

Board Workshop of the
Downtown Development Authority of Fort Lauderdale
Friday, April 5, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m.
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Einstein Room

BOARD PRESENT: John Ropes, Vice Chair
Michael Weymouth, Secretary
Gregory Durden, Board Member

NOT PRESENT: Tim Petrillo, Chair
Dennis F. O'Shea, Treasurer
D. Fredrico Fazio, Board Member
William H. Bodenhamer, Jr., Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Chris Wren, DDA Executive Director	Congresswoman Lois Frankel
John M. Milledge, DDA Legal Counsel	Felicia Goldstein
Elizabeth Van Zandt, Planning & Design Manager	Jenny Ceasar
Marti Brown, Administrative Coordinator	Jack Loos (Former Board Member)
Kate Sheffield, Planning Assistant	Neil Sterling

The workshop started at 10:10 a.m. Vice Chair Ropes thanked the Congresswoman for attending today. He recognized Jack Loos, Former DDA Board Member as the “grandfather” of the Wave project. Introductions were made around the room. Congresswoman Frankel said she is a native of New York and the former Mayor of West Palm Beach for eight years. Mr. Loos provided background on the Wave project from its conception and indicated that Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz has helped a lot. He went through some of Fort Lauderdale’s amenities.

Before Mr. Wren began the presentation, Congresswoman Frankel brought up a study by the Knight Foundation where they surveyed 46,000 people around the country including Miami and Palm Beach County where the goal was to find out what attaches people to community and roots. She said the three factors were Social Opportunities, Esthetics/beauty and Openness. She said the fourth was Education. She said it was interesting because these all came before crime, health and jobs. **Congresswoman Frankel said she would get the site to Mr. Wren.**

Mr. Wren then went on with the presentation starting with the major milestones such as the Library, Museum of Discovery and Science and Broward Center. He said others were the DDA and the creation of the TMA. He cited the Hampton Inn as 1 of 2 hotels in the downtown naming Riverside Hotel as the other. He said other milestones are Huizenga Plaza, the Museum of Art and Streetscapes. Congresswoman Frankel said free events build good will. Mr. Wren then talked about the St. Pat’s Parade as an example of that. He said initiatives are the Wave and the Urban Oasis Project. Mr. Wren then showed a list of current initiatives and named a couple such as the Riverwalk Eastern Connection to Las Olas Blvd. and activating a section of Las Olas at Huizenga Park in front of the Museum of Art. **Congresswoman Frankel suggested that Mr. Wren take her around the areas. Mr. Wren said he would gladly do that and they could perhaps include lunch and get her point of view. He said they could have another meeting if that was needed as well.**

Mr. Wren then talked about the Wave Streetcar saying it's been going on over 10 years and he showed a list of the project partners. He said they've conducted over 250 meetings. Mr. Wren then showed a rendering of Planned Transit in Broward County which includes the Wave route. He said they are in the first phase where the county will be the owner/operator and in the approved Interlocal Agreement they have agreed to be the same. He said funding will be as follows: 50% Federal Government, 25% State and 25% Local through City, an assessment and the MPO. Mr. Wren then showed the Broward MPO East/West Connection Plan. Congresswoman Frankel asked what the Wave typical user would be and Mr. Wren explained there are several: day to day, block to block trips, the residential market, travel during entertainment events and commuters. Mr. Milledge said that when you plug the port and airport and hospital there are more opportunities plus visitors and people who work and live in downtown. Mr. Milledge said there is a study to connect the convention center and the port. Congresswoman Frankel asked about security and Mr. Milledge said they will be moving the gate, moving the convention center out of the security zone. Mr. Ropes brought up the plan of a hotel at the convention center. Mr. Wren went through the frequency of stops on the streetcar and then went on to the project benefits such as new jobs. He showed pictures of how streetcars can change areas such as the Pearl District in Portland, Oregon. Mr. Wren said they've received an \$18 million Tiger Grant and they have been cleared environmentally. He said they are working on the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) and that this money will go to the center section of the Wave. Mr. Milledge mentioned that a letter has been drafted authorizing the DDA to go into project development although it has not yet been received. Mr. Wren then went through the timelines: design early 2013, construction mid-2014 and riding the Wave Streetcar late 2016.

Mr. Wren then showed the Utility Box Wrap Program which includes a "You are Here" map. **Congresswoman Frankel suggested Mr. Wren spend a day with Raphael Clemente, Executive Director of the WPB DDA. She suggested Raphael come here to Fort Lauderdale.**

Mr. Wren then showed the Urban Oasis Project and the Interactive Kiosk/Smart Phone App Technology Project.

Congresswoman Frankel said there is so much going on here, with all the counties and she cannot wait. She congratulated the Board on all their efforts and said they are ahead of the curve and that she will work with the DDA. **She requested to see the funding piece to understand things better so she can make her case for the Wave. Mr. Durden asked if Mr. Wren could send her a synopsis of the funding and Mr. Milledge said they would do that.** Congresswoman Frankel said to use her as a liaison. She also mentioned other Congressional representatives available to assist. She thanked the Board for having her and said she'd love to give Mr. Wren a tour next time he's up in West Palm.

As there were no other items to discuss, the meeting ended at 11:03 a.m.