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OBSERVER CORPS REPORT
Daytona Beach City Commission
Reported by Cindy Wakeland

October 07, 2016

At this week's meeting, officials announced that the Halifax Historical Society, Inc. will donate funds for a memorial statue honoring Duane and Gregg Allman. The statue, which has not yet been designed, will be installed on the boardwalk. Sculptor Nilda Comas, who created the Mary McLeod Bethune statue now in Washington, will design the work.

The meeting continued with a discussion begun by Jim Morris, Assistant City Manager, regarding allowing short-term vacation rentals on beachside. He said that discussions are in the very early stages and no decisions or even recommendations have been made. The Commission will have follow-up meetings to review possibilities. This was followed by some excitement and concerns by various commissioners and the mayor. Mr. Morrison again reminded the officials nothing has, as yet, been decided and a meeting to review likely locations will be scheduled shortly.

During the Comments section of the meeting, the mayor, Derrick Henry, said that he had to make a decision he had hoped he would never have to make. He said he had decided to eliminate public comments on his mayor Facebook page. The reason is that there have been threats, not only toward him, but also his family.

The mayor then moved on to presenting the Commission with drafts of two letters he had written. One was to Sherrill Norman, CPA, Florida Auditor General, asking for a date as to when the city could expect to receive the results of the audit recently conducted on the city. The mayor had come to believe the results would be made available in August or September, but no update had yet been received. The mayor has also written a letter to Senator Tom Wright addressing the same concerns.

Drafts of the mayor's letters were distributed to the commissioners for review. The response from the Commissioners was somewhat disapproving, indicating the letters were too stern. This resulted in the Commission and the Mayor re-drafting both letters, with guidance from legal counsel, and softening their tone.

There was a vote taken and approval was given to forward the revised letters on to the intended parties.

After hearing from citizens of Daytona Beach, the meeting was adjourned.