



**City Commission Workshop Meeting
City Hall, Commission Chambers, 3rd Floor, 1700 Convention Center Drive
September 30, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.**

Mayor Philip Levine - Absent
Vice-Mayor Edward L. Tobin - Absent
Commissioner Michael Grieco
Commissioner Joy Malakoff
Commissioner Micky Steinberg
Commissioner Deede Weithorn
Commissioner Jonah Wolfson - Absent

City Manager Jimmy L. Morales
City Attorney Raul J. Aguila
City Clerk Rafael E. Granado

LINCOLN ROAD DISTRICT MASTER PLAN WORKSHOP

Workshop called to order at 3:15:08 p.m.

Adrian Morales, Senior Administrative Lincoln Road Property Manager, introduced Mr. James Corner.

James Corner stated that this is a preview of the Master Plan for Lincoln Road. They have collaborated with the City; he acknowledged Mr. Adrian Morales and added that this has been a comprehensive public process; they met with business owners, HPB, operation and maintenance teams, security and Police, making it a broad base of outreach.

[PowerPoint presentation shown.](#)

Mr. Corner explained that visitors to Lincoln Road come from all over the world, but Lincoln Road is also a focal point for neighborhoods, and they recognized the Morris Lapidus design. The first step is to enhance the shopping and dining experience; highlight and reveal the Lapidus vision; and create distinctive public places. In addition, they are looking to revamp and transform streetscape areas. Improvements are being suggested for alleyway cleaning upgrading and transforming the retail areas. They propose to pedestrianize Drexel Avenue to have a stronger connection to the New World Symphony and close by areas. On Lincoln Lane south, there is an opportunity to improve sidewalks, add bicycle lane areas and landscape. Design elements include Morris Lapidus "piano keys" structures with challenges for up keeping, maintenance, which they propose to use cast-in place tinted concrete with exposed stone aggregate in order to lessen the maintenance of the "piano keys" design. Other details include curbs and opportunity to add public seating, improve lighting and improve furniture along the Road, such as trashcans, furniture and digital signage. A major challenge is improving the sidewalk cafes and the Master Plan outlines strategies, which include the idea of creating two 15-foot wide strips on the inboard side of the Road, dedicated to existing cafes and future expansion of cafes on the Road, by keeping the pedestrian strip within the allotted space. Canopy structures are also being looked to be constructed for robustness against weather. He also

explained in detail the changes proposed for the Euclid Oval and the water features that open up the Lapidus structure as the icon that was originally meant to be. At nighttime, this element can be closed off and the feature can be used as a catwalk for fashion shows and exhibits. On the 400 block, Lapidus intended this to be a place for gathering, and they propose a beach gateway, which will create a central shade walk with landscape becoming an iconic, welcoming destination and a gateway and civic place for concerts and gatherings.

Commissioner Malakoff stated that the 600-700 block of Lincoln Road is proposed to have public art, she asked whether the City would be responsible for deciding what works of art are displayed.

Mr. Corner stated that local community could decide this, or have some sort of curator to handle programs and events on Lincoln Road.

Commissioner Grieco recognized everyone who participated in the process, and stated that if they were to vote he would vote for Option 2, because it has a larger area for Euclid Avenue. His concern with Option 1 is the maintenance required for the fountain and garden in that area.

Commissioner Steinberg commended Mr. Corner for his efforts, and asked if members of the public will be allowed to speak.

Thelma Deutch, Lincoln Road Property Owner, foresees problems in the future and stated that the new design for Lincoln Road has to go back to the drawing board. She expressed her concerns for what she believes is the seating of one restaurant moving into the seating of another restaurant during the proposed renovation, there will be problems with this suggestion.

Commissioner Malakoff clarified the seating area design in Mr. Corner's presentation simply shows where tables and seats could be, not specifically where they will be.

Discussion held.

Howard Herring commented that he sees in these plans a chance for culture to become central to Lincoln Road, the community needs to get together and get do this properly. Lighting is part of the plan and he is in favor of it. New ideas are needed. In future programming of the park he looks forward to what this is going to do for them.

Marsha Meyer, representing Lincoln Road Association, stated that they pay handsome rent and the construction part of it is vital; if there is going to be large amount of dust during renovation, people are not going to want to sit and eat in the outdoor cafes, so they need to see how they can make construction less intrusive during those stages.

Henry Stolar, Miami Beach resident, congratulated Mr. Corner for a beautiful and bold plan. He stated that there are Mayoral Blue Ribbon Committees working on Ocean Drive and elsewhere, and it is great to be a visionary and take a good look at the big picture. He thinks the City Commission needs to take into account the role of the Police and Code Compliance in doing their job. For the most part, it is not happening; the quality of life issues on all of these major streets have not been addressed. After enhancements are completed, if there are still obnoxious noises, and people riding skateboards on Lincoln Road, the quality of life will not be as good as it should. The culture needs to be changed and Police and Code Enforcement Officers cannot just walk by and not do anything.

Commissioner Grieco stated that a new RFP is going out to a new security company, but he asked Mr. Stolar if he would agree that things have gotten better on Lincoln Road.

Mr. Stolar agreed with Commissioner Grieco that there has been a huge improvement on Lincoln Road.

Discussion continued.

Lyle Stern states that the City is being transformed, and complimented the City Commission for hiring Mr. Corner. This is making the world pay attention. All business owners are sensitive to the need of public space and this plan enhances it.

City Manager Jimmy Morales recognized Adrian Morales for the efforts he has made during his eight months tenure.

Claudia Herman, Lincoln Road business owner, is concerned about the timing of the construction. The 400 block will have a new park, but it will take people away from the site.

Commissioner Malakoff stated that they need to make sure that the pathways along the retail shops remain open during construction.

City Manager Jimmy Morales added that there was a public meeting the previous night and they will bring to the October 14 City Commission Meeting the Master Plan for approval. They will also have the RFQ or RFP with the architectural rendering, and at some point, construction issues will be addressed as they move forward, this will be worked out with the business owners.

Discussion held.

Meeting adjourned at 3:59:30 p.m.

Handouts or Reference Materials:

1. Lincoln Road Master Plan Booklet