

**APPROVED  
MINUTES OF THE  
BEACH REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
Monday, May 21, 2007– 2:30 P.M.  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
100 North Andrews Avenue  
8th Floor Conference Room**

**Attendance has been revised to reflect the correct Board appointment year.  
Cumulative**

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Feb 2007 – Jan 2008</u>	
		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Ina Lee, Chair	P	4	0
Eileen Helfer	P	4	0
Miranda Lopez	P	4	0
Carlos Molinet	P	4	0
Amauray Piedra	P	3	1
Judy Scher	P	4	0
Shirley Smith	P	4	0
Henry Sniezek	A	2	2
Aiton Yaari	A	1	3

**Staff and Guests**

Ron Hicks, Director  
Earl Prizlee, Engineering Design Manager  
Silver Lee-Hodge, Board Secretary  
John Hoelzle, Parking & Fleet Services  
Art Seitz, CBA

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

**II. Approval of April 2007 Minutes**

Corrections requested:

- Page 3, Ms. Smith addressed the traffic problem with no right turn **lane**.
- Page 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph – “Alexander Park can be improved until a final plan for that area....”
- References to “groundworks” should be “the contractor.”

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**Motion** made by Ms. Helfer, seconded by Mr. Molinet, to approve the minutes of the April 2007 meeting with requested changes. In a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

### **III. Update on Streetscapes**

Mr. Prizlee reported that the plants in the parking lot have been removed and replaced with coconut trees. New sod has been added, irrigation is being worked on in the parking area, and the contractor is working on punch list items with the inspector. The City landscape architect is looking at the medians and planning to use existing plants along with adding more landscaping. A tree has been replaced. They are still waiting for FPL to install a service meter for the lighting. Power washing and sealing the pavers is scheduled for after Memorial Day. It was noted that the area feels safer and is more conducive to visiting at night.

Ms. Lopez stated she had received correspondence from a resident (Art Seitz) asking why there are palm trees in the middle of the sidewalk. Mr. Hicks stated that space was not available and the improvements have been done to DOT standards; sidewalk capacity has doubled, and bike lanes have been added. Ms. Lopez added that Mr. Seitz had made additional recommendations, including improving the bridge by painting or tiling the walls.

### **IV. Update on Toilets**

Mr. Hicks indicated that more information has to be provided to the City Commission in this regard. Chair Lee stated they all “want the toilets to work” and to make sure people know about them. She added that concerns have been expressed regarding the three-minute time limitation. Mr. Prizlee stated they are waiting to hear back from the consultant on different styles and will then go before the DRC to find out what other requirements there may be. Chair Lee wanted to ensure that the Board remains involved in the design process. It is anticipated designing will begin in the fall and at that time a conference/presentation meeting will be held.

### **V. Update on BID**

It was reported by Mr. Hicks that the contractor started on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Workers are wearing orange vests as there are no uniforms yet; they have been working from 10am to 10pm every day with the first pressure washing on the west side of A1A having been completed. Mr. Hicks pointed out that the system being used “disintegrates the gum right off the sidewalk in a matter of seconds.” A bit of oily residue remains, but can be removed without using chemicals.

With regard to the BID Committee, the City Commission had accepted the suggestion that a choice be made from seven of the top ten assessed properties.

Mr. Hicks then expects passing of the resolution and Board appointments, although the City Commission has asked for resumes from potential appointees.

## **VI. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

### Old Business

Chair Lee announced that Mr. Hicks would be leaving the City. She stated that Mr. Hicks has been an ardent beach supporter, not only for the Board, but all beach-related matters. She asked for status regarding a new director and was advised by Mr. Hicks that the BID Director would be left up to the Committee as a system needs to first be put in place. Decisions have to be made whether they want to include in a future budget the hiring of a BID Director, as well as if they want to have special events, pay for fireworks and banners, etc.

Resumes have been received for CRA and Economic Development Directors; it was Mr. Hicks' hope the selections would be made prior to his departure.

Chair Lee asked who, in Mr. Hicks' absence, would have the best "handle on the budget" and was advised by Mr. Hicks that budget information is maintained by Public Works, the City Treasurer, and the Finance Department.

Chair Lee requested that their budget discussions be placed on the next meeting agenda. It was noted that any changes to the Capital Improvement Plan should be done by Board resolution to the City Commission.

Chair Lee distributed to the Board recommendations to the DOT for spending the \$3 million obtained after the loss of the 3-plus-2.

Mr. Prizlee stated that Commissioner Rodstrom had gone to the DOT "picking apart" the original JPA with the 3-plus-2; three items were decided upon which the DOT okayed for transportation-related development with a promise of considering for funding (without determining a dollar amount). One item was transit enhancements such as trolley stops. An inventory of current bus stops, water taxis, and trolley stops was provided and a recommendation was made to add kiosks at water and trolley stop locations. Twenty-four kiosks would cost approximately \$300,000 for bus, water taxi, and trolley locations. The second item would be for beach lighting, adding shielding to make them "turtle compliant." Options are to put roadway lighting where there are existing lights, or light solely the intersections and crosswalks with appropriate pedestrian lighting. The third item was to try to eliminate congestion at the south beach lot, adding a new entrance at the south end of the lot (Harbor Drive intersection) to eliminate

roadway backup. They also propose to eliminate the gates and put up self-pay meters to create additional traffic flow. Mr. Prizlee did not know how long it would take for a decision to be made.

Chair Lee inquired regarding the status of making 5<sup>th</sup> Street two-way. Mr. Hicks suggested waiting for the consultant's report on available options.

With regard to the Aquatics Complex, Mr. Hicks indicated a request for a feasibility study will be going before the City Commission in July. Chair Lee requested she be kept fully apprised on that subject.

Chair Lee asked regarding the status of developments subsequent to their beach tour and items to be fixed. Mr. Prizlee explained that between the Air & Sea Show and other pending projects, they have not had an opportunity to address those issues. Chair Lee requested that item be placed on their next agenda for further discussion.

Mr. Piedra provided an update on the Hotel Disaster Committee meeting reporting that several newly opened properties have joined. During the meeting, ID cards for staff access, the radio system, and TV and radio communication systems for the hotels were reviewed. The form for ID cards and hanging tags was distributed to each hotel in order to obtain an updated list to be sent to the Fort Lauderdale Police Department. The Committee will be following up to see how many have come in and send out reminders if necessary. Once all cards have been put together, another meeting will be scheduled. The Central Beach Alliance will be working with the condominiums. Mr. Piedra noted that hotel size determined distribution of the access cards.

Ms. Sher felt that condominium managers should be given priority access back to the beach areas and that each condominium should have a place such as the fire or police department, to submit the name of a person to be allowed access. Chair Lee agreed a similar program to that implemented by the hotels should be put in place. She added that until a building fills out the required form for the City as well as a template, no passes should be provided.

Mr. Seitz inquired regarding the A1A greenway, expressing concern regarding having wide, safe pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Chair Lee stated that matter had been previously discussed, although she allowed Mr. Seitz to make a brief presentation. Photographs of impediments such as trees, ramps, trash receptacle, etc., were shown with Mr. Seitz explaining there are 155 impediments between Sunrise Boulevard and the Clay Shaw Bridge on the southbound side of A1A. He stated he could not think of anything "dumber" than having \$5,000 flood

lit trees sitting in the middle of a sidewalk as it is not user-friendly. He suggested a redesign with different symmetry. Mr. Seitz stated a dangerous situation has been created and is a “complete fiasco, a screw-up.” Chair Lee proposed that Mr. Seitz put his recommendations in writing. He stated he has done so and has forwarded copies to Ms. Smith, the City Commission, and the City Manager.

### New Business

- Ms. Smith mentioned three lanes on Birch Road, two of which are closed (for construction work on a nearby pink, historical building), only permitting northbound travel, and this should not be allowed. Ms. Scher agreed that travel is difficult due to the lane closures. Mr. Hicks suggested having a City engineer inspect the area.
- Mr. Hicks briefly discussed the revisions being discussed in Tallahassee with regard to tax and insurance relief. He stated as a result, services could be cut back drastically, as well as the elimination of CRAs. He expressed his hope that the legislature will carefully consider the impact of their decision on municipalities. He asked that the Board remain aware of and voice their opinion to their elected officials regarding this matter. Chair Lee added that any decision could also affect the City’s Capital Improvement Program. Chair Lee, mentioning a *Miami Herald* front page story, noted the absence of information pertaining to the potential impact on Fort Lauderdale. She stated they would fight for the CRAs and Capital Improvement Program, suggesting projects start now so they can’t be abolished.
- Chair Lee asked if the Board could be provided with the actual wording for the A1A and Las Olas parking lot restrictions, a copy of which Mr. Prizlee then provided.
- Mr. Hicks noted there is an opportunity to increase parking near Las Olas and A1A. He supported adding activity in terms of public space, such as opening a promenade, or changing the design to include a restaurant or retail, and keeping the structure low to maintain the view, although this matter could only be changed by referendum. It was Mr. Hicks’ opinion that the public would not want a four-story parking garage at that location, proposing that the Board give the area further consideration.

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**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.