



## Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee

### Committee Members

Clare McCord, Chair

Curt Dyer, Vice-Chair

Julie Basner

Stephan Ginez

Karin Matos

Barbara Montero

Ronald Starkman

**TO: Members of the Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee**

**DATE: April 28, 2026**

**SUBJECT: DRAFT Minutes of the Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee on March 12, 2026, Meeting**

**Present:** Julie Basner, Barbara Montero, Ron Starkman, Stephan Ginez

**Absent:** Clare McCord, Chair, Curt Dyer, Vice-Chair, Karin Matos

### **City Staff:**

Amy Knowles, Liaison

Commissioner Laura Dominguez, Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez, Inspector General Joseph M. Centorino

Sydney Alonso, Sabrina Batlle, Melissa Berthier, Lauren Firtel, David Gomez, Ariel Guitian, Albert Rosales

### **Members of the Public:**

None present at the time attendance was taken.

### **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

A. Knowles called the meeting to order noting that four committee members were present, establishing quorum.

A. Knowles stated that a committee chair needed to be nominated due to member absences and clarified that she could assist but could not serve as chair. J. Basner made a motion seconded by S. Ginez to appoint R. Starkman to chair the meeting for the day. The motion was approved unanimously.

A. Knowles welcomed Commissioner Dominguez, Sydney Alonso from Commissioner Fernandez's office, the Inspector General, and City staff.

### **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**Committee Members**

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Karin Matos

Barbara Montero

Ronald Starkman

**Approval of Minutes**

B. Montero moved to approve the minutes from the January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Neighborhood Resiliency Projects Advisory Committee. Second by R. Starkman. Approved unanimously.

**Discussion Item: R5 S Ordinance**

A. Knowles introduced the discussion item regarding R5 S, noting that the City Commission referred the ordinance to the committee for further review of public engagement practices.

A. Knowles acknowledged the presence of Commissioner Dominguez and S. Alonso.

R. Starkman noted that residents and businesses are frequently unaware of Citywide project impacts until concerns arise.

S. Alonso provided an overview of the ordinance on behalf of Commissioner Fernandez, the item sponsor. She explained that the ordinance was created in response to redesigns, pauses, and cost increases in major CIP projects, including West Avenue Phase 2. She stated that the ordinance would require five of seven Commission votes for design changes or pauses at the 60 percent design phase, six of seven votes at the 90 percent design phase, and four of seven votes for unforeseen site conditions. She added that the Commissioner is open to codifying the 30/60/90 engagement checkpoints.

Commissioner L. Dominguez commented on the need for clearer communication to residents when meetings involve significant design decisions.

D. Gomez provided clarification on the 30/60/90 design phases, explaining that major design decisions occur before the 30 percent submittal and that the 30 percent design presented to Historic Preservation Board (HPB)/ Design Review Board (DRB) is essentially complete. He stated that the 60 percent and 90 percent phases involve technical development and permitting and that substantive changes after 30 percent require returning to regulatory boards. He emphasized that resident input is most impactful before the 30 percent phase.

Commissioner A. Fernandez arrived and was welcomed by committee and staff members. The committee continued discussing resident confusion around terminology, communication at decision points, and engagement beyond the 60 percent phase. The committee discussed that R.

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Starkman will meeting with A. Knowles and D. Gomez to develop recommendations consistent with the discussion. The committee will re-visit the matter at the next meeting.

**Discussion Item: West Avenue Project Updates**

D. Gomez provided an update on the West Avenue project. He reported that the contractor continues to progress and that daily challenges arise, including an unannounced overnight Verizon operation earlier in the week. He stated that staff surveyed the project area to identify non-functioning streetlights and that the contractor is working to address them within 24 to 48 hours. He noted that public outreach and communications have improved significantly.

D. Gomez explained that staff are working to develop a live list of resident concerns on the project website. The list would display reported issues, and their resolution status once personal information is removed. He described the volume of data and the need to filter out personal contact information before publishing.

Committee members discussed the need for clear contact information for reporting issues, including hazards such as open holes or unstable surfaces. D. Gomez stated that residents may contact him, the project manager, or the Public Information Officer, and that project information is available on the City's website. Committee members noted that other cities have fewer resources and complimented the City's project website.

S. Ginez discussed challenges from dust, debris, and repeated street closings. He asked whether temporary asphalt could be used when openings remain for extended periods.

D. Gomez explained that temporary surfacing can create mud during rain events and that drainage limitations complicate the issue. He acknowledged the concerns and noted that staff is documenting lessons learned.

**Discussion Item: Private Property Adaptation Grant Program**

A. Knowles provided information on the Private Property Adaptation Program and distributed program materials. She noted that applications are open until April 24 and that the program is available to residential, multifamily, and commercial properties. She described recent outreach efforts and examples of completed projects.

Committee members asked questions regarding eligibility for duplexes, condos, and common areas.

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A. Knowles explained that site specific assessments are conducted and that eligible improvements include floodproofing and seawall work.

### **FUTURE MEETING DATES/TOPICS**

The committee discussed future meeting dates. The next regularly scheduled meeting is May 28; however, members agreed that a meeting is needed earlier to finalize recommendations related to R5S. The committee agreed to move the next meeting to April 28 at 4:00 p.m. to allow sufficient time for review before the May 20 City Commission meeting. The committee also agreed to revisit the topic of trees and any additional items requested by C. McCord.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- **No public comment.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

R. Starkman made a motion to adjourn. J. Basner seconded the motion.