

**THE CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH RESTATED EMPLOYEES'
DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
NOVEMBER 20, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 1:30pm by Chairman Leon Pinder in the HR Training Room, 3rd Floor of City Hall.

Trustees present were:

Leon Pinder, Chairman
Sylvia Gregory, Secretary
Bridget Souffrant, Trustee
Benny Rodgers, Trustee
Armondo Fana, Trustee (Joined 1:54pm)

Also present were:

Albert Lovingood, Administrator – Resource Centers
Arlene Franconero, Attorney – City of West Palm Beach
Brendan Vavrica, Investment Consultant – AndCo Consulting
Crystal Proctor, Jed Ellerbroek, and Ken Crawford, Investment Managers – Argent Capital
Greg Peters, Investment Manager – Dana Investments

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

3. REPORTS

A. ARGENT CAPITAL LARGE CAP PRESENTATION (PRESENTED BY: JED ELLERBROEK, AND KEN CRAWFORD)

Jed Ellerbroek, and Ken Crawford thanked the Board of Trustees for inviting them to provide an update on the performance of the Large Cap Growth Fund. Mr. Crawford started the presentation with an overview of Argent Capital, reporting that the Firm is an independently owned asset manager that was founded in 1998. Argent Capital is a boutique firm based in St. Louis, Missouri and is solely focused on asset management. The Firm has over \$3.9 Billion in Assets Under Management as of September 30, 2024. Mr. Ellerbroek then presented the Board with a Large Cap Stock Example that focused on NetEra Energy, the parent company of Florida Power and Light, noting the company's growing cash flows from growth in the State of Florida, renewable energy sector, and the company's focus on expanding its artificial intelligence infrastructure. Mr. Ellerbroek then reviewed the company's capital allocations and durable competitive position, noting that they are a regulated monopoly in Florida and has 20% market share of renewable projects in the United States.

Mr. Crawford then reviewed the Plan's portfolio positioning, reviewing the fund's selection along with the top ten holdings in the Fund. Investment Monitor Brendon Vavrica asked if there are any limitations on the percentage of holdings in any single stock, Mr. Crawford stated that for the Fund, the limit

**THE CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH RESTATED EMPLOYEES
DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

November 20, 2024

is 6%, and for private investors, the limit is 8%. The Large Cap characteristics were then reviewed in detail with the Board and Mr. Crawford concluded the presentation by reviewing Plan's portfolio holdings, which included the percentage representation in the Fund along with the year that the investments were purchased.

B. DANA INVESTMENTS

Greg Peters thanked the Board of Trustees for inviting him to provide an update on the performance of the Dana Large Cap Equity Fund that the Plan is invested in. Mr. Peters started his presentation with reviewing the Fund's performance. Mr. Peters reported that for the Quarter to Date, the Fund has a gross return of 4.48%, compared to the benchmark rate of 5.89%. For Fiscal Year to Date, the Fund's returns were 39.05% compared to the benchmark rate of 36.35%, the Five-Year gross returns were 13.45% compared to the benchmark rate of 15.98%, and since inception the Fund has earned 11.49%, which outperformed the benchmark rate of 11.02%. Mr. Peters then provided the Board of Trustees with an economic and market update for Equities and the S&P 500 Index.

Mr Peters then reviewed the recent Federal Reserve Discount Rate cut of 0.50% along with the geopolitical noise, noting that the dockworker strikes, possible new tariffs, and chatter regarding taxes could influence the markets, depending on what the actual outcome is. Dana's market strategy was then reviewed in detail with the Board of Trustees. Mr. Peters concluded his presentation by answering questions that the Board of Trustees had and noted that as of November 12, 2024, the Fund was up 4.91%.

C. ANDCO CONSULTING (PRESENTED BY: BRENDAN VAVRICA)

1. Quarterly Performance Report Dated September 30, 2024

Brendon Vavrica started his presentation by reviewing the Market Rate and Yield Curve Comparison in detail with the Board of Trustees, noting that for the first time since July 2022, the 10-year Treasury was higher relative to the two-year Treasury rates. Mr. Vavrica then reviewed the Plan's asset allocations, noting that he does not see a need to rebalance at this time and then reviewed the Plans Financial Reconciliation for the Fiscal Year. For the Quarter ending September 30, 2024, the Plan earned a 6.21%, which outperformed the benchmark rate of 5.76%. For the Fiscal Year, the Plan earned a net 21.54%, compared to the benchmark rate of 23.89%. The Five-Year net returns were 8.37%, compared to the benchmark rate of 9.17%. and since inception the Plan has earned 8.25%, beating the benchmark rate of 7.85%. Mr. Vavrica then reviewed the individual Investment Managers in detail with the Board, noting the Fiscal Year returns on Domestic and International Equity along with a review of Real Estate, though still in negative territory, stated that it appears that Real Estate is starting to improve.

**THE CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH RESTATED EMPLOYEES
DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

November 20, 2024

D. 2024 Mariner Human Trafficking Form

Mr. Vavrica presented the Board with the Mariner Institutional 2024 Human Trafficking Form that is now required by Florida State Law.

E. ATTORNEY REPORT

1. City Attorney Memo – Req'd Contract Provisions

Deputy City Attorney, Nancy Urcheck, Deputy City Attorney, presented the Board of Trustees with a Memo regarding two new Florida statutes affecting contract requirements for government entities, including pension boards, were outlined. The first law, Florida Statute Section 287.138, requires companies to provide an affidavit confirming they are not associated with "foreign countries of concern" - namely China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela under Maduro, and Syria - if they have access to personal identifying information of participants and have entered into contracts since January 1, 2024. The second law, under Florida Statute Section 787.06(13), mandates that companies affirm they do not use coercion to obtain labor or services, defining coercion as acts like physical force, isolation, debt bondage, document control, financial threats, fraud, or drug provision for exploitation. This affidavit is required for contracts entered into since July 1, 2024. Both laws necessitate immediate action to amend existing contracts and ensure compliance in all future procurement solicitations and contracts.

F. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – RESOURCE CENTERS (PRESENTED BY: ALBERT LOVINGOOD)

1. 2025 Board Meeting Schedule Revisions

Plan Administrator Albert Lovingood presented the Board of Trustees with an updated 2025 Quarterly Board Meeting Schedule noting that the May Board Meeting has been changed from May 21, 2025, to May 14, 2025. The reason for the change is that the original date conflicts with the NCPERS Annual Conference.

2. Trustee Credit Card Update

Mr. Lovingood provided the Board with an update on the Trustee Credit Cards, reporting that he has the cards in hand for distribution to the Chair and Secretary. Mr. Lovingood noted that both the City and Bank of America were very helpful throughout the onboarding process.

3. 2025 Trustee Conference List

Plan Administrator Albert Lovingood presented the Board of Trustees with the 2025 Trustee Conference List. Mr. Lovingood noted a few additions to the Trustee Conference List that were not included on prior lists and if anyone is

**THE CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH RESTATED EMPLOYEES
DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

November 20, 2024

interested in attending any of these educational opportunities, to please let him know so that he can register them for that conference.

4. FPPTA Membership and CPPT Renewal

Mr. Lovingood informed the Board that he has initiated the Plan's membership renewal for the FPPTA and CPPT Certification Renewals. Mr. Lovingood noted that the FPPTA had increased the cost for the CPPTA Certification Renewals; however, a subsequent notice was sent out from the FPPTA informing the Board that the 2025 CPPT Certification Fees have been waived.

4. PLAN FINANCIALS

The financial statements through September 30, 2024, were included in the meeting packets for review along with the Disbursements dated November 20, 2024.

A motion was made by Bridget Souffrant to approve the Disbursements dated November 20, 2024, as presented. The motion received a second by Benny Rodgers and was approved 5-0.

5. BENEFIT APPROVALS

The Board reviewed the Benefit Approvals dated November 20, 2024.

A motion was made by Benny Rodgers to approve the Benefit Approvals dated November 20, 2024, as presented. The motion received a second by Armando Fana and was approved 5-0.

6. MINUTES

The Minutes from August 28, 2024, Quarterly Board Meeting were reviewed by the Trustees.

A motion was made by Bridget Souffrant to approve the Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes dated August 28, 2024, as presented. The motion received a second by Armando Fana and was approved 5-0.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Open Trustee Seat.

Mr. Lovingood noted that the Board still has an open Seat on the Board that is appointed by the mayor. Chairman Leon Pinder stated that he would contact the City's point of contact directly to get this open seat filled.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at this time.

**THE CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH RESTATED EMPLOYEES
DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT SYSTEM
November 20, 2024**

9. ADDITIONAL REPORTS

There were no additional reports included with this Board Meeting Packet.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

11. NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, February 19, 2025, AT 1:30PM

12. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the Board Adjourned at 2:31pm


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. G.", is written over a horizontal line.