

APPROVED

**BEACH REDEVELOPMENT BOARD
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014 – 2:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS	FEB 2013/JAN 2014				
		REGULAR MTGS		SPECIAL MTGS	
		Present	Absent	Present	Absent
Bradley Deckelbaum, Chair	P	9	0	0	0
Anthony Abbate, Vice Chair	P	8	1	0	0
Jordana L. Jarjura	A	7	2	0	0
Ina Lee	P	8	1	0	0
Dan Matchette	P	9	0	0	0
Melissa Milroy	P	7	2	0	0
Judith Scher	P	8	1	0	0
Tim Schiavone	P	5	4	0	0
Andy Mitchell, Jr.	P	5	2	0	0
Shirley Smith	P	4	0	0	0

Staff

Don Morris, Economic Reinvestment Administrator
Eileen Furedi, Clerk II
Lisa Edmondson, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to the City Commission

None.

I. Call to Order/Roll Call – Bradley Deckelbaum, Chairperson

Chair Deckelbaum called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

• Quorum Requirement

As of this date there were 10 appointed members to the Board, which means 6 would constitute a quorum. It was noted there was a quorum at the commencement of the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes November 18, 2013 - Bradley Deckelbaum, Chairperson

Motion by Ms. Lee, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2013, meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

III. Police Department Update for the Beach - Captain Wheeler, Police Department

Mr. Morris said concerns have been raised about Beach Place being put under the jurisdiction of the Nuisance Abatement, plus security issues on the beach in general.

Mr. Mitchell reported that he has had numerous conversations with businesses and families about the beach. He said that issues on the north end of the beach have been successfully addressed by the Police Department.

Captain Wheeler reported that organized crime had been involved in criminal activity, such as drug sales, at Beach Place. That activity, plus trafficking, has been cleared up. He added that people may not see a uniformed police presence there, because this activity was being investigated on a different level. The Neighborhood Action Team will be monitoring activity several nights a week. Captain Wheeler continued that, although they have conducted early morning beach sweeps, they were not very productive; they will be resumed when the weather warms up. In addition, they will have a decoy operation along with undercover personnel.

Captain Wheeler stated that investigations are ongoing around the Covenant House location. He also commented that the police are aware of activities in the area around the three motels being renovated on Bayshore Boulevard (near Birch); he said that if someone sees suspicious activity there, they should call the police.

Mr. Mitchell recommended monthly police updates since there is a negative impact of crime in the area on tourists. He stated that tourists have left after one night because they did not feel safe.

Captain Wheeler mentioned that low lighting on the beach does not seem to affect the criminal activity; however, increased lighting would be helpful.

Ms. Lee requested an update on the beach lighting.

Chair Deckelbaum thought it was a resource drain to have monthly police reports, and suggested less frequent reports. He also thought it would be better to let the groups that are already dealing with the Beach Place continue, so that Beach Place does not become overwhelmed.

Major Michael Gregory, Police Operations, agreed that most residents and tourists think the beach is too dark. The crime numbers are not conclusive on the relationship between crime and lighting; however, there is fear. Regarding Beach Place, Major Gregory clarified that the drug dealers were not employees of Beach Place. The arrests were made for crimes that were committed on the property itself, even though the arrests may have occurred elsewhere. He added that Beach Place has been very

cooperative with the police, and described the steps they have taken to abide by the rulings of the Nuisance Abatement Board. Major Gregory reported that incident calls to Beach Place are down significantly.

Regarding Memorial Day, the owner of Beach Place has made some security staff changes. Major Gregory also noted that the police are incorporating items into their Spring Break Action Plan at Beach Place and South Beach.

Major Gregory stated that they would attend meetings when possible to provide updates, and they will send reports when they cannot attend. He said the police appreciate feedback from the community and business owners.

Mr. Morris remarked it is part of the City Parks and Recreation Department's budget to clean the beach during spring break, and the BID has identified peak periods to help.

Mr. Morris also mentioned that it is a privilege to belong to the Entertainment District and that the possibility of being decertified would be an incentive on the part of the Beach Place to keep the area cleaned up. Major Gregory said that was true, but they would hope to work with them to avoid that scenario.

IV. Update on Master Plan Contract Negotiations - Donald Morris, Economic Reinvestment Administrator

Mr. Morris reported that the City anticipates the EDSA contract will be approved on February 4, 2014, and the Kimberly Horn contract should be approved on February 18, 2014. As designs materialize, Mr. Morris said they would begin bringing them to this group.

Mr. Morris continued that they are still working with the Aquatics Complex and the renderings are "very nice."

Regarding the Alhambra parking lot, Mr. Morris reported that they are in discussions with the condominium association, and renderings for the garage green roof should be going to the City Commission on March 4, 2014. He said they are looking at several different scenarios.

Mr. Morris stated that they are looking to bring EDSA on board under an existing contract to begin looking at proposed uses for D.C. Alexander Park. That item is hopefully going to the City Commission also on March 4. If the City Commission is satisfied with some of the proposals, it will come back to the BRAB for details.

There was a discussion about how to get the "big picture," how to make the master plan projects more understandable for the layman, and how to coordinate all the little details involved. Highlights of this discussion included the following:

- Need for an "urban curator" to oversee the projects

- Difficulty connecting the private and the public aspects of the projects
- The Master Plan is very involved
- The Central Beach Master Plan Public Improvement portion was approved by the City Commission about four years ago
- Other parts of the Master Plan included recommendations on changes to the United Land Development Regulations (ULDR)
 - These have not yet been approved by the City Commission
- Have a consultant like the DDA did to coordinate the public and private sectors during development

Chair Deckelbaum mentioned this was his last meeting and expressed his appreciation to the Board. He urged the Board to be mindful of the approaching sunset of the CRA and work diligently towards fulfilling the few signature projects (Oceanside Plaza, D.C. Alexander Park, Intracoastal Waterway project). Chair Deckelbaum's service to the Board was acknowledged with gratitude.

Mr. Morris commented that the beach needs the same kind of flexibility that the Downtown master plan had. If that is possible, it would help ensure that everything meshes together.

Ms. Lee was curious what Mr. Morris would advise the Board to do to push everything forward in a timely manner. Mr. Morris pointed out the following:

- Even though the CRA area is narrowly focused, also look at the entire beach
- Right now, the City is focused on hiring a Project Manager to work on the projects
- Having an urban curator would have to be outside the role of the CRA for the following reasons:
 - They would be aware of everything that happens on the beach
 - They would coordinate with the different departments who do different projects on the beach
 - The request would have to go to the City Commission
- First priority is to get EDSA on board, then revisit the idea of getting an urban curator

Mr. Abbate stated it is important to protect their investment, and at a minimum, they need an advocate.

Chair Deckelbaum offered the following advice:

- 1) There are challenges that are doable and not - try not to get involved with private zoning on the beach;
- 2) The Sasaki report was far better on public improvements than private, and not a good foundation for zoning changes.

V. Communications to City Commission

None.

VI. Old/New Business

Ms. Lee pointed out that Pompano Beach is suing the County to extend the length of their CRA, and she felt the BRAB should ask the City Commission for an update on what they are doing in regards to the CRA legally. Mr. Morris stated that Pompano's enabling resolution has different language than Fort Lauderdale's - they are a full authority CRA; and their contention is that they can make decisions on extending their CRA without County approval.

Discussion ensued on what course of action to take, including pushing for extending the time for the CRA, and going for more time to spend the money rather than more time to collect more money.

Mr. Abbate brought up a point in the previous minutes about revisiting the September 16, 2013, minutes; Mr. Morris said they are still addressing that matter. He said the September minutes will be brought back at the next meeting.

Hearing no further business, Chair Deckelbaum adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by J. Rubin, Prototype, Inc.]