

City of Delray Beach

100 NW 1st Avenue - Delray Beach, Florida 33444

Phone: (561) 243-7000

www.delraybeachfl.gov



Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

3:30 PM

Workshop Meeting at 3:30 PM

Delray Beach City Hall or Watch on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@cityofdelraybeachfl/streams>

City Commission

Mayor Thomas F. Carney, Jr.

Vice Mayor Rob Long

Deputy Vice Mayor Angela Burns

Commissioner Tom Markert

Commissioner Juli Casale

Pursuant to Section 3.12 of the Charter of the City of Delray Beach, the Mayor has instructed me to announce a Workshop Meeting of the City Commission to be held for the following purposes:

The October 14, 2025 Commission Workshop Meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. Alexis Givings, City Clerk, called the roll, and the following were present:

Terrence Moore, City Manager
Lynn Gelin, City Attorney
Alexis Givings, City Clerk

Present: 5 - Commissioner Tom Markert, Mayor Thomas F. Carney Jr., Deputy Vice Mayor Angela Burns, Commissioner Juli Casale, and Vice-Mayor Rob Long

WS.1. CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND EXPECTATIONS.

Sponsors: City Manager Department

Mr. Moore stated that Jeff Oris, Assistant City Manager, was present to lead the discussion on this workshop item. He acknowledged that, as a Certified Economic Development Professional, Mr. Oris was the designated representative from the City Manager's Office to address this topic. Mr. Moore emphasized that the primary goal of the presentation was to gather the Commission's thoughts and expectations concerning the City's economic policy.

Mr. Oris delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the City's current economic development activities. He mentioned that the City was looking into potential businesses that had either contacted the City or had been referred regarding starting or relocating their business to the City. He stated that the Economic Development Department is responsible for continually seeking ways to provide education to businesses through expos, educational programs, and maintaining relationships with the Chamber of Commerce, Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). He mentioned that the City was in the process of formulating a more robust business seminar program in conjunction with the CRA and the Chamber of Commerce, where various business topics will be discussed.

Mr. Oris stated that the Education and External Opportunities Manager and the Economic Development Manager was working together to meet the needs of Delray Beach residents in finding jobs and obtaining career skills through job fairs and connecting employers with training programs. He mentioned that the City was collaborating with Palm Beach State College to provide post-secondary education, which aims to fulfill the workforce needs of businesses in Delray Beach and assist residents in gaining job skills and training.

The Commission discussed its vision for the City's Economic Development plans moving forward, and how to attract commerce to the City.

Mayor Carney stated that on September 14, 2021, the sitting Commission conducted a detailed workshop on the City's Economic Development and mentioned that the workshop report had received favorable reviews. He noted that several of the programs mentioned in the presentation that evening were duplicated from the September report. Mayor Carney emphasized the importance of having a seat at the table to engage with businesses looking to relocate to Delray Beach, rather than just relying on the Business Development Board. He emphasized that attracting businesses to Delray Beach is a matter of Economic Development, as opposed to merely sustaining existing businesses in the City.

Mr. Moore expressed his interest was to establish a consensus as to what the Commission would like to see the City achieve so that they could build the necessary resource structure for productivity.

Commissioner Casale noted that during her time on the 2021 Commission, attracting businesses to the City was a key focus. However, there were votes taking place to convert twelve acres of commercial property into residential apartments, and she expressed her disapproval of this decision. She emphasized the importance of attracting large businesses but noted the City's limited availability of inventory for commercial properties. She recognized that the Commission could regulate the availability of its commercial land by denying requests for residential housing and suggested that the City network with the Chamber of Commerce or the DDA, which actively seeks resources for companies moving to Delray Beach. Additionally, she noted that the City's Economic Development section is a good tool to help businesses be successful once they are here.

Mayor Carney noted that enhancements could be made to the Congress Avenue corridor to better attract businesses.

Deputy Vice Mayor Burns recognized the importance of collaborating with establishments that provide educational training to the City's residents, ensuring a plentiful skilled workforce when new companies arrive.

Commissioner Markert suggested that the most suitable companies to attract to the City are private equity firms and cyber start-ups, due to insufficient space for manufacturing plants.

Vice Mayor Long acknowledged the accomplishments made in the Development Services Department, specifically in streamlining its processes for businesses entering the City. He referenced the Congress Avenue Corridor Study that had been conducted earlier, which indicated that the area was more suitable for residential development rather than commercial use. Vice Mayor Long emphasized the importance of having quality schools and affordable housing to encourage young families to move to Delray. He provided feedback he received from attending various County meetings regarding their thoughts on Delray.

Mayor Carney concluded by expressing his interest in leveraging the City's property inventory to attract new businesses. He also noted that the City may need to collaborate with other entities, if necessary, to bring businesses here.

Mr. Moore proposed engaging in an updated Economic Development Study and then following up with a Workshop in December with the Commission and the City's partners such as the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce, DDA, CRA, and key personnel from the City's leadership team to build the necessary structure as they relate to the City's Economic Development Plan.

There was a verbal consensus for Mr. Moore to hire an external company to conduct a new Economic Development Study. The findings will be presented to the Commission and stakeholders during the workshop on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Moore thanked the Commission for their feedback.

The Commission thanked Mr. Oris for his contribution.

WS.2

CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING PRIDE RELATED GESTURES, EXTERNAL COLLABORATIONS, AND PARTNERSHIPS.

Sponsors: City Manager Department

Mr. Moore stated that this item was intended to present the Commission with the public's feedback from the public engagement exercise conducted on October 1, 2025, regarding this matter.

Sam Metott, Parks and Recreation Director, and Missie Barletto, Public Works Director, were present to provide a recap of this item and share public feedback from the public engagement.

Mr. Metott shared that many comments and ideas from the public engagement had been presented to the Commission previously. He mentioned that someone had suggested the idea of greater inclusivity for

other groups.

The Commission discussed the numerous suggestions made by the residents and explored different funding options for the memorial.

Vice Mayor Long acknowledged his support for the City funding the memorial and pointed out that private funding would relieve taxpayers of the financial burden. He noted that displaying the pride colors on public property makes the statement that everyone is welcome and safe in Delray Beach, not just the LGBTQ community and proposed various design ideas that cater to different budget ranges.

Commissioner Markert suggested assessing the proposed designs and locations, then seeking community feedback on the findings.

Deputy Vice Mayor Burns expressed her happiness that every email she received indicated that Delray was a welcoming City. She stated that she hoped the idea decided upon would make the community happy.

Commissioner Casale stated it was time for the City to excuse itself from this matter so that the City doesn't expose itself to any more liability and allow the memorial to be privately funded and placed on private property. She recognized that what started as a peaceful, loving idea had just the opposite effect. She suggested that the City should not be involved in private negotiations.

Mayor Carney shared that he had received a plethora of emails expressing different opinions on whether the memorial should be funded by the City or privately. He recognized that any public art is at risk of vandalism. Additionally, he expressed his support for allowing the community to share their thoughts on the memorial, regardless of how it was funded.

Vice Mayor Long stressed the importance of placing the memorial on public property so that everyone could enjoy what had been lost in a shared space.

In conclusion, Mayor Carney recommended that the City not participate in relocating the memorial to prevent any potential actions from the State.

Ms. Barletto stated the Public Art Advisory Board would review all of the opportunities for placing art privately around the City.

Mr. Moore stated that whatever design is chosen by the residents through public input and stakeholders, the Commission will determine its role and function.

The Mayor indicated there was a consensus to proceed as outlined. He then opened the floor to public comments.

WS.3 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Ilvento, Owner of the Silver Ball Museum, Delray Beach Suggested that the proposed parking plan discouraged patrons from visiting the downtown.

Stephanie Immelman, Chamber of Commerce, Delray Beach Discussed that the Chamber had launched a tech recruitment program to assess whether the City has adequate office space for tech firms. The findings indicated that there is a market for tech firms. She shared that the Chamber will be actively pursuing opportunities to attract these businesses to Delray through strategic marketing and stated that they look forward to collaborating with the City on this initiative.

Chris Rhodes, 4288 2nd Street, Delray Beach
Commended the Commission for their handling of the Pride Crosswalk and their dedication to supporting the LGBTQ community.

Catherine Murphy, 220 Dixie Blvd., Delray Beach
Discussed the importance of public memorials being inclusive, ensuring that they honor multiple groups and represent everyone, and not being selective.

Jerry Furst, 6542 Via Trento, Delray Beach
Suggested recruiting firms from New York City to Delray.

Recommended that the LGBTQ memorial be included on the voting ballot.

Stated that he didn't favor placing the memorial on private property due to risk factors.

Allan Hendricks, 716 NW 1st Avenue, Delray Beach
Expressed his gratitude to the Commission for their efforts in addressing the situation surrounding the removal of the Pride Intersection and emphasized that if Delray wants to attract large companies, it was essential that these companies believe their workforce will feel welcome in the City.

Diane Adams, 3521 Lowson Blvd., Delray Beach
Expressed her concern that the City used taxpayer dollars for the court's administrative processes related to the LGBTQ memorial, despite knowing it was unlikely to succeed, and emphasized that there are more urgent

issues in the City, such as potholes, homelessness, and drinking water problems.

Michelle Dadich, 23 SW 6th Street, Delray Beach

Shared that she was excited about the City's economic development plans and offered suggestions on the matter.

Mentioned that too much time has been spent on the Rainbow Memorial, when there are more pressing issues in the City.

Nicholas Coppola, 3930 Lowson Blvd, Delray Beach

Stated that the original Pride Crosswalk installation was fully funded by the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council and the Aids Healthcare Foundation.

Cautioned the Commission about placing the memorial on private property, as it may pose an issue if the homeowner decides to sell their house.

Charlotte Dilks, 2916 SW 22nd Circle, Delray Beach

Requested that if the City selects her design for the memorial and places it on private property, the legal department create an agreement.

Steve Blum, 15 Venetian Drive, Delray Beach

Suggested that creating a memorial for the LGBTQ community would encourage groups from all backgrounds and religions to seek memorials of their own.

Expressed his disappointment that the Pavilion on A1A is in disarray, as it serves as the gateway to the City.

Connor Corzine, 5465 Grande Palm Circle, Delray Beach

Thanked the Commission and the public for their efforts regarding the Pride Memorial.

Mentioned that the City has various memorials and celebrations recognizing specific groups, such as Veterans Park, the 100-foot Christmas Tree, and the Menorah Lighting.

Marianne Cohen, Owner of Mac Art Galleries, Delray Beach

Expressed her concern that Delray was losing its infrastructure due to dirty streets, homelessness, loud music, and a lack of trash receptacles, etc.

Mayor Carney recognized that the thirty-minute time limit for public comment had expired and concluded the public comment period.

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Carney adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

The City shall furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services where necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in and enjoy the benefits of a service, program, or activity conducted by the City. Please contact the Human Resources Department at (561) 243-7125 at least 24 hours prior to the program or activity for the City to reasonably accommodate your request. Adaptive listening devices are available for meetings in the Commission Chambers.