



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING

#15-0053

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: January 21, 2015

TITLE: Central Beach Master Plan Public Improvement Projects Update – Beach
Report

At the December 2, 2014 City Commission Conference meeting, the Commission discussed the redevelopment of the Aquatic Center, including the need for a business plan, and the environmental feasibility of expanding the Las Olas Marina. The Commission also requested that the Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board (BRAB) review both projects and provide a recommendation.

Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board

The Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board (BRAB) has scheduled a special meeting on January 27, 2015 to review and recommend spending priorities to the City Commission for the Aquatic Center, Las Olas Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project, Beach Streetscape Improvement Project and the proposed Las Olas Marina expansion.

Aquatic Center

Staff retained Sports Facilities Advisories (SFA) to prepare a business plan for the Aquatic Center. The business plan will include a market and demographics study, a financial model and forecast, which includes an economic impact analysis, and a summary business plan report.

In addition, staff has also retained Atkins North American, Inc. to determine what the current market probable construction costs will be for the Aquatic Center Design Development package dated February 4, 2014, and provide a preliminary cost estimate. The preliminary cost estimate will be compared to Recreation Design and Construction, Inc.'s (RDC's) Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP).

Both the business plan and the preliminary cost estimate will be available for review by the BRAB at its special meeting on January 27, 2015, and be provided at the February 3, 2015 City Commission Conference meeting.

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Las Olas Marina Expansion

In January, 2013 URS, Inc., on behalf of the City, submitted dredging permit applications for access to Bahia Mar and Las Olas Marina, and the Las Olas Marina basin. We received comments back from Broward County Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and met in April 2013 with both agencies and with the US Army Corp of Engineering to discuss their comments. In December 2013 URS and staff met again with the three agencies and Broward County Parks and Recreation to discuss conceptual seagrass mitigation utilizing Deerfield Island in Broward County. No further permitting efforts have taken place since this meeting.

Staff retained Miller Legg to prepare an environmental permitting feasibility study for the proposed Las Olas Marina expansion (see Exhibit 1). Miller Legg met with each permitting agency to verify the status of the initial dredging permit applications and to determine what additional information and/or tasks were needed to allow for the proposed expansion of the marina. Miller Legg has determined that expanding the marina is environmentally feasible, and has estimated a permit review time of 18 to 24 months from the time permits are submitted. This estimate excludes engineering and design, procurement or other processes or reviews. Staff has prepared an anticipated design and permitting schedule as Exhibit 2.

Resource Impact:

There is no fiscal impact with this update.

Strategic Connections:

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included in the **Public Places Cylinder of Excellence**

- **Goal 3:** Be a community that finds opportunities and leverages partnerships to create unique, inviting, and connected gathering places that highlight our beaches, waterways, urban areas and parks;
- **Objective 1:** Improve access to and enjoyment of our beach, Riverwalk, waterways, parks, and open spaces for everyone

This item is in furtherance of the Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale Vision Statement *We Are Here*.

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Environmental Permitting Feasibility Study

Exhibit 2 – Anticipated Design and Permitting Schedule

Prepared by: Donald Morris, AICP, Economic Reinvestment Administrator

Department Director: Jenni Morejon, Sustainable Development

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