

APPROVED
MINUTES
BEACH REDEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2008 – 2:30 P.M.

Board Members	Attendance	Cumulative	
		Feb 2008 – Jan 2009 Present	Absent
Ina Lee, Chair	P	2	0
Shirley Smith	P	2	0
Miranda Lopez	P	2	0
Carlos Molinet	A	1	1
Judy Scher	A	0	2
Amaury Piedra (arrived 2:42 p.m.)	P	2	0
Aiton Yaari	P	2	0
Henry Sniezek	P	2	0
Ramola Motwani	P	2	0
Jordana L. Jarjura	P	1	0

Staff and Guests

Christine Teel, City of Fort Lauderdale Commissioner
Don Morris, Beach CRA Director
Terry Rynard, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
Earl Prizlee, Engineering Design Manager, Beach CRA
Silver Lee Hodge, Secretary, Beach CRA
Karen Reese, ED Development Representative
Captain Victor London, Fort Lauderdale Police Department
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 2:30 p.m. The Recording Secretary called roll and a quorum was present. Chair Lee invited the newest Board Member, Jordana Jarjura, to introduce herself and present her background to the Board.

Ms. Jarjura stated she was appointed by Commissioner Teel and advised the Board of her schooling and employment.

II. Approval of January 31, 2008 and February 18, 2008 Minutes

Chair Lee advised there were two sets of minutes to approve. As the minutes were previously distributed to all Board Members, Chair Lee asked if there were any corrections to the minutes; hearing none, the minutes were approved as distributed.

III. Beach CRA Five-Year Budget Update and Approved CIP Projects

Mr. Morris advised the Five Year CIP Budget had been approved. Mr. Prizlee was asked to go over the projects currently being implemented.

Mr. Prizlee briefly discussed the new Aquatics Center and the funding currently in place. The CRA initially placed \$1 million into the account and continues to save for the project. Chair Lee asked the length of the CRA and Mr. Morris stated it would continue until the year 2019. The projected monetary contribution to the Aquatics Center is estimated at \$17.7 million.

Mr. Morris stated that the Beach CRA is the entity responsible for putting together the projects and the City Finance Department manages the money. Mr. Morris did not feel comfortable projecting the estimated input to the CRA from the St. Regis Hotel, Courtyard by Marriott, and Las Olas Beach Club. By the end of the fiscal year, those numbers should be available for review.

In addition to the Aquatics Center, the Streetscape Phase 1B includes the improvements not completed in the first phase. Mr. Morris advised the focus would be on the Beach Master Plan and the individual projects the Beach Master Plan encompasses.

Chair Lee expressed her concern in not having control over the funds allocated to the CRA each year and the five-year projected dollars. A large portion of the funds went into the Capital Improvement Programs generated by the City within the CRA District. The Board was not consulted with regard to the allocation of these funds. Chair Lee stated that as the projects move forward, the Board would like to ability to make recommendations to the City Commission regarding the use of those funds.

Chair Lee also stated that the projected funds generated by the St. Regis Hotel, Las Olas Beach Club, and the Courtyard by Marriott would need to be known by the Board in order to present the City Commission with their recommendations for the upcoming budget in June.

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Mr. Prizlee explained the distribution of the CRA funds for beach improvements. The Year Two Requests include funding for the turtle lighting, pavers, trash receptacles, signage, playground equipment, coconut trees, and the Sebastian Street Garage study.

Ms. Rynard explained the need for the turtle lights, as there were over 200 nests on Fort Lauderdale Beach last year. Studies from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Department realized fewer losses of baby turtles when the nest sites were not disturbed by relocation to the south beach area. Dr. Robin Trindell, the State Biologist, is the contact for the City with regard to education of the requirement of the sea turtles.

Chair Lee asked how the turtle lights are funded outside of the CRA area. Mr. Prizlee advised the City is seeking grants and dollars from the general fund. If the costs for the turtle lighting within the CRA district exceeds the budgeted amount, an additional project application would be submitted.

Mr. Yaari asked why the CRA dollars are being used for turtle lighting within the CRA District when the turtle lighting in other areas of the beach is being funded by grant dollars and general funds. Mr. Morris explained that, historically, the CRA fund has always assisted with capital improvements within the CRA District.

IV. Status of Parks & Rec CIP Purchases

Photographs of the completed playground, constructed to memorialize six City employees were presented by Ms. Rynard; the approximate cost will be \$60,000.00.

Chair Lee felt the City could do a better job of publicizing the victories of the CRA and inquired as to whether there were plans for some type of ceremony or presentation. Chair Lee suggested the PIO put together a celebratory ceremony, and invite the City Commissioners and the press to present this memorial to the residents of Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Rynard reported that final designs for the signage have not yet been completed. The purchase of the coconut palm trees have been put on hold as the State of Florida has advised the City that they have a preference with regard to the type of trees being planted on the beach. The City continues to work with the State on this issue. The Parks Department was able to purchase a crawler to assist with the trimming of the coconuts on the trees resulting in less obstruction of the traffic lanes and sidewalk areas.

Chair Lee stated the signage on the beach could be worded in a more positive fashion to welcome guests to Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Morris advised the City is working on a cohesive signage package for the Fort Lauderdale area and a proposal will be

forthcoming. Chair Lee suggested using the word “please” when determining the verbiage for signs on the beach.

Mr. Yaari stated he has seen many drivers circling the parking areas looking for empty parking spots instead of going to other parking lots. He felt signage advising patrons of other lots would be helpful. Mr. Morris informed the Board of the proposal to remove the gate arms at the south beach parking lot in an effort to reduce the number of cars waiting at the entrance.

Mr. Yaari inquired as to why some parking lots are open until 2:00 a.m. and others allow parking until 4:00 a.m. Many patrons are having their cars towed due to confusion regarding the different time limit for parking. Mr. Hoelyle advised the earlier parking times were a directive from the City Commission as a result of complaints from residents.

**V. Fort Lauderdale Beach Police Report
Spring Break Plans Update**

Captain Victor London reported there had been a noticeable increase in the amount of students visiting the beach, noting however, that the behavior of those students had been exemplary. Crime in the beach area has been limited to small robberies and items being taken out of hotel rooms with no forced entries.

Chair Lee asked regarding the percentage of violations occurring by local students verses out-of-town students. Captain London stated most of the students at the beach have been local and only this past week has he seen an influx of out-of-town students.

The Board reported they are seeing an adequate amount of police presence and the cleanliness of the beaches has improved. Ms. Lopez suggested educating the pedestrians on safer street crossing. Captain London advised there are Safety Aides out on weekends to assist in this area.

VI. Old/New Business and Beach Walk Update

Chair Lee would like to review the items of last year’s beach walk that were not addressed and schedule a new beach walk. Mr. Morris stated he would make an effort to produce the beach walk list from last year for reference.

The BRAB will meet next month at the Hall of Fame and conduct the beach walk instead of meeting at City Hall. Chair Lee felt this would be a good opportunity to inaugurate the new beach playground equipment.

VII. Elections of Officers

Motion made by Mr. Yaari, seconded by Mr. Sniezak, to reelect Ina Lee as Chair. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Lee stated she was felt very proud and was privileged to be involved with a Board that is as productive as this Board has been.

Motion made by Ms Motwani, seconded Mr. Sniezak, to elect Aiton Yaari as Vice Chair. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

No old business or new business was discussed.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by H. Testa, Prototype, Inc.]