

APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE
BEACH REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2007 – 2:30 P.M.
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
100 North Andrews Avenue
8th Floor Conference Room

Cumulative
Feb 2007 – Jan 2008

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Ina Lee, Chair	P	7	0
Eileen Helfer	P	6	1
Miranda Lopez	P	6	1
Carlos Molinet	A (vacation)	6	1
Amaury Piedra (arrived 2:48 p.m.)	P	5	2
Judy Scher	A	6	1
Shirley Smith	P	7	0
Henry Sniezek	P	4	3
Aiton Yaari	P	4	3
Karen Turner (New)	P	1	0

Staff and Guests

Jeff Modarelli, Director, Economic Development
Earl Prizlee, Engineering Design Manager
Karen Reese, Economic Development
Silver Lee, Secretary, Beach CRA
Alexandra Grant, Recording Clerk, Prototype, Inc.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

Following roll call, Chair Lee welcomed new Board member, Karen Turner. Ms. Turner introduced herself to the Board and spoke of her background and qualifications.

II. Approval of July 16, 2007 Minutes

Motion made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mr. Yaari, to approve the July 16, 2007 minutes. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

III. Emergency Preparedness Update

Chair Lee introduced staff member Erin Mohres, Assistant to the City Manager and head of emergency preparedness for the City. Chair Lee spoke of the Board's early efforts to address emergency preparedness for the beach communities. She advised that the Board had started a hotel and condominium emergency preparedness initiative.

Ms. Mohres reported that she and Amaury Piedra, along with Mr. Modarelli, were planning to make the City's role in hotel preparedness tighter than it had been in the past.

With regard to the condo initiative, Ms. Mohres reported this is going extremely well. She stated that Freddie Zoaya, a new staff member assigned to focus on emergency management who was visiting condos door to door in the beach area, to compile records for staff. She stated staff has many plans in progress and added that several other cities are requesting the template of the City's emergency response plans to use in their practices and procedures.

Chair Lee commented that since this Board got this initiative started, the Central Beach Alliance play the main role in this regard. She also expressed her desire to be involved in talks to further the hotel initiative.

Chair Lee spoke of a problem in the machinery that issues passes to beach hotel employees. Russ Hanstein, City Police Department, stated the machinery is old and he hoped to have these passes distributed by the end of the week.

Chair Lee commented that this is a good time to call together the initial group that discussed this initiative, issue them passes and then discuss the next move in working together. She added that the hotel portion has not been tested yet. Chair Lee advised that the condos have been asking for a similar pass system to get their key manager back on to the beach.

Ms. Smith stated there are more condos on the beach than hotels; she felt it is important for condo residents to get several passes to get back into the condominiums.

Ms. Mohres stated there is some confusion about the use of the pass program. She explained this program is not to be used regularly at all; if the police and fire departments deemed it unsafe, no one will be allowed to re-enter the beaches regardless of the pass system. The idea of using the pass system is not to get businesses running again quickly, but to use the hotels to house emergency responders and homeless individuals.

Ms. Smith voiced concern about restoring security on the beach as soon as possible after a storm.

Ms. Turner spoke of the inconvenience of not being able to re-enter the beach. She suggested that the police department display signage just before the Intracoastal bridge, to warn residents they will not be able to re-enter the beach.

Ms. Helfer suggested placing notices in the elevators of condo buildings advising residents that once they leave the beach, they will not be able to return.

Chair Lee thanked Ms. Mohres and the police department for their efforts; she requested that Ms. Mohres stay in close touch with Steve and Ms. Smith regarding matters concerning condominiums.

IV. New CRA Director Search Update

With regard to the new CRA director search, Mr. Modarelli advised this remains a big priority. He reported that the City has expanded the search and resources to include advertising in public administration journals and similar periodicals. He added that applications are being reviewed as they come in.

V. Budget Update

Mr. Modarelli distributed copies of the CRA budget and provided a brief summary of the contents. He advised that this is a 5-year budget to go along with the CIP.

Mr. Modarelli summarized anticipated revenues.

Chair Lee commented that there is less money going into the next year's budget due to cutbacks in funding from Tallahassee.

Mr. Modarelli advised that \$960,993.00 is anticipated to roll over to the beginning of next year as unprogrammed funds. He stressed that some of these numbers are not fixed and can change over time.

Ms. Smith commented that there are at least 40 to 50 parking spaces in front of the "W" that have been there that can not be used for the beach and each meter brings in approximately \$3500 a month. It has been years that the spaces were not able to be used, and that it will end up being \$500,000 dollars or more. If we do other projects with large buildings, we will have to account for the parking spaces that are loss and it's not right.

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Chair Lee asked when the Board could receive an estimate on revenues anticipated from the Courtyard Marriott, St. Regis and Las Olas Beach Club for the 08-09 budget. Mr. Modarelli indicated he would look into this and report back to the Board.

Mr. Modarelli advised that CRA funds could not be used to pay for transformers and added that this will be discussed at the next Beach Business Improvement District meeting. Chair Lee questioned why transformers are not considered a capital improvement. In response, Mr. Modarelli stated he is unsure of the reason for this.

Mr. Modarelli summarized expenditures outlined on the budget. He advised that notices regarding the next fiscal year will start coming out as of October 1.

Chair Lee asked whether funds that may not be needed for the aquatic complex would keep rolling over. In response, Mr. Modarelli said he would look into this. He also spoke of a feasibility study on redeveloping the aquatic complex to further position the City as a world class destination. He advised this is going before the Commission in October.

Chair Lee expressed the Board's desire to be involved in all efforts concerning redeveloping the aquatic complex because of the Board's financial interests.

Motion by Ms. Helfer, seconded by Mr. Piedra, to approve the budget as presented. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Streetscape Replanting Update – Earl Prizlee, Director, Economic Development

Mr. Prizlee drew the Board's attention to a diagram and explained the different phases of the entire beach CRA area.

Chair Lee asked whether the streetscape replanting was completed. Mr. Prizlee advised work is not yet complete and that there is a warranty period with the contractor. Mr. Prizlee advised that this project is being handled by Planning and Zoning.

Ms. Lopez commented that there is a need for more shade in this area. Mr. Prizlee agreed but stated it is a challenge to find trees that will be salt tolerant and provide abundant shade. He explained that due to DOT requirements, there is also a limit to the diameter of tree trunks that can be used.

Ms. Turner asked what trees are being planted. In response, Mr. Prizlee advised coconut trees will be planted. He added that the City made a commitment to have maintenance staff regularly clear up coconuts that fall.

VII. Old/New Business

▪ Beach Walk Upgrades Update

Chair Lee commented that the beach cleaning contractor, Prizm, does not deal with the area between A1A and the bridge. She pointed out that this area is the most visible part of the City's beach. Chair Lee asked who is responsible for maintaining this area and how this Board can ensure it remains the most pristine.

Mr. Prizlee advised this is a DOT right-of-way. Mr. Modarelli explained this is a City maintained right-of-way. He agreed this area requires attention and advised that staff is working on this.

Ms. Turner commented on the dirty appearance of the actual concrete on the streets along the beach. Mr. Modarelli spoke of the dramatic improvement in the appearance of the sidewalks on the west side of A1A after they are power washed by Prizm.

Mr. Modarelli advised that staff is compiling a list of concerns discovered during a recent CRA area beach walk.

Chair Lee asked if monies can be taken from the 07-08 budget that have not been programmed and allocated to pay for items that are not funded under Parks and Recreation. In response, Mr. Modarelli said this has to go through the City Manager and staff. He indicated he would look into this and report back to the Board.

Chair Lee requested an update on all projects in the 07-08 budget along with their relevant timelines.

The question was raised as to why the City could pay for turtle lighting and not for transformers. Mr. Modarelli indicated he will look into this. Chair Lee again voiced her concern that this is not considered a capital improvement.

Mr. Yaari asked if there is a way to be updated monthly on any activity related to the master plan. In response, Mr. Modarelli suggested the best way to remain updated is to attend the master planning sessions.

Motion by Ms. Helfer, seconded by Ms. Smith, to adjourn. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.