

City of Fort Lauderdale

City Hall
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
www.fortlauderdale.gov



Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Monday, October 27, 2014

7:00 PM

**Joint Workshop with Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board - CRA
Beach Projects
Beach Community Center - 3351 N.E. 33rd Avenue**

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER Mayor - Commissioner
ROMNEY ROGERS Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District IV
BRUCE G. ROBERTS Commissioner - District I
DEAN J. TRANTALIS Commissioner - District II
BOBBY B. DuBOSE Commissioner - District III

LEE R. FELDMAN, City Manager
JOHN HERBST, City Auditor
JONDA K. JOSEPH, City Clerk
CYNTHIA A. EVERETT, City Attorney

Mayor Seiler called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler, Vice-Mayor Romney Rogers, Commissioner Bruce G. Roberts and Commissioner Dean J. Trantalis

Not Present: 1 - Commissioner Bobby B. DuBose; Board Members: Marvin Andrew and A. J. Yaari

Also Present: City Manager Lee R. Feldman, City Auditor John Herbst, City Clerk Jonda K. Joseph and City Attorney Cynthia A. Everett

Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board: Chair Anthony Abbate (arrived momentarily), Vice-Chair Ina Lee, Members Thomas McManus, Melissa Milroy, Daniel Matchette, Judith Scher, Shirley Smith, Tim Schiavone and Andy Mitchell (arrived momentarily)

DISCUSSION OF BEACH CRA DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Economic Development Administrator Don Morris provided introductory remarks, explaining parameters of the Community Redevelopment Agency funding and reviewed slides which are attached to these minutes along with his comments.

Consultant Paul Kissinger of EDSA introduced the team of professionals working on this project and reviewed information in the executive summary of the 15 percent conceptual design information on Las Olas Boulevard corridor and streetscape improvements including parking, south side of Las Olas Bridge, Las Olas Boulevard corridor, Oceanside Park and Plaza, Almond Avenue, Poinsettia Street and Banyan Street, A1A and Oceanfront Plaza and the next steps for promenade improvements, multimodal facilities, parking redevelopment opportunities, Las Olas Boulevard, Channel Square, Oceanside Park and Plaza, streetscape improvements and costs. A copy of the executive summary is attached to these minutes.

At Mayor Seiler's suggestion, there was consensus to schedule a second workshop on November 10 at 5:30 p.m. at this location in order to cover everything thoughtfully. Board Member Ina Lee stressed the importance of viewing the project holistically before making final decisions.

Kissinger responded to questions from the BRAB members.

BRAB member Lee stressed that it is important to look at all of the parking options together. She liked what is being created at Oceanside with respect to the water feature and did not think another water feature is needed elsewhere. Mayor Seiler agreed.

BRAB member Tim Schiavone felt that all utilities should be underground.

BRAB member Thomas McManus emphasized the need for shade trees versus palms.

BRAB member Melissa Milroy wanted to keep Las Olas a four-lane roadway. She advocated for shade trees and one garage. She supported Option A with the exception of the garage. She appreciated how feedback from the BRAB, the public and the Commission have been incorporated into the proposal.

BRAB member Daniel Matchette felt that saving money on the project is important but emphasized the value of water features. He felt water features are appropriate for both parks. He did not see the need for the porte-cocheres. Restrooms could be substituted. He suggested a wave design. He did not see the need for an entry feature. He was concerned that a large parking garage would impact the value of neighboring condominiums. He was skeptical that landscaped walls would be successful. He supported the concept of a restaurant but was concerned about police, fire and maintenance issues that would be associated with rooftop landscaping. He did not think it would be cost-effective unless the roof is leased to a private entity. He supported water features on the Las Olas parking lot triggered by motion detectors similar to a design at Disney World. He questioned servicing the marina, particularly once it is expanded. He had safety and maintenance concerns about the water feature with 12-inch depth. He preferred something that does not collect water. He preferred Florida native plants or something that appears to be a Florida native. He felt Option 2 for D.C. Alexander Park is the most favorable. Stormwater management should be built to a worst-case scenario.

BRAB member Judith Scher favored the pop-up water features and pedestrian open space. She favored a single garage. She liked the lighting features but pointed out it will be a maintenance item.

BRAB member Shirley Smith favored a single garage, open space in the front and water features.

Mitchell said he has pushed for a design that will get people out of their cars. He supported one garage but had concerns about the height and size. He did not like the idea of a restaurant on top of the garage because of the hot weather. He suggested a restaurant to the south in the open area. There should be an opportunity for people to visit the restaurant by boat or water taxi. He wanted to evaluate the need for parking. He appreciated the idea of wider sidewalks. Lighting during the turtle season needs to be studied.

Commissioner Roberts liked the concept of flexible open space with one covered garage and the water features. He shared concern about features with a water depth. He liked the overall concept of arriving at a place. He was open to suggestions on the best use for the garage rooftop. He questioned where the parking should be situated and how much is needed considering parking is planned at the Aquatic Center and there has been discussion of providing parking in the Natchez and Alhambra areas. Perhaps some of the parking plans could be deferred and the money used to make the Oceanside lot, garage, open space and DC Alexander Park to be built now have a real wow factor.

Commissioner Trantalis felt EDSA incorporated everything requested into the proposal and now a decision has to be made as to what should be built. He felt the most important part of the proposal is that more greenspace has been created. Fort Lauderdale should distinguish itself from other beaches along the coast. The City can do this by becoming greener and more family-friendly. He noted the missed opportunities in South Beach. The City should create something that draws people into the beach as one hits the peak of the bridge. As such, he was not sure the proposed parking garage is in the appropriate location. This needs more careful thought. Marine Advisory Board member Jack Newton has said for months that there is too much parking on the beach and now the experts are validating that. He felt that a decision needs to be made on the marina expansion because it will affect planning north of Las Olas. He liked the plan for DC Alexander Park because of its simplicity and constructive use of space. Overall EDSA has done a great job.

Vice-Mayor Rogers also felt EDSA has done a great job. He felt that the marina expansion should be included in the equation. Use of the parking garage is important. For example, at the Aquatic Center, it could be used for the center or for general parking. If the marina is expanded, there is an opportunity to do the same. He liked the drive-up feature on A1A but was not sure an overhang is needed. A similar design to what is used for shade in the playground areas of the parks could be used here. He liked the water features. Some should be just for children and others just to look at. He agreed with

Commissioner Trantalis that Fort Lauderdale should distinguish itself by making it family-friendly and a gathering place as opposed to just a walk along bars and restaurants. He wanted to improve on foot traffic features in that the promenade is a homerun.

Mayor Seiler indicated he is 100 percent in favor of one garage on the north side. It is critical to determine how many spaces are needed in light of what is being done at the Aquatic Center. While the restaurant on top of the parking garage is a good idea, he did not think it is needed initially. Four eastbound lanes on Las Olas Boulevard are needed. He believed more shade trees are needed and shade structures similar to what has been constructed at the South Side playground area instead of what was proposed would be less expensive. In reference to water features, he felt both parks should have a water feature, but a decision has to be made as to which of the parks should be more geared toward children. He was concerned about the valet traffic flow although he liked the concept. He agreed with Vice-Mayor Rogers that if one garage is built on the north side, there is an opportunity to expand the marina. He liked the pedestrian-friendly aspects and broad promenades especially along the water. He agreed with Commissioner Trantalis about Fort Lauderdale distinguishing itself with open space and greenspace, aiming to be almost the opposite of South Beach. He supported the proposed design of DC Alexander Park. He commended EDSA.

Mayor Seiler announced that the next workshop would be held at 5:30 p.m. on November 10. He wanted to get public input on tonight's presentation followed by the Aquatic Center. He added the thought of making the south side of the bridge into a park.

Kissinger explained the advantage of this more compact design. He indicated that the information will be posted on the City website.

Mayor Seiler encouraged the Commission and members of the BRAB to meet with Kissinger individually.

FORT LAUDERDALE AQUATIC CENTER

No discussion.

There being no other matters to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.