



**Lake Park Town Commission, Florida**  
**Commission Workshop on Sea Level Rise and Resiliency**  
**Minutes**

Commission Chamber, Town Hall, 535 Park Avenue, Lake Park, FL 33403  
Saturday January 25, 2025 10am to 12pm

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<b>Roger Michaud</b>	—	<b>Mayor</b>
<b>Kimberly Glas Castro</b>	—	<b>Vice Mayor</b>
<b>Michael Hensley</b>	—	<b>Commissioner</b>
<b>Mary Beth Taylor</b>	—	<b>Commissioner</b>
<b>Judith Thomas</b>	—	<b>Commissioner</b>
<b>Richard Reade</b>	—	<b>Town Manager</b>
<b>Thomas Baird</b>	—	<b>Town Attorney</b>
<b>Laura Weidgans</b>	—	<b>Deputy Town Clerk</b>

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***PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED, that if any interested person desires to appeal any decision of the Town Commission, with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, such interested person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in the meeting should contract the Town Clerk's office by calling 881-3311 at least 48 hours in advance to request accommodations.***

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**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

10:04 am

PRESENT

Mayor Roger Michaud

Vice-Mayor Kimberly Glas-Castro

Commissioner Mary-Beth Taylor

Commissioner Judith Thomas

Commissioner Michael Hensley

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge was led by Paige Lewis.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION/REPORT:**

### **1. Community Workshop on Sea Level Rise and Resiliency.**

Community Development Director Nadia DiTommaso and Public Works Director Jaime Morales presented to the Commission (Exhibit A).

Water Resources Management Associates, Inc. (WRMA) Principal Engineer, Raul Mercado provided information about the seawall surveys that were performed in 2021 and the repairs that are needed. Community Development Director DiTommaso spoke about the provisions of the draft proposed ordinance (Exhibit B). Grant Writer/Chief Public Information Officer Merrell Angstreich stated that grant funding is available and being pursued by the Town. She stated however, that these grants are only available to properties with public access. She provided a few examples of how private property owners could obtain funding for seawall repairs such as private funding and she also said that if property owners were willing to allow for public access, then those properties would be eligible for grant funding.

## **COMMISSION COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Hensley stated he would like to see an Ordinance so that they can discuss.

Commissioner Thomas stated that she would like to hear from the residents.

Commissioner Taylor would also like to hear from the residents.

Vice-Mayor Glas-Castro asked about the proposed ordinance regarding inundation mapping.

Mr. Mercado advised that the mapping that should be used is the sea level rise and king tide map.

Vice-Mayor Glas-Castro also asked that this language be included in the proposed ordinance.

Vice-Mayor Glas-Castro asked where on the Town's website residents can find the seawall assessment reports. Community Development Director DiTommaso stated the reports are in the "residents" tab, sub tab "seawall information". Mayor Michaud asked if there can be a direct link to the reports placed on the information section of the website. Vice-Mayor Glas-Castro asked if the Town makes the repairs to public seawalls, will that create a necessity for private property owners to then make their repairs, since the public seawalls will be higher. Mr. Mercado advised that this would not be the case, since the impacts to the seawalls will not be felt

until 2050. Vice-Mayor Glas-Castro asked if property owners will be cited for not making seawall repairs. Community Development Director DiTommaso advised that the risk is not immediate so they do not foresee citing property owners. Vice-Mayor Glas-Castro asked if the residents were to make repairs to their seawalls, would that then trigger total replacement. Community Development Director DiTommaso stated that it would not trigger total replacement. Mayor Michaud stated he would like to hear from residents.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

*This time is provided for addressing items that do not appear on the Agenda. Please complete a comment card and provide it to the Town Clerk so speakers may be announced. Please remember comments are limited to a TOTAL of three minutes.*

-Bob Olivio spoke about feeling skeptical because the seawall is intact and would like to see historical data on sea level rise. He spoke about a quote that they had received for total replacement of the seawall at 401 Lake Shore Drive for \$198,000. They were unable to replace their seawall because a moratorium was put in place preventing them from doing any seawall repairs. He would like to get a definition of public access in order to qualify for grants.

-John Leary spoke about the proposed ordinance and how citations could apply to property owners and would impose unrealistic requirements for completion of seawall repairs. He feels that they are being taken advantage of and asks that the Town abandon the proposed ordinance.

-Chris Steele spoke about the Town not having a king tide issue. He feels that there is a false sense of urgency for seawall repairs. He feels that the Town should be responsible for seawall repairs.

-Jim Drier spoke about another town he lived in previously where the entire town was responsible for paying to protect its residents. He does not feel that it is fair that they are expected to bear the entire cost of repairing the seawall.

-Michael O'Rourke spoke about residents already being hit hard due to other requirements. He feels that this issue is not imminent and we need to take a step back. He stated that the only thing that would create an imminent need is the ordinance, which he feels should be put aside.

-Dominick Tecce would like to table this until there is further discussion. He feels that the property owners should not be solely responsible for paying for the seawall repairs.

-John Linden has an issue with "climate change" and using it as a crutch. He feels that the assessment that was done in 2021 needs to be re-done. He said that he was expecting a community

workshop today with interaction, not a meeting. He would like to see a workshop be held where residents can have more input.

#### **COMMISSION COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:**

Town Attorney Baird advised the Commission that the purpose of this workshop is for residents to make their comments and staff to move forward to whatever the next step may be.

Vice-Mayor Glas-Castro asked if they could get clarification as to what the mandate from the State is to see if the Town is required to adopt an ordinance. She would also like information about how they could fund the project as a whole Town, not just the marina and park.

Commissioner Hensley agreed that the burden should not be placed on the residents for the seawall. He would also like clarification of the definition of “public access”. He would like to be able to review the study from 2021.

Commissioner Thomas had concerns about making repairs to public property and how that might affect private properties. She stated that the cost of the repairs should be shared as a community. She stated that the language in the ordinance would need to be tightened up, but that this is a serious issue.

Mayor Michaud stated that there are a lot of questions that need to be studied. He would like to keep the dialogue open with residents. He requested for residents to provide them with the quotes that they had received for seawall repairs. He stated that this process will not be rushed.

Commissioner Taylor spoke about a previous workshop where a vote was taken about steps to break the waves and she wanted to know what happened with that. She also stated she would like to know the definition of “public access” and she stated that there is a very large discrepancy between the estimate the condo owners received and what the Town has received.

Workshop adjourned 11:34 am

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Mayor Roger D. Michaud

Town Seal

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Town Clerk, Vivian Mendez, MMC

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Deputy Town Clerk, Laura Weidgans

Approved on this \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025