

APPROVED
MINUTES
BEACH REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
100 North Andrews Avenue
8th Floor Conference Room
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2007 – 2:30 P.M.

Board Members	Attendance	Cumulative	
		Feb 2007 – Jan 2008 Present	Absent
Ina Lee, Chair	P	10	0
Shirley Smith	P	10	0
Eileen Helfer	P	9	1
Miranda Lopez	A	8	2
Carlos Molinet	A	8	2
Judy Scher	P	8	2
Amaury Piedra (arrived 2:36 p.m.)	P	7	3
Aiton Yaari	P	7	3
Henry Sniezek	A	6	4
Karen Turner	A	3	1

Staff and Guests

Jeff Modarelli, Director, Economic Development
Lindwell Bradley, Code Enforcement
Earl Prizlee, Engineering Design Manager
Silver Lee Hodge, Secretary, Beach CRA
Tom Harrington, FLPD
Don Morris, Beach CRA Director
Mario Sotolongo, Code Enforcement
Karen Reese, ED Development
Albert Carbon, Public Works Director
John Hoelzle, Parking & Fleet Services Director
Hilda Testa, Recording Clerk, Prototype, Inc.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

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

II. Approval of October 15, 2007 Minutes

As there were no corrections to the October 15, 2007 minutes, they were approved as distributed.

III. Code Process of Commercial and Private Properties

Mr. Bradley, Code Supervisor for the City of Fort Lauderdale, provided a handout regarding vacant lots and commercial properties. Mr. Bradley advised the Board on the following requirements for beach lots:

- Vacant lots are required to have some type of ground cover. The lots are not to be used for unintended purposes, such as parking vehicles.
- Commercial construction lots are required to have free and clear walkways. The lots must be surrounded by boundaries.

Chair Lee asked for clarification on lots prior to the beginning of construction. Mr. Bradley verified the lot needed to have some type of ground cover, and fences and wind screens must be maintained and repaired. Chair Lee requested instruction on the procedures for enforcement. Mr. Bradley stated there is a procedure to request lot owners to maintain their property. If the owner does not comply, the owner would be brought before a Code Board or a Special Magistrate. Mr. Bradley explained the process for opening a case file on code enforcement issues, and the process for keeping those files updated.

Ms. Smith lodged a complaint with Mr. Bradley regarding the condition of the City's beach property. Mr. Yaari asked how long an owner has to put in grass and fencing after construction is started. Mr. Bradley stated the process starts as soon as the owner requests a construction or building permit.

Mr. Modarelli advised the Board that he had spoken to the owner of the property across from the Hall of Fame, and the owner will be working to clean and maintain the property. Chair Lee noted she was pleased with the process being used to work with the property owner, but emphasized that, in the future, the process should be implemented sooner and not allow the properties to become so run down.

Ms. Scher brought up the Bermudian property, which is empty and locked up, and asked the process for notifying the adjoining property owners of upcoming demolition. Mr. Bradley admitted there is no notification required to other property owners. In response to Ms. Helfer's question about allowed construction hours, Mr. Bradley stated that the noise ordinance states construction is allowed from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Bradley added construction could begin earlier than 8:00 a.m. if there is no noise disturbance.

Mr. Modarelli, Director of Economic Development, announced the selection of Beach CRA Director, Don Morris, beginning December 2, 2007. Mr. Modarelli introduced Mr. Morris to the Board. Mr. Morris gave a brief description of his work history with the City.

Mr. Morris discussed the construction of the Galleria Mall, and explained that the Galleria owners had done a great job maintaining their property during the construction process.

IV. Plant Restoration

Chair Lee explained the problem of sand and wind damage to the plants on beachfront property. Chair Lee requested an update from Mr. Modarelli, as no one was present from the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Modarelli expressed disappointment in the conditions left by the storm, and praised the Parks and Recreation Department for their work in repairing the area. Mr. Modarelli admitted work is still needed. Mr. Modarelli promised a representative would be available at the next meeting to provide a timeline for completion of the clean up.

V. Fiber Optic Update

Chair Lee asserted the fiber optic issue was the most important agenda item the Board was considering. Mr. Carbon introduced himself, and advised the Board there are 112 illuminators in the wall. Mr. Carbon explained 37 of the illuminators had been taken down and replaced. He also provided a brief history of the installation and the process for maintenance of the fiber optic illuminators, emphasizing there is a six to eight week turnaround for replacement. Mr. Carbon advised a technical representative from the company would be coming in December or January to provide assistance in extending the life of the fiber optics.

Mr. Carbon noted the company is working on an enhanced illuminator, which is being tested by the Navy and may be available in the future. Mr. Carbon stated the company was working to reduce the six to eight week turnaround to two to three weeks. The company has also promised four spare units to be kept in a rotating stock.

Mr. Carbon advised the maintenance to the unit actually required is about 40 hours every month compared to the manufacturer's suggested once every six month maintenance. Mr. Carbon added additional maintenance is planned for the fiber optic cable, which is starting to fail in two areas.

Mr. Modarelli requested more information on the "more robust" system mentioned, and asked if the newer system would allow for more than one color light. Mr. Carbon stated there are no details available yet, as it is not a manufacturer approved, UL rated unit. It is being developed, but is not yet available.

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Chair Lee noted that she, Ms. Smith, and Ms. Helfer had been present on the Board at the time the fiber optic unit was originally purchased. The purchase had been a joint project between the Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board and the private sector. The total purchase was over \$400,000, with \$200,000 coming from CRA, and \$200,000 from the private sector.

Chair Lee emphasized the manufacturer had assured the Board that although these lights were a new technology there would be no problems. Chair Lee asserted it was now three years later, and obviously the lights are not working as promised. She added there were few legal avenues that could be pursued due to the way the contract had been written. Chair Lee asked for reasons why the lights were not as promised, and what options the Board had to clear this up before the two year warranty period expires.

Mr. Carbon noted the original lights were installed in 1999 and failed almost immediately. In 2003, units were pilot tested and the units successfully tested were installed, with a five year warranty negotiated with the manufacturer. Mr. Carbon reported the current system is not as bad as the first system, but is still not working as promised. The units cost between \$740 and \$800 each, and the fiber optic cable is \$4 per foot; there is a total of 112 units in place.

Chair Lee pointed out the PR considerations to the manufacturer since they have not met their promises to the City, and suggested that aspect be pursued with the President of the company. Mr. Carbon assured the Board the issue was being pursued with the manufacturer, not just the local representatives.

Mr. Carbon explained the repair and replacement process for the illuminators. Chair Lee asked if the less visible ends of the display could be used to replace the more visible center of the display. Mr. Carbon affirmed the lights are continuous from the south end to Sebastian; north of there, the lighting is still spotty.

Chair Lee asked who was paying for the maintenance over and above the manufacturer's suggested six month maintenance. Mr. Carbon stated the repairs are coming from the City's facility maintenance budget.

Ms. Scher asked if the manufacturer has remained the same since 1999. Mr. Carbon admitted he was unsure, and agreed to track the manufacturing history. Ms. Scher suggested switching to another manufacturer if the current one was unable to provide adequate service. Mr. Carbon assured the Board the warranty, original contract, and legal options were being reviewed by the City Attorney. Mr. Molinet suggested the repair down time also be reworked if a new contract is written.

Chair Lee requested the fiber optics be an ongoing agenda item until some resolution is reached.

VI. Change of January 21, 2008 Meeting Date (MLK Day)

Mr. Modarelli announced the regular meeting date, January 21st, would be Martin Luther King Day, and the City staff would not be working that day.

Motion made by Ms. Scher, seconded by Mr. Piedra, to move the January meeting to January 28, 2008. In a voice vote, all voted unanimously in favor.

Chair Lee advised that \$200,000 had been paid by the Board for the Master Planning Meeting, noting the next public meeting is planned for February 8, 2008. Chair Lee suggested the December meeting be used for the Master Planning people to make a presentation to the Board.

Mr. Modarelli stated the people involved in the Master Planning Meeting would be in town December 18th to the 20th, but were not planning to present to the Board until January or February. Chair Lee felt it was critical that presentations are made and input received from the Board.

Chair Lee requested the presentation be made to the Board at the December 17th or January 28th meeting. Chair Lee expressed concern that waiting until the January meeting would not provide adequate time for the Board's input to be added to the final presentation. Mr. Modarelli agreed to advise the Board if a presentation could be made at the December 17, 2007 meeting.

Mr. Prizlee gave the Board an explanation of the order of work for the Master Planning Meetings.

VII. Holiday Lights Update

Mr. Modarelli advised the holiday lights would be turned on at 6:00 p.m. on November 29, 2007, with the addition of the Sea Breeze corridor and Las Olas Blvd. this year.

Chair Lee added the event would actually begin at 5:30 p.m. at Trina's. Mr. Modarelli agreed to check on the status of the invitations being sent out by the Beach Council.

Chair Lee reminded Mr. Modarelli that 20% of the lights were not working properly last year; she requested testing be done before the event. Mr. Modarelli explained the lights could be tested, but there could still be problems between the test and the time the

lights were officially turned on for the event. Mr. Modarelli promised they would do all they could to make sure the lights were in working order prior to the event.

VIII. Old/New Business/CRA Director Update/Beach Walk Update

Mr. Prizlee provided the following for the Beach Walk Update:

- The plaster repair, paint, and spackling in the men's and women's restrooms have been completed.
- The General Manager of the Bahia Mar is planning to do clean up on the bridge.
- Mile markers have been replaced at every half mile on the beach by the wave wall.

Ms. Smith advised there is a large chunk missing from the new wave wall between Las Olas and the Sheraton.

Mr. Modarelli advised both short-term and long-term solutions were still being worked for the turtle lights. Ms. Helfer asked if the turtle signs could be taken down, and Mr. Modarelli agreed to check whether or not they could be removed.

Mr. Harrington from the Police Department advised three people had been stealing from cars along the Riverwalk. The burglars were identified and the robberies were isolated to these three people. Mr. Harrington stated juvenile suspects had also been identified in robberies at the beach, and those suspects have been apprehended.

Chair Lee expressed her appreciation to the Board members for their commitment to the beach.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.