

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE PUBLIC MEETING  
BEACH CRA PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

**SUMMARIZED PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

**WEDNESDAY- MAY 04, 2016 – 6:00 PM  
CITY HALL- 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVE**

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**Key:**

- **DM-** Donald Morris (Beach CRA Manger)
- **AD-** Adrian Dabkowski (Kimley-Horn)
- **PK-** Paul Kissinger (EDSA)
- **FG-** Frank Castro (Transportation & Mobility)

**1. Shirley Smith – 1 LAS OLAS CIR. #901**

- People don't realize how bad traffic is.
- Took 45 minutes to get to Venetian on Sunday at 10 a.m.
- 2 fire trucks couldn't get out of the fire house due to traffic.
- People won't drop off family, doesn't think portico drop-off is a good idea.
- Need security.
- 5th street should be 2-way to help traffic on the beach,
- Parking garage restaurant won't work, people don't want it.
- Doesn't want 2 garages, the lower one is better, thinks this is more than 4 stories high.
- Oceanfront parking lot:
  - i. \$1.5M/year, concern that the trees that they put in are coming out
  - ii. Concerns with homeless people living there.
- DC Alexander park:
  - i. Since no one uses DC Alexander there is concern that the greenspace on Las Olas will not be used either.
- Fix the Hall of Fame, security should be the main concern.
- Nobody maintains anything in the City.

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**2. Paul Chettle – 200 SOUTH BIRCH**

- Provided handout with 6 questions for EDSA and 3 questions for staff.
- EDSA being paid \$4.5M for this project.
- Project will cause traffic issues by diverting cars from A1A and Seabreeze to 2-lane local roads with back out parking.
- Eliminating 3 diversified parking lots to a single location on the intracoastal lot
- Being built in FEMA flood zone-an area that currently floods infrastructure and pumps, how to accommodate potential flooding with this new development.
- Las Olas Bridge (Richard operates bridge) goes up twice an hour and causes traffic 15 minutes/hour, how to get cars out of the garage?
- DC Alexander park with grass and parking with beach, nobody uses it. What's the difference between DCA and this project?
- Need to open 5th Street to 2-way.
- Accurate revenue stream for the Oceanside Parking and Birch Parking, how to do the bond? What happens to parking revenue before and after the CRA sunsets?
- DM addressed his comments.
- Requested that comments and questions, together w/answers to be posted on City Website.
- PK and DM discuss process for public comments:
  - i. Comments, questions and responses to comments will be provided to the City Commission and to the public, potentially on the website.

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**3. Cecilia McCormick – 200 SOUTH BIRCH ROAD**

- Decline of City in her 47 years here.
- Garage will be #1 spot for crime, rape, robbery.
- Homeless sleeping and use the garage as restroom.
- Traffic congestion, someone at last meeting said it declined.
- Spread the money around, lots of homeless need money and it should be used to help them.

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**4. Sherman Whitmore – 401 EAST LAS OLAS BLVD. 130**

- Question about no-net loss- how will this work?
- DM clarified City Commission's direction about "no net loss of parking".
  - i. 500 spaces at the Aquatic Center as a part of the RGC project went away.
  - ii. Discussed parking options that this project and others could provide.
  - iii. "No net loss of parking" needs to be phased in and other areas could be reviewed for expansion of parking, potentially Sebastian.
  - iv. Phased approach and not necessarily all in the garage.
- PK clarified:
  - i. 835 spaces at Oceanfront, N/S Intracoastal lot, on-street Birch parking.
  - ii. Garage as designed has 409 spaces.
  - iii. The marina project would remove the north portion of the parking.
  - iv. 50 spaces related to the marina.
  - v. The pro-forma for the Marina shows an expansion of the monthly, daily, weekend parking permits.
  - vi. City did a parking study reducing parking based on land uses
  - vii. Not increasing parking as a part of this project.
- Should look at mechanical parking uses in lieu of the conventional structure, 220-240 units/acre vs. 100 units/acre.
- Recommends developing the Aquatic Center, thinks the previous design was better.

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**5. Tim Stirling – 2900 BANYAN STREET #204**

- Garage will be higher than their building (Leisure Beach), 67' high at the highest point, and higher than Leisure Beach Condo and Las Olas Bridge.
- Traffic Study Concerns- would like a more comprehensive study.
- Beach Place cleaned up recently, but is still 50% vacant.
- Sometimes takes him 30 minutes to get into his garage during traffic.
- Improvements will be choking everything down.
- Look at traffic on the weekends and major events.
- Traffic congestion will turn the beach into the Sunrise “parking lot” north on A1A
- Points out that there are 10 major projects starting at the old Howard Johnson’s at Portofino going down to Bahia Mar that the beach will be shut down at one point and traffic will be horrendous.
- "Wish somebody would do an actual traffic study".

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**6. Earnie Schaffer – 1 LAS OLAS CIRCLE #1208**

- Was there a traffic impact study for feasibility that included Birch and Las Olas Circle? Had requested the City for a feasibility study and only received study that covers A1A and Las Olas only.
- AD responded that the current study does not include those roads.
- States that he builds shopping centers, adding that a 5 million dollar project requires a feasibility study on actual roads that lead into the lot.
- Does not believe people will be able to leave the parking garage in peak hours that it will take an hour for people to get into and out of that lot.
- If running trams, the circulation routes should be longer.
- Agrees to the entrance on A1A NB from Oceanside.
- 5th Street should be 2-way.
- Concerned over what has been spent, believes it is more than 5.5 million.
- AD noted that parking garages do not generate traffic, it is the associated land uses around it.
- Current feasibility study notes that there are several hotel and condo projects are currently included in the study, and it is not accurate, does not believe the Bahia mar is included in the study.
- AD noted that the study update is in the works, reviewing the worst case scenario
- PK noted that the City keeps track of the number of trips for projects that have been submitted into the City, which has a maximum cap in the Regional Activity Center (RAC). There are still trips available within the RAC.
- Believes that trip counts are ordered by the developer.
- Do a true traffic count in January or February, not in June and then adjust.
- Live in the Venetian and cars wait for 15-20 minutes even now.
- Don't give a concession to Bahia Mar to go higher without a concession from them for additional parking.

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**7. John P. Davanzo – 200 SOUTH BIRCH RD #503**

- Flawed logic regarding traffic and additional study needs to be done.
- No net loss of parking and phased parking with other projects, marina, north parking staying, etc. - this is disingenuous to people living in the area.
- Concern with staging areas during construction on South Intracoastal Lot.
- Need an entry way to have 3 lane entrance at Olas Circle.
- Concern about events happening that will take away from beach parking.
- Will restaurant have weddings, conferences, bands?
- People need to cross multiple streets to get to Oceanside Lot.
- Drop off at Oceanside will add to trips.
- Understands pedestrian focus, suggests walkway under the bridge.
- Concerned parking projects don't happen in the next 10 years and 400 parking spaces have just evaporated.

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**8. Mona Dermakar – 1 LAS OLAS CIR #1107**

- Likes the idea of the park on Las Olas.
- Residents living with a major parking and traffic problem and does not think City is appreciating.
- Wants a "real time" study with people counting the number of tires that cross the street or a simulation of what would happen if you continue to add destination points of all the buildings and parking lots.
- Suggests using DC Alexander park, which is hardly used, as a parking lot.
- Have you considered putting ADA parking or expectant mothers/families near beach?
- Hasn't seen anything regarding bathrooms and utilities at the beach, believes it is needed.
- She is a cyclist and it's high risk to ride here, if the City shrinks lanes then cars may encroach into the bikes.
- Thinks the restaurant won't be successful and will bring traffic that it can't handle, and adds height to the garage.
- The promenade around the marina, boat owners do not want public space directly adjacent to their boats. Requests consideration of screen or fence around slips.
- PK confirmed there will be bathrooms on the Oceanfront Plaza by the porte cochere.
- PK noted part of the reason for the drop off would accommodate for ADA drop off.
- PK noted the marina will still be controlled at the beginning of the pier.



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**9. Anne Fraas – LEISURE BEACH**

- Lose 500 spaces, then 500 more cars circling for spaces, how can you possibly say traffic will not be affected?
- AD stated that the project is improving the circulation.
- Concerned over the drop off, trolleys, and does not believe traffic will be improved but will be more disastrous than already is.

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**10. Craig Fisher – 200 SOUTH BIRCH RD.**

- Walked the three parking lots, knows that its 885 existing parking spaces, not 835.
- 457 space loss as a part of this project.
- Concerns over circulation, including the A1A NB exit from porte cochere.
- Deals with traffic on a daily basis.
- He is a developer who has dealt with trips.
- Existing parking lots generate revenue already,
- Instead of building what nobody wants/needs, fix what we already have, including the Aquatic Center.
- Proposal is good for a new community, not an old community.
- FDOT stated that the "facility" can't take more traffic or add more roads.
- Fire and emergency can't go where they're supposed to.
- Top of guardhouse is 38', and feels that the garage is not to scale.
- PK noted these renderings and drawings are to scale from a 3D model, described differences between elevations and the heights of the buildings from ground, clarified the graphic showing the heights of the garage and restaurant.
- Last commission meeting discussed 30% and 60% proposal.
- DM noted that this is the 30% drawings.
- Requested confirmation of the costs to the City for up to 60%.
- DM clarified that money has been appropriated for design costs up to ~\$5M,
- Asking for 60% budget.
- DM Confirmed that 60% plans and cost estimates will be shown at May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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**11. Craig Kurlander – 1 LAS OLAS CIRCLE**

- People believe there is a serious traffic problem and need traffic mitigation.
- People drive around and look for where the parking is available.
- How will you communicate whether parking is available or not in the parking garage? Signs of where parking is available would help.
- DM noted that the City is looking at options like that, including costs of those options to communicate availability of parking.
- Concern over seasonal traffic and ability to make the left turn from SR A1A NB onto Las Olas Blvd.
- Trucks unload at Elbo Room and other restaurants for deliveries and should be at non-peak times and not in season.
- If left turn lane is eliminated from Las Olas Blvd it will impact Las Olas Blvd and left turn lane to Venetian.
- Believes coordination of lights may help traffic flow.
- PK noted that the elimination of the left turn lane will be determined by FDOT, pending results of the study performed by K-H and EDSA.
- FC noted that the City is looking into a system and app that would have live data with the available parking in each parking area and close to destinations, being researched now and looking to implement within the next 12 months. Looking at a City-wide parking study as well.

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**12. Liz Garvin – 1920 SOUTH OCEAN DR.**

- Emailed Commissioner Rogers to test the workability of the parking lot closure, forwarded on 5/2 to staff and haven't received a response.
- Test closing Oceanfront lot and use trolley to transport from the surface lots.
- Suggests City undertake a trial-run of improvement projects and schedule test on sunny weekend and at night with many people.
- What are bike pedestrian survey signs doing other than blocking turning lanes.
- Questions bike signs on SB turning entry into the port on 17<sup>th</sup> street.
- DM commented: Will get to get back to you on that one.
- How about a mock-up trial.

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**13. Abby Laughlin – 425 BAYSHORE**

- Concern with parking and traffic.
- Future climate change concerns from 1982 study (future is now).
- Wants CRA to spend money on infrastructure for climate change, including sea wall ordinance change and raising properties.
- Attended a meeting recently with FWC, they admitted that they have approved lighting with lower levels than what is permissible.
- Wants us to put in contemporary lighting with dimmers and the most lighting levels possible. Believes it is very dark on the beach.
- Average cost for a parking space is ~\$25,000, this garage will be ~\$40,000, knows there will be marina offices and other improvements, but doesn't know why the cost appears so high?

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**14. Mike Leonard – 1200 HOLIDAY DR**

- Representing YMCA USA.
- YMCA USA is 100% committed to bring back championship meets to FTL.
- Used to bring 3 events/year equating to ~4,000 room nights.
- People willing to pay more to stay on beach and walk to/from pool and restaurants.
- Lost 40% of ticket sales when moved from FTL and additional 10% each year after.
- If the City renovates the current footprint to meet modern competition pool standards, they will come back.
- Need adequate stands to hold spectators.

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**15. Jack Newton – 1 LAS OLAS CIRCLE**

- Likes the idea for streetscape improvements.
- Thinks the promenade cost is high.
- Likes saving money and doing the aquatic center correctly to attract people to Fort Lauderdale.
- Oceanside Parking Lot
  - Plan on spending \$12M to destroy parking lot with 250 parking spaces.
  - Thinks removing Oceanside parking lot is a bad idea- keep what is there.
- Save \$5M on garage by making 3 stories, paint the roof green and park on it, nothing else is needed.
- Save money to pay for the Aquatic Center.
- Provided a handout that shows a possible scenario of parking at the beach after the project in the handout.
- Slogan is to build a family friendly beach and destination, does not want a world class destination - says translates to eliminating the parking that local people love.
- Internationals/tourists will like it, locals won't.
- Pick up, drop off, trolley, and loading/unloading isn't family friendly.

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**16. Greg Quirk – 1 LAS OLAS CIRCLE**

- Talks about clearing trees and relocating site elements to open up the view corridor.
- Lawn on the Oceanfront Park and Plaza will be Bermuda grass, does not like Bermuda grass as softscape, comments only good for goats and horses.
- Lots of parking spaces, but no signage showing where parking is and what's full.
- Lesser quality of life and debt forever associated with these projects.
- Oceanfront area is beautiful, but nobody wants this project.
- Losing administration for marina and restrooms for police.
- "Restrooms are for the homeless".
- Does not like any portion of the project.



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**17. Art Seitz – 1905 NORTH ATLANTIC BLVD.**

- "Nothing gets done in this City".
- Aquatic Center loses money each year, people want to support it, but don't know what the project is.
- Why does it take months for the minutes for the BRAB to come out and they're executive minutes?
- Has issues with format and how BRAB/CC meetings are run.
- DM noted that this is not the forum for these conversations.
- Asking people to look at other nearby municipalities and success of their improvements.
- Does not think people know what they are talking about regarding Aquatic Center/ISHOF.
- References Surfside pool/aquatic center.

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**18. Nancy Green – 1900 SUNRISE KEY**

- Excited about the park proposed.
- Has six grandchildren and excited about the proposed park in this plan.
- Has a better understanding of the traffic and parking issues is needed from the residents.
- Excited about change towards the pedestrian and bike community.
- Wants to address concerns, but not at the price of eliminating project.
- Likes the idea of the police substation at the park is smart to dissuade homeless.
- Lots of people use the beach, but don't live there. Beach is used by the entire city, not just the people living adjacent to the parking garage.

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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:**

**EDSA:**

1. Traffic diversion to single lane residential roads with back-out parking.
2. Eliminating 3 diversified parking lots and concentrating parking into 1 location.
3. Building a structure in a designated flood zone that currently floods – infrastructure of pumps?
4. Las Olas bridge opening and closing twice an hour creating a landlocked situation.
5. DC Alexander Park.
6. 5<sup>th</sup> Street designed and built to be 2 ways.

**CITY STAFF:**

1. Revenue streams of the Oceanside and Birch Lots.
2. Projected Revenue stream of the 428 space parking garage.
3. 30 year parking revenue bond and CRA sunset.