



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**APPROVED
BEACH REDEVELOPMENT BOARD (BRB)
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH
PARKS, RECREATION, AND BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8th FLOOR CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
Friday, November 15, 2019, 3:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS	FEB 2019/JAN 2020				
	REGULAR MTGS		SPECIAL MTGS		
	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	
Thomas B. McManus, Chair	A	8	0	1	1
Art Bengochea, Vice Chair	P	8	0	2	0
Vincent Ang	P	7	1	2	0
Jason Crush	P	5	1	2	0
Jason Hughes	P	8	0	2	0
Monty Lalwani (joined at 3:09)	P	6	2	1	1
Christian Luz	P	5	3	2	0
Shirley Smith	P	8	0	2	0
Aiton Yaari	P	6	2	2	0
Frank Smith	A	1	1	0	1

PRB MEMBERS

Karen Polivka, Chair	P
Caleb Gunter, Vice Chair	P
Alex Collazo	A
Brucie Cummings	P
Michael Flowers Jr.	A
Roy Grimsland	P
Charlie Liekauf	A
Tangerean Moore	A
Robert Payne	A
Mary Peloquin	P
Marianna Seiler (at 3:13)	P
Martha G. Steinkamp (at 3:09)	P
Jo Ann Smith	P
Amber Van Buren	P
Carey Villeneuve	A

Staff

Don Morris, Beach CRA Manager
Thomas Green, Sr. Project Manager
Chijioke Ezekwe, Project Manager
Cija Omengebar, CRA Planner

Stephanie Hughey, Administrative Aide

Tatiana Guerrier, Prototype, Inc.

Guests

John Burns, Central Beach Alliance

Paul Weinberg, Keith & Associates

Christopher Phillips, Keith & Associates

Ina Lee

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum – Thomas McManus, BRB Chair, and Karen Polivka, PRBAB Chair

Vice Chair Bengochea called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. It was determined that a quorum was present.

II. DC Alexander Park Design Update Presentation – Thomas Green, Sr. Project Manager and Paul Weinberg and Christopher Phillips, Keith & Associates

Mr. Green provided a brief introduction to the DC Alexander Park project, noting the City and CRA have awarded a consultant agreement to Keith & Associates. He explained the plans had been through a few rounds of input, including review by advisory boards and the City Commission, and those comments had been integrated into the concept as currently presented.

Mr. Weinberg presented a PowerPoint with an overview of the project, opening with the ways in which DC Alexander Park fits with the area, working to creating meaningful open space connecting the Aquatic Center and the beach.

Continuing, Mr. Weinberg gave background on the name of the park, for David Clifford Alexander, an early Fort Lauderdale businessman and developer who donated the land.

Mr. Weinberg reviewed access to the site and its connection to the area, along with updates to ADA access and respite points along the ramp to the overlook. He noted he thought this project to be among the largest boundless play areas in the world.

Continuing, Mr. Weinberg pointed out the existing totem pole, part of the Trail of the Whispering Giants project by Hungarian-born artist Peter Wolf Toth, was preserved along the frontage road. He reviewed adjustments made to the plan, including the overlook shade structure and walkway ramp.

Mr. Weinberg noted the team would be seeking input regarding color for the shade structure, showing white and blue options. He explained the design of the play spaces was unique and brought in elements of the beach and dunes, and stated there were memorable ways to integrate art.

Mr. Yaari commented on the age requirements of the playground spaces and stated he would like to see a way to program it for all ages.

In response to a question from Mr. Yaari, Mr. Morris explained the CRA would be funding the project through design, and the proposal is for the parks bond to fund construction beginning from the point it is shovel ready.

Mr. Yaari suggested landscaping and a plaque to explain the totem pole.

The Board and Mr. Weinberg discussed the height of the overlook and options for access. Vice Chair Bengochea noted there was 25 feet of height to clear for the overlook, and the steps were an option but not the only access.

Shirley Smith asked that the plan not include artificial grass.

The Board and Mr. Weinberg discussed color preferences for the shade structure. Mr. Weinberg noted the blue was intended to be an anodized aluminum.

Mr. Grimsland asked for details on seating options for adults.

Mr. Weinberg showed benches congregated underneath the shade tree, along with seating opportunities along the walkway which would be highlighted.

Mr. Hughes petitioned for fitness elements in the park, noting there was nothing for someone in his age group to do in the park.

In response to a question from Mr. Hughes, Mr. Morris stated security upgrades were included in the budget.

Jo Ann Smith expressed an interest in lighter colors due to heat concerns. She said she hoped to see seating on the ocean side to give people a space to read, and plenty of shade trees.

Ms. Cummings said the beach was a playground, so she did not see a need for all the pavers. She stated she would prefer more green space and trees.

Mr. Luz pointed out the loading zone, which was an addition to the plan after input from the Board.

Ms. Polivka stated she thought the steps would be where people were exercising. She asked if the totem pole was in need of a touch up.

Mr. Weinberg noted the Toth piece was a commissioned piece of art, and he did not want to recommend any changes to it.

The Board and Mr. Weinberg discussed material choices which would deter skateboarding.

In response to a question from Vice Chair Bengochea, Mr. Morris and Mr. Weinberg explained lighting requirements due to turtles.

Vice Chair Bengochea opened the item to public comment.

Ina Lee stated the plan was fabulous and asked if dual lighting utilized in another area could be integrated to address the concerns of turtle season.

Mr. Green provided additional information on the pilot being done to switch to an amber light during turtle nesting season, eight (8) months per year. He outlined the permit process followed through the Environmental Resource Program and said it could potentially be done in this park.

Ms. Lee stated it was her recommendation to apply for that lighting permit before beginning construction.

Continuing, Ms. Lee asked if the park was built to accommodate sea level rise over the next 20 years.

Mr. Weinberg stated it was, noting the park was higher than other parks in Fort Lauderdale, as much as five (5) feet higher than some parks.

In response to a question from Ms. Lee, Mr. Weinberg stated the wall is a handrail, meeting code at 42 inches in height.

The Board, public, and staff discussed programming plans in the park.

John Burns asked how kids at the Aquatic Center would be drawn across the street to the park, and if there was a place to bring in food trucks.

Mr. Morris stated that while he agreed there should be a place to grab food during an event at the Aquatic Center, the feedback received during the design process was that food trucks should not be accommodated.

The Board and staff discussed options for the Aquatic Center to bring in food options for special events. Mr. Weinberg noted there was flexibility for change in the future.

In response to a question from Mr. Burns, Mr. Weinberg addressed shade along the stairs. He noted the restrooms were underneath, so it was a very shallow root area.

Vice Chair Bengochea closed the public comment section.

The Board discussed color options and determined by consensus that the lighter blue was preferred.

Motion made by Mr. Crush, seconded by Mr. Yaari, to accept design set forward in presentation with shades of blue, subject to approval by the City Commission. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

III. Communication to City Commission – BRB Members, PRBAB Members

None.

IV. Adjournment – Thomas McManus, BRB Chair

Motion duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2019.

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