

# MIAMIBEACH

**Mayor's 41<sup>st</sup> Street Committee**  
**4:00pm Monday, May 15, 2018**  
City of Miami Beach  
1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach

## MINUTES

### Committee Members in Attendance:

- Seth Gadinsky, Chair
- Betty Behar
- Michael Burnstine (Present by phone)
- Yechiel Ciment
- Francisco Diez-Rivas
- Jerri Herzberg Bassuk
- Robin Jacobs
- Jeremy Wachtel
- Eric Hankin

### Committee Members Absent:

- Kayla Rynor

### City Staff Present:

- Michelle Huttenhoff, Staff Liaison/Economic Development Manager
- Eva Silverstein, Director Tourism, Culture and Economic Development
- Elizabeth Wheaton, Director of Environment and Sustainability
- James Murphy, Chief Urban Designer
- Michele Burger, Chief of Staff

Eva Silverstein opened the meeting at 4:20 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. The first discussion item was a review of the master plan scope of work by Alta Planning and Gehl Studio's.

**Nomination of Vice Chair:** Eva Silverstein discussed the need for the Committee to *nominate* a Vice Chair. The Committee nominated Robin Jacobs. Seth Gadinsky made a motion and was seconded by Yechiel Ciment and Betty Behar.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Seth Gadinsky made a motion to approve the April 9, 2018 meeting minutes. Yechiel Ciment seconded and the motion passed to approve the meeting minutes.

**Review Scope of Work:** Michelle Huttenhoff provided a brief description and update to the Committee on the status of the agreement between the City and Alta Planning. Michelle informed the Committee that the agreement had been authorized and approved for the 41<sup>st</sup> Street master plan. Members from Gehl Studio's, Julia Day and Olivia Flynn, were present via conference call and reviewed scope of services and timeline for the master plan.

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Julia explained that the master plan includes a series of in-person engagements that will occur in June 2018. She reviewed the key events: kickoff meeting with the Committee, City of Miami Beach staff, and members of the public, three “pop up” community forums, and a visioning workshop with the Committee and City of Miami Beach staff. The Committee discussed various locations for the pop-up engagements and made the following suggestions: Roasters and Toasters, Starbucks, Café Avanti, Taste Beach Café, and the parking lot near the elementary school. The Committee also discussed the importance of Gehl performing site analysis during evening hours and either on Friday or Saturday night to note the difference in activity.

Jeremy Wachtel suggested that the Committee be intentional in including representatives from the neighboring hotels. He mentioned that many of the MidBeach hotels do not recommend to tourists to come to 41<sup>st</sup> Street. He requested that City Staff reach out to the Confidant, Fountainbleau, and the Eden Roc.

**Resiliency Plan:** Betsy Wheaton, Director of Environment and Sustainability presented on the City of Miami Beach’s resiliency plan. She reviewed the partnership between the City of Miami Beach, City of Miami, and Miami-Dade County for the 100Rockeller initiative. Betsy also highlighted recent studies that addressed sea level rise and climate change in Miami Beach by the Urban Land Institute and Harvard University. She further expressed that the City is deeply invested in becoming more resilient and that all future master plans and infrastructure improvements need to incorporate blue and green infrastructure.

There was direction from the Committee that the master plan conducted by Alta Planning and Gehl Studio’s be mindful of the City’s resiliency efforts and incorporate the findings from Harvard and ULI into the recommendations. Yechiel Ciment requested that representation from the Environment and Sustainability Department be present in all future 41<sup>st</sup> Street Committee meetings.

**Review of 41<sup>st</sup> Street Asset Map and Zoning Regulations:** James Murphy, Chief of Urban Design, presented an asset map of the 41<sup>st</sup> Street Corridor. This map showed the zoning overlays along the street as well as total on-street, off-street, and garage parking. The map also showed uses and ownerships of the ground floor storefronts. Several Committee members found areas to update amongst the ownerships and provided feedback to James. Many of the Committee members inquired about the lack of garage parking and was interested in future garage build projects (behind Starbucks).

The Committee requested that representation from Parking, Transportation, and Public Safety be made at all future Committee meetings.

**GO Bond Update:** Eva Silverstein provided an update on the GO Bond and explained that the City would be hosting community sessions to solicit feedback regarding the proposed projects. She explained that they would be broken into three categories: Parks and Beaches, infrastructure, and public safety. Eva requested that Michelle Huttenhoff send the Committee the upcoming community meeting schedule for the GO Bond.

**Public Forum:** Haskel Mayer discussed the tension between tourists and residents within MidBeach and stressed the importance that with the master plan, residents should be put first. Mr. Mayer discussed quality of life for residents and business owners along 41<sup>st</sup> Street included parking, lighting, and traffic congestion.

Steve Meiner discussed the need to evaluate public safety and crime along 41<sup>st</sup> Street. He indicated that there needs to be more dedicated police patrol along the corridor. Mr. Meiner stated that especially in the evening hours, 41<sup>st</sup> Street feels unsafe and welcoming.

Ira Giller stated that the Committee and master plan design team need to involve the property and business owners along 41<sup>st</sup> Street Corridor. He stated that all of the infrastructure recommendations will have an economic impact on the street especially when analyzing parking.

**Ideas and Suggestions:**

- Examine the removal of the palm trees and replacing with trees that provide a larger canopy
- Look into hiring a special events coordinator or project manager to oversee 41<sup>st</sup> Street, similar to Coral Gables
- Repurpose the top floors of the Sheridan parking garage
- Research the liquor licensing policy along 41<sup>st</sup> Street

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

**Minutes Approved by the Mayor's 41<sup>st</sup> Street Committee**

on: 6/19/18

  
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Seth Gadinsky, Chair