

Regular Meeting of the
Downtown Development Authority
Thursday, April 11, 2013
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Einstein Room

ROLL CALL

COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION

BOARD PRESENT: Tim Petrillo, Chair
John Ropes, Vice Chair
Michael Weymouth, Secretary
Dennis F. O'Shea, Treasurer
D. Fredrico Fazio, Board Member
William H. Bodenhamer, Jr., Board Member

NOT PRESENT: Gregory Durden, Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:

John M. Milledge, DDA Legal Counsel	Bog Dugan
Chris Wren, DDA Executive Director	Genia Ellis
Elizabeth Van Zandt, Planning & Design Manager	Peter Agnesi
Marti Brown, Administrative Coordinator	Ron Centamore
Chadwick Blue, Urban Planner	Kelley Shanley
Kate Sheffield, Planning Assistant	Kevin DeNell
Neil Sterling	Renee Cross
Paul Weinberg	Jennifer Marcus
Kona Gray	

PRESIDING: Tim Petrillo, Chairman

Chairman Petrillo called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll call was taken by Marti Brown. All Board members were present with the exception of Mr. Durden. Chairman Petrillo welcomed Mr. Agnesi with Broward College. Chairman Petrillo asked if anyone had any questions regarding the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, a *motion was moved by Mr. O'Shea and seconded by Mr. Ropes approving all the items on consent. All Board members were in favor.* The following items were unanimously approved:

CONSENT AGENDA

- C-1) Approval of the minutes and follow ups from the March 14, 2013 DDA Board Meeting.
- C-2) Approval of Outdoor Event Application-MEGA Walk to Stop Diabetes, 10/25-10/26/13.

REGULAR AGENDA

R-1 Police Report

Sergeant Fontalvo said the difference in crime from February to March was a decrease from 25 to 17.

He said some buildings on Andrews and Federal Highway have been tagged “sonic” and to let him know immediately if he sees anything. Mr. Weymouth asked what in particular was causing concern about this tagging and Sergeant Fontalvo said only that it’s the most recent type that has come up that the officers were alerted to. Chairman Petrillo asked what the Riverwalk patrol frequency was. Sergeant Fontalvo said they have access to a golf cart and that the mounted units are out there often. Discussion was held about the signage on the golf cart as well as the prospect of additional staffing. **Mr. Weymouth suggested the Board speak with the Sergeant first about his needs before reaching out to anyone at the Police Department.** The Sergeant wanted to know if there was something specific the Board was looking for with regard to the Riverwalk and Chairman Petrillo said he’d like a consistent presence. After discussion, it was agreed that the hours of 10 p.m.-1 a.m. require the most presence.

R-2 Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Update

Mr. Coddington was not able to attend today’s meeting.

R-3 The Wave Streetcar Interlocal Partnership Agreement

Mr. Wren said the interlocal agreement has been led by Mr. Milledge and it identifies roles, responsibilities and timing, etc. He said it is before them today for approval and that it’s the same document that was approved by the County Commission and is on the MPO agenda this morning for approval. Mr. Fazio brought up the concern about capital cost overruns and the DDA’s role in the funding. Mr. Milledge explained the funding piece and said the DDA put the original funding together and explained why the DDA has a role in it. Mr. Milledge said he is confident that the DDA can find the funds if it came down to it. He added there are a number of controls and procedures in place to minimize any overruns. Mr. O’Shea said the phased approach for cost estimation was a good idea. ***Mr. Fazio made a motion approving the agreement and authorized the Director to execute it with Mr. O’Shea seconding. By roll call vote, all were in favor.***

Mr. Wren briefly discussed the City Commission meeting on 4/2 where the assessment was discussed and how important that meeting was. He said the office has amped up the public outreach. He said they presented at the Poinciana Park meeting last night and that it went well. Mrs. Van Zandt said the next meetings will be April 16th for the first reading of the assessment, May 7th which is the first public hearing and June 4th which is the final public hearing. **The Board requested the dates be circulated to them and former Board members.** Chairman Petrillo said it’s important to then forward the dates around to the community and businesses.

R-4 Streetscape Design Concepts

Huizenga Plaza/Las Olas Blvd: Mr. Wren said the presentations today will be EDSA presenting on the Riverwalk/Stranahan Park project and TBG on the Huizenga Plaza/Las Olas Blvd. project. Mr. Wren expressed that these go beyond a capital nature and explained further.

Mr. Weinberg of TBG began his presentation by reading his mission statement on the project. He said they focused on the Riverfront corridor and what can connect the East and West on the corridor. He said Huizenga Plaza is the connector where it comes together. He said they focused on the areas between 3rd Avenue, Las Olas and Huizenga Plaza. He went through what he felt are missing components and said they need street life. He showed the current conditions on Las Olas Blvd. near FAU and showed a rendering of what it could look like with retail, street interaction, a plaza and café spaces. He showed what it could look like by lifting the trees and combining landscaped areas. He

then went on to Huizenga Plaza and said he did meet with some of the Board members to get input. He displayed a rendering of a Shake Shack concept showing a retail component and called it “destination dining”. He showed an addition of steps and tree alterations and a connection of the Andrews Avenue Bridge connecting directly into the park. He said events could still happen without any interference with this design. He then showed another concept with open space where the bridge becomes a nice, green backdrop without retail but one that is more of a park function. In the last version, he showed a rendering of creating more of an icon with retail and other aesthetics. Mr. Weinberg then mentioned he wanted to look at a concept at the tunnel at Federal Hwy. and Las Olas Blvd. to see what they could do with that area. He showed the concept with a gateway park with trees and other alterations. Mr. Wren said moving forward he believes they should do an RFQ, then an open bid with both firms open to bidding. He said then they need to make an aggressive schedule and funding will be needed. He said he feels they are ready. **The Board all felt this would be the next Wave project and that other stakeholders should be brought into the loop. The Board then decided a workshop should be scheduled.**

Riverwalk/Stranahan Park: Kona Gray started the presentation with the purpose of the study. He showed existing conditions from 5th Avenue to 3rd Avenue and 3rd Avenue to Andrews Avenue. He showed the missing piece along the existing Riverwalk. He said they looked at green space and a pocket park improvement opportunity. He said they looked at the existing Icon site and showed pictures. He then showed existing pictures of Stranahan House. He showed pictures of features that attract people to the Riverwalk and showed examples of successful parks such as the sound stage in Miami. Mr. Dugan showed sketch alternatives at the Icon site, streetscapes on Las Olas Blvd. and a temporary plaza and the notion of a floating dock at Laura Ward Plaza to 5th Avenue. He talked about what they can do short term on Las Olas Blvd. and SE 5th Avenue. He showed examples of replacing sidewalks on Las Olas Blvd. with a new curb and gutter. He said there are concerns with reference to short term efforts with a temporary connection on the backside of the Icon site because of several issues such as the homeless and restoration requirements. He then showed a conceptual plan for a future Riverwalk gateway and what they can start now on the river edge. Mr. Wren said the Marine Industry is very interested in floating docks. Mr. Wren said he feels the next step would be to look into navigational issues and the extension of the Riverwalk and a space within where floating docks can go. **After discussion, the Board felt that a workshop would be the next step. Chairman Petrillo said he preferred two separate workshops on the 2 projects. Mr. Bodenhamer suggested these concepts get presented to the City Manager in advance and Mr. Wren said that was a good idea and that he and a Board members should also meet with the Mayor and the District Commissioner.**

R-5 ITS Procurement

Mrs. Van Zandt said they received three submittal packages and will be bringing their recommendations to the May meeting. Mr. Weymouth said he worked with the team and that this is the first step in getting connectivity with the right software and he enjoyed working on this. Chairman Petrillo said the system should be flexible and should not be proprietary.

R-6 Projects Update

Mr. Wren said he wanted to let the Board know that staff has been working with the County and City on the 6th Street courthouse area where the construction is, trying to come up with an interim improvement and that they came up with the idea of putting the old Urban Oasis Wrap on the fence with entry signs saying “welcome” to help improve that area temporarily. Chairman Petrillo said that

at the last City Commission meeting they brought up how successful the wrap program is and that the City would like to use it other places.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

D-1 News Articles

All information was in their packages.

D-2 Update on Miami Trip

Mr. Wren said they have reached out to the Miami DDA and are awaiting a response on some dates that work with them for a workshop. Mr. Ropes said he will be seeing Mr. Kasdin and will inquire. Mr. Wren said he just needs a target date. **Chairman Petrillo said he'd like 2 separate meetings, one just for the two DDA's and one that is informational, touring the City that can be walkable. He suggested Mr. Wren invite someone from the City Manager's staff to come on the walking tour.**

D-3 Draft Report on State of Downtown

Mr. Wren said Chairman Petrillo asked him to look at rating our downtown. Chairman Petrillo said he's been to several meetings at the Chamber and Broward Workshop and others and they have been looking at what creates a great downtown and every entity has different markers. He said he'd like a report card on where Downtown Fort Lauderdale is. Mrs. Van Zandt said they've looked at other markers and have been studying them. She said that John Herbst from the City suggested they look at weaknesses and find out if those are perceived or actual problems that can be fixed. She said they will work with the Chair. Mr. Blue said that he found out several companies do this type of research such as Bloomberg and the Smithsonian and it's subjective and that he is trying to finding "actuals". Chairman Petrillo said it's important to provide information for other agencies to market as well.

As there was no other business, Chairman Petrillo adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.