



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**APPROVED
BEACH REDEVELOPMENT BOARD (BRB)
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8th FLOOR CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
Monday, September 23, 2019, 2:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS	FEB 2019/JAN 2020				
	REGULAR MTGS		SPECIAL MTGS		
	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	
Thomas B. McManus, Chair	P	7	0	1	0
Art Bengochea, Vice Chair	P	7	0	1	0
Vincent Ang	P	6	1	1	0
Jason Crush	P	4	1	1	0
Jason Hughes	P	7	0	1	0
Monty Lalwani	P	6	1	0	1
Christian Luz	P	4	3	1	0
Shirley Smith	P	7	0	1	0
Aiton Yaari	P	5	2	1	0
Frank Smith	P	1	0	0	0

Staff

Don Morris, Beach CRA Manager
Cija Omengabar, CRA Planner
Thomas Green, Project Manager, Beach CRA
Chijioke Ezekwe, CRA Senior Project Manager
Jamie Opperee, Prototype, Inc.

Guests

John Burn, Central Beach Alliance

Communication to the City Commission

Motion made by Mr. Yaari, seconded by Mr. Crush, to recommend the City and CRA hold a grand opening media day event to showcase the Las Olas Boulevard and other upcoming City projects. The event should be separate from the holiday lighting event and there should be appropriate funding to provide a showcase for the event. The purpose is to reintroduce the beach to tourists, residents, and businesses. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum – Thomas McManus, Chair

Chair McManus called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m. It was determined that a quorum was present.

Chair McManus welcomed Frank Smith and asked that Mr. Smith introduce himself.

New Board member Frank Smith gave a brief outline of his background as an architect and general contractor in the Fort Lauderdale area since 1983.

II. Approval of BRB Meeting Minutes – Thomas McManus, Chair

- **August 19, 2019**

Mr. Ang made a correction to item IV of the August 19 minutes, noting he had volunteered for, and served on, the selection committee, not Vice Chair Bengochea.

Motion made by Mr. Yaari, seconded by Mr. Hughes, to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2019 BRB meeting as amended. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

III. Las Olas Beach Project Update - Thomas Green, PE., CRA Senior Project Manager

Mr. Green provided an update on the Las Olas Beach Project which will be shown to the City Commission next week during their regular meeting.

The beach project is one (1) of four (4) capital improvement projects the CRA is currently working on and is in active construction. Short-term goals include completion of the promenade before the boat show starts staging in a couple of weeks. The project will be left as-is until the completion of the boat show, at which time the sidewalk and remaining landscaping will be finished.

Mr. Green explained substantial completion will be completed before the boat show, so the City will have access for some use, but there will be ongoing activity in November when the boat show is broken down. He continued with the update, showing photos of the progress on the project.

In response to a question from Ms. Smith, Mr. Green stated three (3) of the palm trees installed and two (2) of the light poles are potentially in the way for the boat show, so they may be removed and reinstalled. He explained the process will take place each year and will be the responsibility of the boat show.

Continuing, Mr. Green outlined how the poles will be bypassed safely so that other light poles remain on.

John Burn, Central Beach Management, asked for clarification regarding traffic management, noting this is the first year the garage has been open.

The Board members discussed whether a U-turn was permissible to enter the garage.

Mr. Lalwani asked if there would be an amphitheater or place for performances.

Mr. Morris stated the space was designed for events, with electrical services located for that purpose.

Mr. Lalwani asked for clarification regarding access to the new parking garage. He expressed concern tourists would not be able to find and access the garage.

The Board members discussed the U-turn, and what is most practical for access to the parking garage, as well as signage that might help.

Mr. Luz stated proper way-finding signage would wrap people around to where traffic is meant to go.

Mr. Lalwani suggested putting up a temporary signal.

Chair McManus asked that Christine Fanchi with Transportation and Mobility be brought in to explain the garage traffic pattern.

In response to a comment from Mr. Luz, Mr. Green explained how the location of the garage was decided upon, a process which included extensive public input.

Chair McManus summed up the Board position as wanting wayfinding signage in place but continuing to allow the U-turn.

South Intracoastal Park Update

Mr. Green provided an update on work at South Intracoastal Park. He showed photos of work on the 16-inch water main, and new power pole. He reviewed previous plans for the property, which at one time included a welcome center, but stated the previous City Commission decided they wanted to keep it a greenspace.

Mr. Morris outlined the process FP&L is currently completing, replacing poles with hardened poles where determined necessary. Staff is currently working with FP&L to move the pole into the park instead of the sidewalk.

Mr. Green reviewed additional photos of sidewalks and landscaping in the park. He stated events may be held in the area in the future and showed areas staff had in mind. The toilets and urinals will run on rain water when available.

Mr. Yaari stated a large launch is necessary to invite families back and show Fort Lauderdale is proud of what it has done with the area. He said the beach is dead because of all of the construction, and the Board needs to get involved.

Mr. Hughes added that from a resident perspective, there needs to be healing from the Board and the City.

Chair McManus asked when the trolleys would be fully operational, noting that was an important aspect of launching the project publicly.

Mr. Morris stated the trolleys would be running in November and added a combination holiday lighting ceremony and ribbon cutting was being discussed. He suggested a communication to City Commission emphasize the need to get the word out, so the Commission could instruct staff appropriately.

Chair McManus asked what would preclude the Board from utilizing funds to promote.

Mr. Morris noted most of the funds in the budget had gone into infrastructure.

The Board members discussed ideas for promotion of the projects and timelines for showcasing the projects.

Mr. Morris stated if the recommendation of the Board was to put additional funds into the ribbon cutting ceremony and make it a big event, that was also something to include in communication to the City Commission.

Mr. Crush wanted the ribbon cutting to be a separate event from the holiday lighting and incorporate that with a launch.

Mr. Yaari stated he did not want to wait until the Aquatic Center was complete.

Aquatics Center Update

Mr. Green provided an update on the Aquatics Center project. Live FP&L power vaults on the site have limited construction work, but FP&L is working on solutions. The competition pool and a portion of the bleachers have been ripped out, and the rest of the demolition permit for areas not impacted by the live power is now in place.

Continuing, Mr. Green reviewed photos of clean-up work which has been done and exploratory digging to determine washout.

Mr. Yaari asked for a consensus of the Board to promote the 27-meter dive platform as a highlight for the CRA.

Mr. Green stated it will be the first 27-meter tower in the Western hemisphere.

Mr. Morris explained when the original plan went to the Commission, staff was asked to review the dive platform, restrooms, and amenity deck as funding is a challenge. He

stated they are working with the City Manager on making sure the money is in place before moving forward. He will return with an update when one is available.

Mr. Ang left the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

IV. Communication to the City Commission

Motion made by Mr. Yaari, seconded by Mr. Crush, to recommend the City and CRA hold a grand opening media day event to showcase the Las Olas Boulevard and other upcoming City projects. The event should be separate from the holiday lighting event and there should be appropriate funding to provide a showcase for the event. The purpose is to reintroduce the beach to tourists, residents, and businesses. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

V. Old/New Business - Donald Morris, AICP, CRA Manager

- **Holiday Lights and Holiday Display Updates**

Mr. Morris reported staff held a meeting with BID member Ana MacDiarmid from the W to discuss the holiday lights and display. Miami Christmas Lights, who was the vendor last year, was selected.

Continuing, Mr. Morris explained the cost would be split with the BID and will go before the City Commission on October 2. The holiday lighting program will include 107 light poles on A1A, the north side of Las Olas, including 40 jewel palms and 93 coconut palms. Installation will take place the week before the November 26 lighting ceremony.

- **September Meeting - Member suggested agenda items**

Mr. Hughes asked for an update on Almond Avenue.

Mr. Morris stated the City Commission approved using end of year close out dollars for the project, and February or March is the expected timeline. He said staff would provide an update when available.

Motion duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

[Minutes transcribed by C. Parkinson, Prototype, Inc.]