



## **SHORE PROTECTION BOARD RECOMMENDS THE TOWN CONTINUE PURSUIT OF REACH 8 EIS**

**by: Ronald Matzner**

In an action of major importance to the condominiums of the South End, the Shore Protection Board at its November meeting voted unanimously to approve the recommendation of Town staff to continue to pursue receipt of the elusive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that has eluded Palm Beach since 2006. The issue is now before the Town Council.

Such pursuit had been called into question by recent demands from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on behalf of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for a coral survey and increased hardbottom mitigation which were estimated to increase costs to the Town by up to \$6 million.

The Board reached its decision after listening to an enlightening presentation from Thomas Pierro, Principal Engineer, Coastal Protection Engineering, who described the current condition of the Reach 8 shoreline and set forth the complex history of the Reach 8 Comprehensive Shoreline Stabilization Project since its inception in 2006.

Federal authorization in the form of a Department of the Army (DA) permit issued by USACE is required whenever there is in-water work on a shoreline project. An EIS under the national Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) is required in order to obtain the DA permit since the Reach 8 Shoreline Project is considered a "major federal action" with the potential for environmental impact.

The objective of an EIS is to identify the least environmentally damaging practical alternative that achieves the stated project purpose. In the case of the Reach 8 project, the stated purpose is "to use cost effective beach fill placement . . . and enhance the existing beach and dune system to . . . protect upland property and . . . habitable buildings"

In June 2016, a draft EIS was submitted to USACE. Nearly two years later, Palm Beach received a Request for Additional Information (RAI) from the Corps to address NMFS comments, principally regarding beach fill and hardbottom mitigation. Since then, Town staff has been working with the Corps to satisfy escalating NMFS demands, including a new coral survey requested in October 2020 and additional mitigation requested in September 2021.

The increasing exposure of hardbottom has been one of the principal issues confronting the Town since the inception of the project in Reach 8. NMFS considers it a protected habitat just like a sea turtle or coral reef. The potential cost of mitigation for the Town has increased dramatically as the amount of hardbottom identified by NMFS has expanded from .49 acres in 2016 to 6.17 acres in 2021.

When the Town received the latest USACE requests, the Town asked Coastal Protection Engineering (CPE) to conduct a study of the current conditions in Reach 8.

An EIS was initially triggered 15 years ago by a need for in-water fill. In 2011 the needed fill was estimated to be 19,300 cubic yards. In 2014, the estimate was 5,500 cubic yards.

Amazingly, the CPE study shows the needed in-water fill below the mean high water line has been reduced in 2021 to a mere 9 cubic yards located in the area of the Oasis (3120) Condominium. Mr. Pierro demonstrated that there has been a significant change in both the volume and placement of sand

in the near shoreline and beach system of Reach 8 since 2006 due to Palm Beach's comprehensive town-wide beach nourishment and dune restoration projects.

Indeed, Mr. Pierro posited that there was in fact no need for sand to be placed in the water at all, thereby potentially resolving the in-water fill concerns of the Corps and NMF.

The Shore Protection Board determined to continue to work with the Army Corps and NMFS to address the remaining exposed hardbottom and coral issues even at the potential cost of \$6 million in order to obtain a final EIS and the DA permit which among other things would permit sand to be placed in the water if needed in the future and would allow on beach access of pipelines.

Mr. Pierro estimated that the process would take another two to three years to conclusion.



## Town Council to consider tougher inspection program for buildings after Surfside disaster

Zoning official outlines proposal at seminar co-hosted by Palm Beach Civic Association and Citizens' Association of Palm Beach

William Kelly

Communications Coordinator



The town may tighten inspection requirements to make sure high-rise buildings are safe in the wake of the Surfside condominium collapse.

Zoning Director Wayne Bergman has drafted a building recertification proposal expected to come before the Town Council in January.

Bergman outlined the draft on Tuesday at a building structure safety seminar co-sponsored by the Palm Beach Civic Association and Citizens' Association of Palm Beach. About 50 people, mostly residential building managers or board members, attended the event at the South Fire Station.

On June 24, the Champlain Towers South, a 12-story residential building in Miami's Surfside neighborhood, partially collapsed, killing 98 people and injuring others.

Bergman was part of a 40-member Palm Beach County task force formed to examine building safety measures after the Surfside disaster. But the county in October decided to hold off on creating its program to regularly inspect high-rise buildings, deferring instead to state lawmakers who will meet in January. Miami-Dade and Broward counties require examinations of buildings when they turn 40 years old. After that, it's every 10 years. But Palm Beach County doesn't.

The City of Boca Raton is the only municipality in Palm Beach County that has adopted an inspection program in response to the Surfside disaster, Bergman said. Boca Raton is requiring high-rise buildings to be inspected at 30 years of age.

Bergman, who is also the town's building official, is proposing that Palm Beach implement a building safety inspection and recertification program for all "threshold" buildings after they have turned 25 years old. Threshold buildings would be defined as those greater than three stories or 50 feet in height. Bergman is recommending the 25-year threshold for Palm Beach because of the proximity to the ocean environment. Saltwater intrusion degrades rebar, which is the steel bar or mesh used to reinforce concrete or masonry.

If the council approves the plan, staffing would be needed to administer the program, he said. The town would need to hire a structural engineer to assist with town reviews of the building safety reports. Ordinances would have to be amended to implement the program, establish fines for violations, set a fee for viewing inspection reports, and create an inspection checklist.

Under Bergman's proposal, owners of "threshold" buildings would be notified by the town that they have 90 days to have an inspection done by a licensed engineer or architect. Any structural deficiencies identified by the inspector would have to be reported and repaired within 180 days.

"My guess is, if the town does not do this, the insurance company will get involved and tell you to do this," Bergman said.

Currently, the only inspections required by the town are annual fire and life-safety inspections conducted by the Fire-Rescue Department; permit-driven inspections for new construction, including concrete restoration; complaint-driven inspections for alleged property maintenance issues; and annual facilities permits.

Continued on next page.....

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Continued from page 2....

But Bergman said more needs to be done to protect the structural integrity of high-rise buildings as they age – especially in areas like Palm Beach, where saltwater corrosion is a big concern.

Concrete spalling, which occurs when exposed steel rusts and expands, is a “huge issue,” he said. This problem often occurs when owners install carpeting or tile on balconies, trapping water against concrete.

A more aggressive approach to inspections provides an added layer of protection for residents and buildings and may also help with property values, real estate sales and insurance premiums, he said.

Ben Messerschmidt, an engineer with Epic Forensics and Engineering, said there needs to be a drastic change in how inspections are done.

Legal guidelines currently focus on structural problems without requiring the underlying causes to be corrected, he said.

“We need a more comprehensive approach - not just structural and electrical,” said Messerschmidt, who performs inspections and regularly submits reports to insurance carriers.

The Surfside disaster has created a ripple effect, he said. “The danger has really always been there, but now it’s under a microscope. The days of cheap living in a condo are well behind us.”

Louis Caplan, an attorney with the Boca Raton law firm Sachs Sax Caplan, predicted that laws will be amended to require greater disclosure to condominium buyers about building reserve funds for property repairs. Too often, he said, those reserve accounts are underfunded by condo boards whose members are elected to keep fees low, he said.

Caplan said he hopes the legacy of the Surfside tragedy is that condo residents will elect board members whose priority is to keep them safe.

“The legacy [should be] that buildings are structurally sound, safer and that people who are living in paradise are also living in a place where they can sleep at night,” he said.

William Kelly

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#### **Tips from Tony**

The Palm Beach Par 3 is a wonderful course to play and shares a variety of different conditions that are unique among seaside golf courses: Extreme Windy Conditions!

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While the tendency may be to take the same club and swing harder to fight the wind, experience will tell you that when we fight the wind, we lose! Swinging harder or faster imparts more spin on the ball and the more spin will make the ball fly higher into the wind and go nowhere. With a side wind, more spin will increase the slice or hook, which is never good! We need is to impart LESS Spin. How do we do that?

Here’s what to do when its blowing 5- 10 mph:

1. Use 2 more clubs than normal (meaning if you hit a 7 iron from 150 yards, use a 5 iron instead), grip down 1 inch, stand a little taller and try to swing the same speed on the backswing and downswing. The slower swing speed will impart less spin and the less lofted club will keep the ball lower.

2. Play the ball more towards the middle of your stance instead of normal.

3. By gripping down the shaft, you will need to be closer to the ball and standing tall.

4. The key is to make the downswing with less acceleration and clean contact.

The result? The ball will come out lower with much less spin and the wind will not affect it nearly as much as a normal shot.



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## **SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS:**

*Do It Right, Or Pay The Price*

Special assessments happen. The unfortunate reality is that during the life of a condo building, some unexpected expenses are going to arise and the association will have to take steps to fulfill its obligations to the membership. If the operating budget cannot handle these expenses, and there is not a funded reserve account that can defray the cost, then it is likely that a special assessment will need to be levied.

In Florida, there is a right way and a wrong way, to levy special assessments. Levying a special assessment without following the proper procedures could end up costing the association unneeded legal expenses and heartburn; so do it right the first time!

Levying a special assessment in Florida requires knowledge of certain provisions of the Condominium Act (Chapter 718, Florida Statutes) and your association's governing documents. Section 718.112(2)(c)1, Florida Statutes, provides (in material part)...written notice of any meeting at which nonemergency special assessments, or at which amendment to rules regarding unit use, will be considered must be mailed, delivered, or electronically transmitted to the unit owners and posted conspicuously on the condominium property at least 14 days before the meeting. Evidence of compliance with this 14-day notice requirement must be made by an affidavit executed by the person providing the notice and filed with the official records of the association....Notice of any meeting in which regular or special assessments against unit owners are to be considered for any reason must specifically state that assessments will be considered and provide the nature, estimated cost, and description of the purposes for such assessments.

Breaking down that statutory language amounts to the association having to take the following actions to properly notice a meeting where special assessments will be considered (1) notice of the proposed meeting must be sent to all owners not less than 14 days prior to the meeting; (2) the notice must also be posted in a conspicuous place on the condominium property not less than 14 days prior to the meeting; (3) the notice must explain what the special assessment will be used for and the amount of the expected special assessment; and (4) the person who mailed or delivered the notice to the owners must execute an affidavit that attests to the fact that the notices were mailed or delivered to all owners and the date that the notices were sent.

A critically vital, yet often overlooked, aspect of the special assessment levying process is making sure the special assessment purpose is a proper common expense. Proper common expenses are defined in Section 718.115, Florida Statutes, but can, and usually are, defined within the association's governing documents. It is important to review the governing documents prior to embarking on the special assessment path to ensure that what the association would like to raise the funds for is appropriate (if it is not, an amendment to the governing documents may be required prior to levying the special assessment).

If attention is not properly given to the issues discussed in this article, negative consequences may occur. These consequences may include unit owners refusing to pay the special assessment because they claim that the association did not follow the proper procedure for levying the special assessment or that the special assessment was not levied for a proper common purpose. Either argument could lead to costly litigation.

By Jay Roberts, Attorney at Law



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## Along the Coast: Enforcing Single File for Bikes Hampered

'Two abreast' signs finally off A1A, but education  
of riders lags, police say

By Joe Capozzi - Coastal Star

After months of complaints from coastal police chiefs in south Palm Beach County, the Florida Department of Transportation has finally removed outdated bicycle-riding signs along State Road A1A.

But the agency still has not responded to requests to post signs reflecting new rules that took effect July 1.

The removal of the old signs in November eliminated a potential legal hurdle that prevented many coastal police departments from enforcing a new law that requires bicyclists to ride in a single file along sections of A1A with no designated bike lanes.

Those signs, reflecting an old rule allowing bicyclists to ride two abreast along road shoulders without designated bike lanes, finally went down the second week in November.

"It wasn't just our municipality. Everybody up and down A1A and in Broward County was affected," Highland Beach Police Chief Craig Hartmann said.

But the chiefs are still waiting for the DOT to post new signs and to offer a program educating the public on the new law, which allows police to crack down on pack cyclists who impede traffic.

"It makes enforcement almost impossible when you have a sign that says (riding two abreast) is permissible when in reality it's not," said Ocean Ridge Police Chief Richard Jones. He said he and other chiefs had made multiple requests throughout the summer to the DOT to remove the signs.

DOT officials did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

### **Bike lanes vs. shoulders**

Cyclists are allowed to ride no more than two abreast only in designated bike lanes. But there are no such lanes, just narrow shoulders, along A1A in South Palm Beach, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, Gulf Stream, Highland Beach and parts of Delray Beach and Boca Raton.

As the months ticked by after the new rules took effect, police chiefs voiced frustration over the DOT's slow response to remove the old signs and offer clarification on the new law. It also allows motorists to cross yellow lines when they pass cyclists in an effort to maintain the 3 feet of separation required.

"At what point in time do we have the ability to start enforcing the laws that the Legislature has said are in effect? We can't do it while the illegal signage is posted," Jones said in an interview.

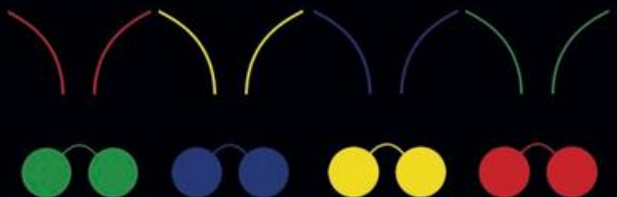
"Everybody is dealing with it, so I don't know why the Department of Transportation can't get their act together."

An hour after that interview, Jones sent another email to DOT officials — and offered to remove the signs himself.

"We previously reached out to DOT and we thought we had been lucky enough to get this resolved when a DOT contractor showed up to remove the signs," Jones wrote. "However, the contractor was afraid to work in the rain and stated that they would return the next day. This was over a month ago and the signage remains in place. These signs prevent us from enforcing the new laws and they send the wrong message to bicyclists."

In his email, Jones explained that police chiefs in Manalapan, Highland Beach and other towns have told him they're having the same problems.

Continued on Page 6



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## Bicycle Lanes Continued.....

"Is there anything that you can do to get this taken care of or should I just go remove them myself and store the signs for you all to collect?"

Four days later, on Nov. 16, Jones received a reply from a DOT subcontractor who said eight signs from Manalapan to Boca Raton were removed on Nov. 9. The subcontractor said his crews went back out on Nov. 15 but couldn't find any more of the outdated signs.

Jones said he is certain that as of Nov. 12 at least two of the old signs were still posted in Ocean Ridge. But after receiving the subcontractor's email, Jones said he went back out and found that they'd been removed.

Hartmann and Manalapan Police Chief Carmen Mattox said old signs were removed from their towns, too.

Jones said he and other chiefs are glad the old signs finally went down, but they wondered why it took so long and happened only after months of complaints from local police.

### Education material needed

The sign issues are just part of a larger problem with the DOT, some coastal chiefs said, because the agency also hasn't responded to their requests to post new signs or offer a public education program.

"We'd been waiting for the signs to be removed," Hartmann said. "But now that they're down, there's really not a clear understanding across the board on the new law. We've asked them to put out some educational information and we haven't seen anything yet."

One avid cyclist told The Coastal Star he saw an electronic sign stating the new law on A1A in northern Broward this summer. Jones said he hasn't considered those signs because they're too expensive for his small town. Several meetings to discuss a potential outreach program had been scheduled, with help from state Sen. Lauren Book, a co-sponsor of the new bike law. But each meeting was postponed because someone from the DOT was never available to attend, Jones said.

The only public outreach Jones has seen about the new law was a presentation this summer by the Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency.

"How are people supposed to know what the rules are if the governing body, the Florida Department of Transportation, doesn't do some type of outreach program to put the information on TV or signage on roadways where people are used to riding two abreast? They've done nothing," he said.

In Highland Beach, the majority of bicyclists comply with the law and try to ride single file as far onto the right shoulder as possible, Hartmann said. When police see pack riders, which usually happens on weekends, they stop them and try to educate them, he said.

"It's very challenging. It's time-consuming and it's tough to do safely with traffic coming in both directions," he Hartmann said. "We're hoping the state has more involvement with some of the education and attention to this."

Mattox said he was "waiting to see what the state's going to do" before he commented on the new bike law.

At the Town Council Meeting of December 15th, Citizens Association pledged to work with the Police Chief and the rest of the town in developing an educational program on this issue.



The poster features a light yellow background with decorative blue and gold starburst graphics in the corners. The title "Citizens Association Annual Meeting" is written in a large, elegant gold script font. Below the title, the date "Thursday, February 17, 2022" is printed in a dark blue sans-serif font. Further down, "STARTS AT 8:30 AM" is written in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font. Below this, the agenda items "Breakfast", "Presentation from Mayor Moore", and "Meeting Town Council Encumbents" are listed in a smaller dark blue sans-serif font. At the bottom, "INVITATIONS ARRIVING SOON" is written in a dark blue sans-serif font, with a solid dark blue horizontal bar underneath.

**Citizens Association Annual Meeting**

Thursday,  
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Meeting Town Council Encumbents

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## Ken Griffin says Florida can reposition itself for talented workers

The opportunity comes after a portion of the finance industry relocated to the state during the COVID pandemic, the Citadel founder said.

(Bloomberg)—Florida has the chance to reinvent itself as a destination for talented workers after a portion of the finance industry relocated to the state during the pandemic, Citadel founder Ken Griffin said.

“Right now Florida has an opportunity to capture a new moment in America,” the 53-year-old hedge fund billionaire said Thursday at a luncheon hosted by the Palm Beach Civic Association at the Florida city’s Four Seasons hotel. “There is a chance for Florida to reposition itself as a destination for talent in a way that forever changes the state.”

During the Covid-19 pandemic last year, Citadel Securities—the trading portion of Griffin’s empire—largely left its Chicago and New York offices and took over the Four Seasons Palm Beach, moving dozens of employees and their families, and building a temporary trading floor complete with rows of monitors supporting staff and interns.

Griffin, owner of the largest piece of property in Palm Beach, said he chose Florida for his firm’s relocation because, at the time, there was a theory the virus didn’t spread as fast in warmer climates. “We needed a place to work safely” given that Citadel was “responsible for about one in four trades in America every day,” he said. Griffin founded Citadel in 1990, and the hedge fund now has about \$43 billion in investment capital. He later established Citadel Securities, the market maker serves asset managers, banks, broker-dealers, hedge funds, government agencies and public pension programs.

About 200 people were in attendance at Thursday’s event, including billionaire real estate entrepreneur Jeff Greene, former Sotheby’s Chief Executive Officer Michael Ainslie and homebuilder Llywd Ecclestone. Guests were asked to be vaccinated or wear a mask. Griffin also said during the talk that he’s worried about the long-term impact of the pandemic’s work-from-home trend. Developing a generation of talent in such an environment “is preposterous,” he said. Young workers who stay away from the office “won’t have the experiences in the conference rooms” to develop vital skills working around other people, he said. “We are going to lose a generation—a generation we need.”



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## Mayor Danielle Moore Selects Nominees For New Strategic Planning Board

Mayor Danielle Moore has nominated eight residents for appointment to a new Strategic Planning Board charged with developing an overall vision for Palm Beach's future.

Moore, who will chair the nine-member planning board, is recommending the Town Council approve the nominees at its meeting on Tuesday, December 14th.. The discussion is scheduled for 11 a.m.

The council approved a resolution establishing the new board on Nov. 10. All nominees have planning experience in the public and/or private sectors, Moore said. Council members were free to suggest residents for appointment to the board, and Moore said Friday that each council member suggested at least one name that made the list of nominees.

"It was heartening that we received so much interest from residents willing to serve, but unfortunately the number of seats was limited," Moore wrote in a Dec. 2 memo to the council. "Those who expressed interest but were not selected will be invited to participate in the process through the many opportunities that will exist for resident feedback."

The nominees include Alfred "Skip" Aldridge, a business consultant and co-chairman of the Citizens' Association of Palm Beach; Elizabeth Dowdle, a conservationist and planner and former member of the Landmarks Preservation Commission; Kristen Kelly Fisher, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Palm Beach United Way and of the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach; and Nicki McDonald, who has experience in the fashion business and in interior design, and who is a former Underground Utilities Task Force member and currently an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Other nominees include James "Peter" McKelvy, a retired media executive who also has leadership experience with non-profit organizations; Katherine Ostberg, an architect with an interest in master planning and historic preservation; Michael Pucillo, an attorney, former Town Council president and vice chair of the Palm Beach Civic Association's Executive Committee; and Michael Reiter, former town police chief who is now founder and president of a Palm Beach-based security firm.

The board will meet in public each month beginning in January.

Moore said she expects a draft of the plan to be available for review in October 2022. The subsequent months will include more public engagement and close coordination with town staff to finalize the plan.

The council will be updated about the board's progress, culminating with a presentation of the final plan at the April 2023 council meeting, she said. The board's first meeting is scheduled for Jan. 20 at 9:30 a.m. in the council chambers at Town Hall. The meeting will include a review of the 2003 strategic plan as well as discussions about the path forward, process, public engagement and more, Moore said in the memo.

Moore has said she would like the plan to deal with "mansionsization" of the island - the building trend toward the razing of older houses to make way for new ones that are typically larger and taller with shorter setbacks from neighboring lots. Many residents have said it is changing the character of neighborhoods for the worse.

Moore said she would like to lead the strategic planning effort based on the same model as the 2003 original strategic plan developed under the leadership of her mother, then-Mayor Lesly Smith.

Smith chaired a five-member board commissioned by the council to conduct a two-year study that resulted in a plan to guide policy and legislation over a period of 10 or more years. The last report the council received on implementation of that plan was in 2012, according to town staff.

## Incumbents Nominated Without Opposition at Town Caucus

Three Town Council members emerged from Tuesday's Town Caucus unopposed in their bids for additional two-year terms.

Council members Lew Crampton, Bobbie Lindsay and Margaret Zeidman all were nominated, and their nominations twice seconded, as required by town election law. Their new terms begin in March.

In the absence of opposition, the council at a special meeting on Friday is expected to cancel the March 8 town election.

All three incumbents had announced their intentions to seek another term prior to Tuesday's caucus.

The New England-style town meeting at Town Hall formally launches each year's election season. This year's 50-minute gathering was lightly attended, with about 40 masked attendees filling less than half the seats in the meeting chambers.

Crampton, who holds the Group 1 seat, was nominated by Skip Aldridge, who is co-chairman of the Citizens' Association of Palm Beach.

Crampton is a former tank commander in the U.S. Army and former senior administrator in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency who once made an unsuccessful bid for a seat in Congress from Massachusetts.

After moving to Palm Beach, he became president of the South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, leading it from the verge of bankruptcy to a new era of expansion and prosperity, Aldridge said.

A South End resident, Crampton was vice chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission and chairman of the Citizens' Association of Palm Beach before joining the council.

"Lew is all about public service," Aldridge said. "Lew Crampton has demonstrated exceptional leadership in every aspect of his private and public life."

Crampton's nomination was seconded by Zoning Commissioner Nicki McDonald and by Bob Wildrick, a former council president.

Crampton joined the council after defeating lawyer Harris S. Fried in the March 2018 town election. He was re-elected without opposition in 2020.

Having retired as its president and CEO, he is now chairman of the board of trustees at the science center.

Lindsay was nominated for the Group 2 council seat by Gail Coniglio, a former mayor who is now chairwoman of the zoning commission.

Coniglio recalled how she and Lindsay became friends before Lindsay joined the council. "Bobbie's passion and immeasurable understanding of Palm Beach was an extension of our collective mission to protect the town's unique character," Coniglio said. "She is an independent thinker who does her homework while recognizing the importance of building a consensus as a town leader."

Lindsay's nomination was seconded by Dan Stanton, chairman of the Retirement Board of Trustees, and by Gordon McCoun.

A North End resident, Lindsay joined the council in February 2016, when she ran unopposed for the seat previously held by Wildrick. She was re-elected without opposition in 2018 and 2020.

Lindsay is retired from a career in real estate development and investment in Seattle. She was a member of the Shore Protection Board and the zoning commission before joining the council.

Zeidman was nominated for the Group 3 council seat by former council president Michael Pucillo.

Pucillo cited Zeidman's diligent work ethic, solid judgment, leadership ability and six years of experience on the council as qualifications for her to serve another term. He also noted her professional background as a retired nursing director at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City. "She has led us through this pandemic during this past 20 months," Pucillo said. "Because of her judgment, we are much better off and have fared better than many other places."

Zeidman's nomination was seconded by Timothy Moran, co-founder of the Palm Beach Police and Fire Foundation, and by her husband Mark Zeidman.

A Midtown resident, Zeidman joined the council in March 2016 after being elected without opposition to the seat previously held by Penny Townsend. She was re-elected without opposition in 2018 and 2020.

Zeidman is president of the council and vice chairwoman of the Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians & Jews.

Michael B. Small and Rene Silvin served as chairman and secretary, respectively, of Tuesday's 110th annual caucus.

Small is chairman of the Architectural Commission and Silvin is chairman of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

They were nominated by resident Carla Cove.





## TRAVELING “EARTH MATTERS: RETHINK THE FUTURE” EXHIBIT COMES TO SOUTH FLORIDA SCIENCE CENTER AND AQUARIUM

The Blockbuster Exhibit  
Presented by VoLo Foundation  
Arrives this December

(WEST PALM BEACH) - The long-awaited Earth Matters: Rethink the Future exhibit is making its first-ever North American debut at the South Florida Science Center and Aquarium (SFSCA) on December 13, 2021. Locals and tourists alike are invited to this Earth science extravaganza where guests of all ages can take a greater look around the world and how everyday habits play a significant role in the planet's health.

Presented by VoLo Foundation, the thought-provoking and interactive exhibit will offer five immersive zones that teach curious minds the importance of creating a sustainable future in a fun and engaging way.

“As a mother of six, I know first-hand that science can help children gain key life skills like communication, organization and an overall sense of awareness,” said Thais Lopez Vogel, Trustee VoLo Foundation. “We teach our kids that even the smallest action can have a large impact. Earth Matters looks at the innovations and solutions that are adaptable for a more sustainable future, and demonstrates that in nature, everything is connected – air, land, water.”

Each zone is purposely designed to help visitors understand at-risk ecosystems, ways to renew declining habitats such as coral reefs, and how to implement changes right in their backyard. The last two zones are geared to help the next generation re-imagine STEM solutions through models and drawings and to reflect on future changes. The final stop of reflection allows guests to have their heads quite literally in the clouds where they will hear audio clips of previous visitors and their vision of supporting the natural world.

“In a year when devastating fires, active tropics and other weather events are grabbing headlines and impacting families, this exhibit is not only timely, it's also critically important,” said Kate Arrizza, President and CEO for the SFSCA. “Children are going to be completely captivated by this experience and their hand-in-hand relationship with the environment. After being virtually transported to the Arctic Sea with endangered polar bears or looking at a model town's microgrid that lights up with every bit of energy use, we're certain visitors of all ages will leave with a greater commitment to the Earth's welfare.”

Created by Scitech and Imagine Exhibitions, the exhibit will encourage SFSCA guests to use problem-solving skills and inspire students to protect Earth's most important natural assets as a means to protect biodiversity.

“Imagine Exhibitions is proud to partner with Scitech to bring *Earth Matters* to South Florida Science Center and Aquarium,” said Tom Zaller, CEO of Imagine Exhibitions. *Earth Matters* is a great way for families to spark their creativity and find STEM-based solutions for real-world challenges, making the world a better place in the process.”

“There have been 21.5 million people universally displaced by disasters related to climate change,” said David S. Vogel, Trustee VoLo Foundation. “Our foundation is focused on accelerating change and global impact by supporting science-based climate solutions, enhancing education and improving health. Therefore, we saw this exhibit as a sure-fire approach to encourage and motivate all visitors to work toward stronger living conditions on a local and global scale.”

Other exhibit sponsors include Bank of America, Florida Power and Light, Northern Trust, PNC Bank, the West Palm Beach Office of Sustainability, and Palm Beach County Tourism and Development Council.

The South Florida Science Center's indoor/outdoor venue features more than 100 hands-on educational exhibits, a 10,000-gallon fresh and saltwater aquarium, digital planetarium, Pre-K focused “Discovery Center,” 18-hole conservation-themed Mini-Golf Course and quarter mile long outdoor science trail. The newest addition includes a \$2.5 million permanent exhibit, “Journey Through the Human Brain” and features the most advanced neuroscience research and technology in the world.

The Science Center was one of the first local venues to obtain a Global Biorisk Advisory Council® (GBAC) STAR™ accreditation, the gold standard for prepared facilities. Under the guidance of GBAC, a Division of ISSA, the worldwide cleaning industry association, the Center now implements the most stringent protocols for cleaning, disinfection and infectious disease prevention throughout the facility.

Dive deeper into the place we call home! The Earth Matters exhibit will be available to the public until May 8, 2022. General admission to the Science Center including Earth Matters is \$18.95 for adults, \$16.95 for seniors, \$14.95 for children (3-12), FREE for children under 3, and FREE for members. For more information, visit [SFScienceCenter.org](http://SFScienceCenter.org) or call (561) 832-1988.

### About VoLo Foundation

VoLo Foundation (VoLo) is a private, non-operating foundation in Jupiter, Florida. VoLo believes in developing knowledge and sharing information that has the potential to create global impact. Through original research and analysis, and in collaboration with philanthropic and academic partners, VoLo aims to enrich the lives of individuals, strengthen communities, and educate future generations. Learn more and subscribe to VoLo Climate News at [www.volofoundation.org](http://www.volofoundation.org).

### About Imagine Exhibitions

Imagine Exhibitions is currently producing over 40 unique exhibitions globally in museums, science centers, zoos, integrated resorts, and non-traditional venues, with millions of people around the world visiting our exhibitions each year. In addition to developing successful traveling exhibitions, Imagine Exhibitions designs, opens, and operates permanent installations and venues, and consults on building, expanding, and directing museums and attractions. With decades of diverse experience in the museum and entertainment industries, Imagine Exhibitions consistently develops exhibitions that educate and excite while exceeding attendance goals. For more information, visit [www.ImagineExhibitions.com](http://www.ImagineExhibitions.com) or find us on Facebook.

### About Scitech

Explore your world through wonder! Scitech is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to increase awareness, interest, capability and participation by all Western Australians in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. For more information visit <http://www.scitech.org.au>.



### Town of Palm Beach Opens Revamped \$40 Million Superyacht Marina

The Town of Palm Beach has completed a multimillion-dollar renovation of its brand-new marina, creating a destination for yacht owners. The complex is set to open on November 1, welcoming vessels from 60" to 294", superyacht size. The classic Town Marina is currently taking seasonal (November 1 through April 30), annual (December 1 through November 30) and transient slip reservations, with a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony that was scheduled for December 9 at 4 p.m.

The Palm Beach Marina is providing patrons with 84 slips, located along the classic Brazilian, Peruvian and Australian docks, while introducing the 240-foot Royal Palm Dock. Marina patrons will benefit from an enhanced master plan that includes a floating dock system, while enjoying a suite of technological upgrades such as high-speed Wi-Fi, increased shore power and updated security systems; these include added cameras at entryways, on the docks and in the parking lots. Access to the parking lot is now navigated via a password-protected smartphone app. In addition, boaters can now easily reserve dockage using the online service Dockwa via the Town Marina website.

Other additions include dedicated golf carts for moving luggage and other belongings along the docks. Trash pickup has also been made more convenient with boat-side service several times daily. Staffing has been increased, with dock attendants and other team members on hand for assisting guests and offering services.

Marina patrons can enjoy complimentary access to exclusive neighboring facilities, including the oceanfront Par 3 Golf Course, the recently updated health and wellness facilities at the Morton and Barbara Mandel Recreation Center, and the Town's 13 tennis courts.

The Town of Palm Beach's public marina and yacht center offers front-row access to a timeless destination. It is located steps away from the famed Worth Avenue, Palm Beach's landmark shopping and dining district, which features an array of luxury boutiques and al fresco dining.



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