

APPROVED

**BEACH REDEVELOPMENT BOARD
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2014 - 2:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS	FEB 2014/JAN 2015				
	REGULAR MTGS		SPECIAL MTGS		
		Present	Absent	Present	Absent
Anthony Abbate, Chair	P	3	0	1	0
Ina Lee, Vice Chair	P	3	0	1	0
Thomas B. McManus	P	1	0	1	0
Dan Matchette	P	3	0	1	0
Melissa Milroy	P	2	1	1	0
Judith Scher	P	3	0	1	0
Tim Schiavone	P	3	0	1	0
Andy Mitchell, Jr.	A	2	1	1	0
Shirley Smith	P	3	0	1	0
Aiton Yaari	P	2	1	1	0

Staff

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

Guests and Presenters

Jeff Suiter, EDSA
Kelly Hitzing, EDSA

Communications to the City Commission

Motion made by Mr. Yaari, seconded by Mr. Matchette, to strongly recommend that the DC Alexander Public Park space is not a residual space, but an asset that has the potential to become an attractive destination with multi-use capability with universal access, and to function as an entrance and an icon for the beach to enhance our public investment and private investments surrounding the Park. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Schiavone, seconded by Ms. Milroy, that the Board requests that City Commission give great consideration to our Board before having a Conference discussion on any matter that would be or could be or is presently presented to our

Board before they make comment or decision, in the interest of the City's well-being. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

I. Call to Order/Roll Call – Anthony Abbate, Chair

Chair Abbate called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Chair Abbate reminded the Board of the parliamentary procedure for speaking during the meeting.

- **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

- **Regular Meeting / March 17, 2014 - Anthony Abbate, Chair**

Motion made by Ms. Scher, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2014, meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

III. Police Department Update - Lieutenant Schultz

Lieutenant Schultz provided the following update on Tortuga:

- Over 40,000 attendees
- Shuttles successful (used by 25% of people between water and land)
- No traffic complaints
- Strong pre-sale of tickets onsite for next year

Regarding the Memorial Day Weekend, Lieutenant Schultz announced all road construction will be held from Friday until Monday of the weekend, with as many lanes open as possible. For The Great American Beach Party, A1A will be closed by 6:30 a.m. on Saturday (May 24) until approximately midnight that same day. He advised vehicular traffic to avoid the area of East Las Olas in favor of Oakland Park Boulevard and Sunrise Boulevard.

Lieutenant Schultz continued they are more than doubling staff on the beach Friday through Monday of the holiday weekend (10 a.m. to 4 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and starting at 3 p.m. on Friday).

Vice Chair Lee recommended having a follow-up session with residents after Tortuga; Lieutenant Schultz stated that the Police would schedule the follow-up. Lieutenant Schultz said there would be both north- and south-end exits from Tortuga.

Vice Chair Lee asked for a status update on the beach in general on weekends. Lieutenant Schultz believed they had not had any recent issues at Beach Place, and said they had noticed improvement in general. She advised him of various incidents occurring at night and will send him particulars. Vice Chair Lee requested that a representative from the Police Department provide a report at the next Beach Council Meeting.

Lieutenant Schultz stated they will try to have the stage on the sand again this year for the Fourth of July so they can keep A1A open. Fireworks will be held.

IV. DC Alexander Park Proposed Renovations - Don Morris, Economic Reinvestment Administrator

Mr. Morris distributed copies of renderings of the hotel property to the south of DC Alexander Park that have been approved for the property to the south of DC Alexander Park, noting the plans will be changing. He then showed the Aquatics Complex 360 video. Discussion ensued regarding the particulars of the plans, with Mr. Morris pointing out an area for events. Also mentioned were:

- Have a welcome center outside parking garage
- Design is functional but not iconic - save former portion

Mr. Morris reminded the Board that this discussion should focus on how the Aquatics Complex will relate to design of DC Alexander Park. He pointed out that they cannot change the architecture at this point, as the Board has already recommended approval.

The following comments were given:

- Concept is good from an aerial view, but not so from the ground - the green space does not contribute to the design
- Want to see a full presentation on the Aquatics Center on the next agenda so they can have an in-depth conversation with RDC

Chair Abbate verified that the existing facility footprint is entirely on the west side of the pool.

Mr. Morris stated that this project has gone through the initial DRC meeting and has been given comments; next is the Planning and Zoning Board. He continued that having a presentation by RDC would provide helpful information to the Board, but probably no architectural changes could be made as a result. The grassy areas, however, could be changed. Mr. Morris clarified that the existing Wave building is not part of the development plans.

It was pointed out that the tourist public does not know they could use the existing pools, and it could draw people in. Mr. Matchette suggested utilizing the ground floor of the existing building for public uses such as visitor information. Mr. Morris commented

that the existing building does have challenges (leaks, etc.), but it could possibly be renovated.

Vice Chair Lee mentioned that the City Commission cited money as the reason for not being able to plan a more beautiful building. She suggested that if the Marina does not go through, perhaps that money could be used for an enhanced structure.

Mr. Morris showed the site plan of the hotel property to the south to the Board, noting that on the Coastal Construction Control Line, everything has to be elevated. He thought it would be very similar to some local hotels with steps going up to it. Furthermore, the setback is only about 10 feet, and developers are not going to change the footprint.

Jeff Suiter (EDSA) brought up the deed restriction on private uses, noting that uses have to be for the general public. Discussion ensued on what they could have, such as tables and chairs. Mr. Suiter clarified that the finished floor elevation is in the tidal zone and would not be habitable.

It was noted that the porte cochere is on the west side of the building, and vehicle lifts will be used for the cars to get into the garage.

Mr. Yaari remarked that there should be something appealing to look at to the east from the grandstands in the new facility. Mr. Suiter said that the features on the site plan will most likely be amplified to the front. Mr. Morris added that the developers are asking for changes to the building to provide walk-up restaurant facilities.

Mr. Morris further suggested that projecting movies onto the building wall might be feasible and provide a good alternative to using an inflatable screen on the beach. Mr. Matchette proposed a permanent LED screen on the building for showing movies, broadcasting events or updating traffic. Mr. Morris assured the Board it would not be a billboard, due to regulations; what would go there would be what is allowed by code.

Mr. Morris advised that the City Commission thought this proposal for the Park was "too expensive." They also discussed keeping it green, so that it could be used for events.

Ms. Milroy referred to a TED video sent out to the Board which showed an excellent example of what was done with a park in New York City that could be implemented at DC Alexander Park.

Vice Chair Lee summarized what the City Commission discussed regarding DC Alexander Park. She continued that if there is green space in the park it has to be a "happening place," or it will not be used.

[The following comments made by Mr. Yaari are reproduced here verbatim per Mr. Matchette's request.]

Excuse me Chair, I'm going to be a little harsh. Let's not even see your presentation today - sorry, no disrespect - because it's a waste of our time. We are all people that have valuable time here, and we're committing to the public. And, anyway, the Commission nixed it, so why do we even want to see it? Why do they even ask what we want and what we care, because they don't care what we say? As far as I'm concerned, this Board is a waste - and I'm sorry to have to be harsh, but I'll be the one with the big mouth because I have been sitting on this Board for way too long - it's a waste of our time and our energy because whatever we say is worthless, and I'm saying this so it will go to the public. No-one cares what we say, what money we're spending, what our opinion is - we're the Beach Redevelopment "Mock" Board, not Advisory Board, because it has no opinion, no issue and nothing. So, I think that we should send a strong communication to the City Commission that if this continues like this, let's just take this Board and flush it down the toilet. And the only reason they have this Board is because according to the rules of the CRA, they have to have an advisory board. But they really don't care what we say, what we're doing, what our opinion is, it's really a waste of time.

Mr. Matchette agreed with Mr. Yaari, noting that he expressed similar views at the last meeting. Ms. Scher stated that the City Commission dictated to this Board what can or cannot be done.

Mr. Schiavone felt it would be important to review how the City Commission has handled the Board's recommendations, and expressed apprehension about what might happen if this Board were abolished. He suggested asking the City Commission what the Board's purpose is.

Chair Abbate stated there was nothing new on the Plan, and the City Commission has already made an opinion on its scope; he did not want to waste any more of the Board's or consultant's time discussing it.

V. Communications to the City Commission

Discussion occurred about the content and wording for a Communication to the City Commission.

Mr. McManus said it is imperative that the City Commission watch the TED video.

Several members expressed the desire to have the space be used in a multipurpose fashion.

Motion made by Mr. Yaari, seconded by Mr. Matchette, to strongly recommend that the DC Alexander Public Park space is not a residual space, but an asset that has the potential to become an attractive destination with multi-use capability with universal

access, and to function as an entrance and an icon for the beach to enhance our public investment and private investments surrounding the Park.

Mr. Matchette reviewed the history of the projects, noting that the Board is “running in circles” because they do not have direction for the budget. He stated that they need direction from the City Commission as to what they want the Board to do with their money.

Mr. Morris stated some projects are in the design phase: Streetscape projects; A1A, all the way down to Sunrise Boulevard; and Almond Avenue. He said they will cut back on some materials (on Almond Avenue) to keep the cost down; he assured the Board it would still look nice. Mr. Morris continued that it is always possible to scale back the designs before the decision-making point is reached, and advised the Board that sometimes a project will not get done because another project takes precedence. At some point, they will have a much better idea of what costs they can bear for the projects.

Chair Abbate advised the Board to be clear on their goals, objectives, and priorities when making Communications to the City Commission and other motions so that they have more opportunity or “wiggle room” with regard to the projects.

Mr. Matchette thought it might be better to convey the idea to the City Commission that some projects (such as DC Alexander Park, Las Olas parking garage, and the Marina) are more important than others rather than ask for budget direction. He stressed the importance of DC Alexander Park being a “knock-out” complex because of the new Swimming Hall of Fame and one or two high-end hotels in the vicinity.

Vice Chair Lee suggested several ideas for Communications to the City Commission, one being that the Commission does not discuss the projects until the Board has had a chance to do so.

Mr. Morris explained how/why items are discussed at the City Commission Conference Meeting - Commissioners have been approached by a neighbor or noticed a matter themselves.

At this point, the **motion** (Communication) was brought to a vote. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Ms. Lee that the Board requests that the City Commission do not discuss at a conference meeting anything related to the CRA projects until the consultants come back to this Board with 15% stage recommendations, for the A1A, Las Olas, and the Almond Avenue. Motion died for lack of a second.

Concern was expressed that the above motion amounted to “stepping on the toes” of the City Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Schiavone, seconded by Ms. Milroy, that the Board requests that City Commission give great consideration to our Board before having a Conference discussion on any matter that would be or could be or is presently presented to our Board before they make comment or decision, in the interest of the City's well-being. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Yaari questioned the budgetary cuts for the projects being made by the City. Mr. Morris pointed out that the Board recommended a maximum of \$25 million for the Aquatics Complex. Mr. Yaari felt strongly that the Board needed to prioritize the projects for the City Commission, and Mr. Morris recommended doing that at the 15% point.

A discussion ensued about the spending climate in the City, with Mr. Schiavone pointing out that that improvements are on the way.

Vice Chair Lee urged members of the Board to communicate individually with City Commission members to let the Board do their job.

Mr. Morris said they had planned to make a presentation about the edges of the Park, but it will be changing, so the presentation could wait.

Regarding the City Commission watching the TED video, Mr. Morris was asked to send the TED video to the City Commission, noting it shows the best utilization of public space for the common good and how the community came together to get the project done. Mr. Morris also recommended that the Board members let the Commissioners know their concerns.

Mr. Suiter stated that the idea of the park was to create a multi-use space that would be sustainable and have a cohesive plan that would be a gateway linkage from the Intracoastal to the ocean and back. They also wanted to capitalize on the adjacent properties and how they could spill into the space and create a multi-use area. Regarding the budget for the project, Mr. Suiter said there was a leeway of 35%, and he recommended keeping the underground utilities for flexibility. Hardscape can be shrunk, but the multi-purpose intent is paramount. Mr. Suiter stressed they have one chance to "get it right," and targets have to be picked and moved forward.

Chair Abbate thought the issues that the Board has expressed could be reinforced in Mr. Suiter's presentation. He thought they were not being reinforced now due to the frame of the presentation - the connection between the water components needs to be made clear. A strong statement about the main idea is much more important than the details, which can change.

Mr. Matchette suggested the following:

- Incorporate cyclone design into the Aquatics Complex

- Call the open areas “blue space” instead of “green space”

VI. Old/New Business

- **Board Member Tim Schiavone will provide the Board with an update as to his recent meeting, “Family Environment on the Beach” with City Manager Lee Feldman.**

Mr. Schiavone reported he had a good meeting with the City Manager and the Commander from the Beach. They discussed the negative image associated with the dogs on the beach. Mr. Schiavone felt that above all, the police are making every effort to make things safe, secure and better; the dogs are a necessary part of that, but they will look at containing them to a certain area. He added that the dog presence corresponds to the amount of the drug activity on the beach. Mr. Schiavone reported that they said have a job to do, and there are certain parameters they have to work in to accomplish that goal.

Vice Chair Lee relayed that Miami Beach dealt with the problem by stopping cars and checking identification before cars were allowed at the beach. Mr. Schiavone pointed out the dangers in profiling/discrimination in that approach.

- **Public Comments - (4/16/14 Email) Jarryd Christopher Chloupek**

Mr. Morris explained the new sunshine requirements related to comments received related to the agenda posted online. He distributed the email from Mr. Chloupek.

Ms. Smith pointed out Mr. Chloupek echoed many of the thoughts of the Board.

Mr. Morris brought up Beach Place and the entertainment areas, and said that City staff met with an individual who manages entertainment districts in other parts of the Country. Mr. Morris distributed materials regarding the idea, and asked for feedback/interest at the next meeting.

Mr. Morris clarified that the RFP that is currently out regarding the Beach Master Plan (private properties) will be coming to this Board.

Mr. Matchette was curious if the City had held public meetings to see what the public wants. Mr. Morris recalled the recent visioning process. Chair Abbate thought it might be worthwhile to discuss how the Board’s agenda aligns with the visioning plan. Mr. Morris suggested having a presentation on the visioning plan by those who worked on it.

Hearing no further business, Chair Abbate adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

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Attachments:

Renderings of approved RDC plans - Mr. Morris

Site plan (blueprint) for DC Alexander Park - Mr. Morris

Materials pertinent to hiring entertainment district manager - Mr. Morris

Email from Mr. Chloupek - Mr. Morris

RFPs for comprehensive studies - Mr. Morris