



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING**

#18-0458

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

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

DATE: May 1, 2018

TITLE: Central Beach Master Plan Public Improvement Projects Update

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide updates on Las Olas Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project, the State Road (SR) A1A Beach Streetscape Improvement Project, Las Olas Marina Expansion Project, DC Alexander Park Project, and Aquatics Center Renovation Project. There are 28 months remaining before the Beach Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) sunsets on September 30, 2020.

Las Olas Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project

Skanska USA Building, Inc. is continuing erection of the precast parking garage with construction moving from the west end of the site and progressing east (see Exhibit 1). The precast elements are approximately 70 percent installed. Sidewalk work on the north side of Las Olas Boulevard has begun. The west bound lane on Las Olas Boulevard will be closed to perform the sidewalk work. The sidewalk work will be completed in the next two and a half months.

SR A1A Beach Streetscape Improvement Project

Staff and the design team met with the Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board (BRB) on April 24, 2018 to discuss hardscape options and cost estimates for State Road A1A. A follow up meeting for May 2, 2018 has been scheduled to present refined design concepts to the BRB for recommendation to the CRA Board of Commissioners. These recommendations will be presented to the CRA Board of Commissioners on May 15, 2018.

Las Olas Marina Expansion Project

The City Commission approved the final lease agreement on July 11, 2017 with Suntex Marina Investors LLC (Suntex). Suntex has begun permit submittals for the dredged portion of the project and finalized the site plan for the upland improvements. Suntex submitted plans to the City's Design Review Committee (DRC) and had a DRC meeting on April 10, 2018. At the DRC meeting, there were a number of concerns raised from the public regarding the proposed site plan. As a result, Suntex was advised that further public outreach would be required.

DC Alexander Park Project

On February 20, 2018 the City Commission approved a consultant agreement with Keith and Associates, Inc. for design of DC Alexander Park. A Notice to Proceed has been issued to the consultants with 15% conceptual drawings and cost estimates estimated to be completed in four (4) months. Keith and Associates has performed preliminary survey work and data collection. The consultant will be coordinating a public workshop and presentation this month, and will meet with the Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board (BRB), Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

In addition to the agreement with Keith and Associates, Inc., staff is investigating the feasibility of installing an observation wheel in the park. On February 15, 2018 the City issued a Request for Information (RFI) to identify potential companies that are capable of bearing the full responsibility of financing, constructing, operating and maintaining an iconic observation wheel at DC Alexander Park. On March 2, 2018 the RFI closed with two firms expressing interest in providing an observation wheel. Staff presented the observation wheel concept to the Parks Board on March 28, 2018 and the BRB on April 16, 2018. The Parks Board unanimously voted to reject the concept of a Ferris wheel. The BRB voted 5-2 to continue exploring the concept of the observation wheel. If the City Commission approves to explore the concept of the observation wheel, staff will prepare a solicitation for interested firms to finance, construct, operate and maintain the observation wheel, or staff will pursue other options as directed by the City Commission.

Aquatics Center Renovation Project

The City received two (2) Request for Proposal (RFP) responses for the renovation of the Aquatics Center. The RFP requested a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) to design and renovate the Aquatics Center. Staff is scheduling the RFP selection committee to review and rank the two bidders.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Progress Photographs

Prepared by: Thomas Green, Beach CRA

Department Director: Donald Morris, AICP, Beach CRA