other Commissioners about starting this Board.

Commissioner Marivi Walker asked that the Board would not be residents coming to their representative on the Advisory Board regarding any issues.

Mark McBride – 312 Second – *Likes the idea of the Advisory Board because they could come up with solutions and have discussions rather than a three minute monologue.*

Mayor Alison Dennington said other Advisory Boards can create subgroups and that would be helpful in this case for a topic like short term rentals.

Dawn Barlow – 1710 Pine St – *Spoke about how one slight concern would be that the Board would have to follow Sunshine Law, and if they do a Board they can only accomplish so much during the meeting and then do they wait until the next month's meeting? Is there a document that lists what the key points are that each Board and Department is working on?*

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about how the Board could call a special meeting to continue items, and brought up subgroups again. Do not currently have a document like that but could have an end of the year report plus next year's items.

Sue Martin – 2202 Rosewood – *The more people that get involved the better, but as a resident with an issue, who does she go to? She is concerned about diluting responsibilities. She can see the good side, but also sees the issue of not knowing who to go to.*

Mayor Alison Dennington said the Board does not decide things, they vet topics. It's an opportunity for interested citizens to have meetings around topics they find important.

Mayor Alison Dennington asked Commissioner Marivi Walker about the idea of not waiting to form the Board until after the academy and instead do it now. Suggested for this Board to have 5 as a quorum but maybe make it 9 people.

Commissioner Marivi Walker spoke about being fine with creating the Board before the academy.

Bruce Larson - 1507 Pine – *Spoke about starting with 5-9 people and draft what the purpose of the Board is.*

Tim Reed - 302 Fourth Ave – *Is in favor of more engagement. It will have to be a very structured and meaningful Board. Does not think this will get people off their seat that isn't currently off their seat. The issues that have been brought to the Commission have just been batted around. Fears that the Advisory Board would be the same in just kicking the can around. Engage people's desire to be involved in either topic. What is the problem that is trying to be solved by these items? If it is to hear resident issues the Commission already has. The issue is action is not being done.*

Mayor Alison Dennington said she needed three votes to get this going, wants to get people more informed and more involved. Spoke about how the Advisory Board could keep on top of the Town Commission to keep things moving. It will help bridge the gap

and be an extra set of ears and eyes. Responded to Commissioner Marivi Walker's point about how Short Term Rentals are a big issue, but some people might not think so. There is this idea that we don't have a lot so it does not need to be a priority. The Advisory Board could elevate the priority of topics.

Commissioner Marivi Walker spoke about understanding the frustration, said she has lots of meetings but does not have time to get things done. Thinks getting people together to discuss the current biggest issues in the Town would be beneficial.

Mark McBride – 312 First Ave – Spoke about understanding the frustration. The Advisory Board can come up with solutions, but also apply pressure on the Commission.

Bruce Larson - 1507 Pine – Spoke about the Board would be to increase efficiency, efficacy, and transparency of Town business.

Mayor Alison Dennington said even though this will not be perfect and there will be some lessons learned along the way, she believes this Board will help the residents get more involved and hopefully shorten their meetings because topics are vetted.

6. Adjournment

Mayor Alison Dennington moved to adjourn; Commissioner Marivi Walker seconded; Motion carried 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.



Alison Dennington
Mayor

ATTEST:



Rachel Pembrook (Oct 23, 2024 15:52 EDT)
Rachel Pembrook
Transcriptionist

