

**CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH
BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 7, 2024 COMMISSION UPDATE**

Established September 2023

Have met 5 out of 8 months (December canceled due to holidays and the City canceled January and March.)

City has recently changed meeting schedule to every other month from every month.

SUBJECT MATTERS ADDRESSED BY THE BOARD:

Ways to get the word out to the businesses about the existence of the board.

In partnership with the CRA and the City a postcard went out to all LBTR's (licensed businesses) in the City announcing the Business Advisory Board.

Erin has been walking door-to-door to downtown businesses introducing herself as Chairperson of the board and telling people of the existence of the board and inviting them to meetings or to reach out to share ideas/concerns they may have.

Input on making the city website more user-friendly for potential new businesses wanting to come to town. Adding a FAQ link for new businesses, what's required to open a new business.

Partnering with Businesses to come up with ways to promote downtown during the FDOT project.

Enforcement of ordinance governing signage for Empty Storefronts

Current ordinance Section 23.2-31

2. All windows or openings of vacant buildings which windows or openings can be viewed from the public streets and sidewalks, and which expose the interiors of such buildings, shall screen the vacant interior of the building in which they are located.

3. Window treatment or screening may be achieved by either constructing within the window or opening a pocket, equivalent in dimension to the dimension of the window or opening itself, and 40 inches or more in depth, or hanging curtains or utilizing interior shutters. The pocket shall be used for purposes of screening the interior of the building and **to provide an attractive display for those who can observe the window or opening from the streets or public sidewalks of the town. This pocket shall be decorated by featuring displays of the incoming tenant, or vignettes representing designs and merchandise of exiting city merchants.**

4. Vacant buildings may not have...stacked furniture, debris visible from the public street or right-of-way.
5. Any vacant storefront that has more than 25-feet of frontage on a public sidewalk must provide a vignette display in at least one-half of its available window space.
6. Newspaper, printed paper or unpainted plywood will not be allowed in the windows.
8. An owner must comply with these specifications within 7 days of vacancy of a storefront.

Penalties per Florida Statutes is currently \$50 a day (lowest) and may not exceed \$500 a day for a repeat offender.

SUGGESTIONS:

For aesthetics, enforce the current code. Revise as necessary.

Half the window would be covered except at the entrance, providing police ability to look into structure for safety and ease of monitoring inside buildings.

Provisions might be made for storefronts with over 25 feet of frontage to ease cost of complying.

CRA has “window clings” with images of things around town such as the beach, Triangle Park, etc., that could be purchased to display and showcase the city.

Allow other merchants to provide a display in the windows, with permission of the owner, of their merchandise or signage that would not require a sign permit.

Revision of the Minor Site Plan Review Process

Urban Planner, Wes Blackman, presented to the Board the process for a Minor Site Plan Review. The process is onerous in its current form, and it is the recommendation of the BAB for the City to look at the site review code with an eye towards making it easier for businesses to locate in town, to review what other communities are doing, and come back with suggested changes to our existing site plan review and application process in order to promote being small business friendly. (*PRESENTATION BY WES BLACKMAN*)

Respectfully Submitted By

Erin Allen, Chairperson