

~~Mr. Strawbridge stated that the Board should methodically review the entire district in order to understand the outcome of any changes. He pointed out that once the CRA sunsets; there will no longer be an opportunity to use CRA funds to implement clear and consistent lighting. Mr. Mattern asserted that the City should determine baseline lighting criteria to be applied for every neighborhood and make specific recommendations on how to achieve this consistency.~~

~~Mr. Batte concluded that the report will be reviewed with the Civic Association, as well as any other interested neighborhood entities, to identify a plan that will be brought back to the Board, as well as how this plan would be funded.~~

#### **IV. FAU Urban Intervention**

Frank Schnidman of Florida Atlantic University (FAU) recalled a recent proposal by the University's School of Architecture to physically take over a specific building on Sistrunk Boulevard. He explained that this project will serve as a foundation for FAU's Urban Intervention proposal for the Sistrunk Corridor and the basis for a non-physical revitalization of the area.

Dr. Schnidman introduced Sherryl Muriente of the School of Urban and Regional Planning, who showed a PowerPoint presentation on projects currently underway within the CRA and the Sistrunk Corridor in particular. The Urban Intervention program selects small pilot projects within an urban scape to soften the perceptions of "inside and out" the CRA, increase the sense of community and local heritage, and encourage the community to work with them to achieve these goals.

Ms. Muriente explained that the intent is to facilitate social and physical change for the City through urban interventions that seek to regenerate social networks through action. The methodology of this program identifies the authenticity of a location, amplifies its voice, and results in a project. Recent local urban intervention projects include Build a Better Block in the FAT Village area and Parking Days in Palm Beach.

Dr. Schnidman explained that the background information collection aspect of the program is currently underway, as students have conducted two walking tours of the corridor. The students have developed a roster of key initiatives already underway, most of which are culturally oriented; they will meet with participants in these projects before opening the process to the general public. They will also meet with City Staff to organize a list of community groups for outreach and set up a series of meetings. A separate project web page will ultimately make all project-related information available.

#### **V. FAU School of Architecture Metropolitan Studio (SAMS) – 221 NW Sistrunk Blvd.**

Mr. Battle explained that the FAU School of Architecture approached the City the previous year to request use of a vacant or derelict building. The City had recently acquired the former Sam's Plumbing building in the Sistrunk Corridor and, having no plans for its immediate use, provided it to FAU as an urban laboratory. The lease for this property is a minimum four-year commitment, which can be discontinued if the opportunity for development arises.

The Board discussed the lease, clarifying that the University will not actually hold classes at the location; instead the building will serve as a kind of substation for the students. Mr. Battle noted that improvements, such as landscaping, painting, and roof repairs, will be made to the property. Dr. Schnidman added that the greater issues are the leasing of space by a State entity and the presence created by bringing students into the area. It is anticipated that the property will serve as an anchor for other development, as students will generate a greater demand for services.

#### **VI. WAVE Loop Update**

Mr. Battle reported that the Board's recommendation to consider expanding the WAVE project into a loop was passed on to the City Commission following the last Board meeting. The Commission discussed this possibility at length, and determined that they would consider it further at their October 7, 2014 Conference Agenda meeting. He noted that part of the Commission's discussion focused on funding the project via the CRA through a bond or similar initiative. The loop proposal will require further study to determine if it is feasible.

He continued that the funding arrangement for the proposed WAVE loop expansion has not yet been determined. If it is ultimately funded by the CRA, a traditional bank loan has been suggested as the best alternative. It would involve \$8 million, which would be paid back over the remaining years of the CRA. If the project is determined to be viable, a funding trigger, such as a down payment of \$1.5 million, must occur by the end of the current year.

Mr. Battle pointed out that at present, all CRA funds are committed to other projects, although the up-front capital could be re-appropriated from other CRA projects and paid back to them at a later date. He also noted that the CRA would only be financially responsible for the portion of the WAVE loop that lies within the Flagler Village boundary.

#### **VII. CRA Annual Report**

Mr. Battle provided the members with a copy of the 2012-2013 CRA Annual Report, now available in brochure form.

#### **VIII. Northwest Regional Activity Zoning Amendments – Open House (9/25)**