



**YMCA of South Florida
LA Lee/Sistrunk Think Tank
Wednesday, April 20, 2016
Association Office**

Present	YMCA-Present
Vice Mayor Robert McKinzie	Sheryl Woods
Greg Brewton	Mark Russell
Gemar Brewton	Gabe Ochoa
Dr. Naomi Cobb	Emilia Solano
Jonathan Brown	Natalie Tyler
Lauren Holsman	Kim Bitner
Phil Thornburg	
Loraine Mizell	
Beauregard Cummings	

The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm by Sheryl Woods. Sheryl welcomed the attendees and thanked them for taking time to meet with us. She asked the attendees to introduce themselves.

Sheryl began the meeting by showing photos of the current Mizell Center, located in the Sistrunk Corridor. This building is owned by the City of Fort Lauderdale. The proposed plan is to use the footprint of this building for the new LA Lee/Sistrunk family center.

Next, Sheryl presented conceptual drawings created by our Architect, Synalowski & Associates. The attendees showed great enthusiasm while reviewing the drawings.

The first floor of the center would consist of community offices, a child development center, and retail space.

Discussion around the first floor concept included comments by Dr. Cobb. She stated that quality childcare is an important need in the community and that Ms. Irma could be a potential namesake for the new child development/pre-k center. Mr. Brown stated that one concern is that if Ms. Irma's doors were shut for the duration of construction, her childcare operations would need to be relocated.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed retail space. The group agreed that it is imperative that we keep rental rates low as to attract local community businesses as tenants. The rental rate is important also, in that it allows business owners to employ community residents at a "livable" rate.

Dr. Cobb mentioned that she believes this project could be a model project for communities across the nation.

Sheryl showed the concept for the 2nd floor. This would consist of a gymnasium (which actually would be 2 stories), wellness room, aerobics room, locker rooms, family center office space and an area that is open to the lobby.

The third floor concept includes a multi-purpose room, male and female youth lockers, youth zone and blackbox theater with storage. The blackbox theater would be used for performing arts such as theater production, music production, etc.

The fourth floor would include office space and retail space. There were very strong opinions overall that the Y should house their association office there as it would help sustain the building.

Questions were raised about including roof top space for social events for the community. Mr. Brewton stated that many community organizations, such as Kiwanis and Trailblazers, refuse to hold their events in other areas of the county as they want to keep their money local.

Potential Partners:

- Broward College*
- Dental groups
- Housing Authority
- Aetna Health Foundation
- Humana
- NBA/Heat

*Sheryl has a meeting scheduled with the President of Broward College. They do not have money for capital funding, however they have stated that they could be long-term tenants. They have a desire to respond to community needs by offering vocational training, certifications, etc.

Next Steps:

- Secure Partnership with City*
- Secure Funding – P3
- Finalize Legal Contract
- Commission Approval**
- Finalize Facility Design
- Community Advisory Committee
- Construction 2018-2019
- Fund Raise

*Sheryl has written a formal letter to the City of Fort Lauderdale requesting a partnership and land lease agreement for the Mizell Center.

**Meet with Commission on May 17 (or June 7)

Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm. Sheryl thanked the group for attending.