

MIAMI BEACH

Mayor's 41st Street Committee
4:00pm Tuesday, July 31, 2018
City of Miami Beach
1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach

MINUTES

Committee Members in Attendance:

- Seth Gadinsky, Chair
- Michael Burnstine
- Robin Jacobs
- Jeremy Wachtel
- Eric Hankin
- Betty Behar

Committee Members Absent:

- Yechiel Ciment
- Jerri Herzberg Bassuk
- Francisco Diez-Rivas

City Staff Present:

- Michelle Huttenhoff, Staff Liaison/Economic Development Manager
- Eva Silverstein, Director Tourism, Culture and Economic Development
- Saul Frances, Parking Director
- Josiel Ferrier, Transportation Assistant Director
- Lynda Westin, Transportation Manager

Seth Gadinsky opened the meeting at 4:08 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of the Minutes: Seth Gadinsky made a motion to approve the June 19, 2018 meeting minutes. Robin Jacobs seconded and the motion passed to approve the meeting minutes.

Preliminary Design Report and Recommendations Presentation: The first item on the agenda for discussion was a presentation made by Julia Day from Gehl Studio's. The presentation provided covered the final design brief and proposed recommendations for 41st Street. Julia explained that there were 12 core principles guiding this work. These themes were based upon resident feedback as well as their analysis of the street. Below are the proposed 12 strategies:

- Make More Room for Life: Widen sidewalks, make designated bus lanes, shorten pedestrian crossings, create hangout spots
- Make Life More Comfortable: Provide shade, increase seating, calm traffic

- Provide Meaningful Shade: Increase tree canopy, increase awning coverage, provide shade at bus stops
- Introduce Human Scale Green: Utilize hanging plants/vines, increase tree canopy, introduce planters, create bio-swales and planters that can support climate adaptation and activity
- Bridge the Gaps: Shorten crossing distances, increase pedestrian walk times, remove sidewalk clutter, increase mid-block crossings, improve pavement quality
- Create World-class Bus stops: Protect riders from rain and sun, provide seating, leverage bus shelters as places that can also provide neighborhood amenities such as bike parking, bike pumps or vending (***Matthew noted that the City of Miami Beach is currently reviewing their bus shelter design and the Transportation Department is working with a design firm*)
- Welcome to 41st: Increase public art along the street, provide playful and clear wayfinding, promote local businesses
- Take a Seat: Add more space for both public and commercial seating
- Light the Night: Orient lighting to the human scale
- Create More Invitation for People to Stay: Provide creative programming, incentivize business owners to “spill out into the street”, increase permits for outdoor drinking
- Create More Opportunities for People to Connect: Convert street spaces to people space, increase people space in front of stores and restaurants

The main focus of the design plan is the reconfiguration of the street to allow for more public space. Julia reviewed three proposed designs that could be implemented that would allow for wider sidewalks, increased tree canopy and better human-scale lighting.

Option 1: Reduce lane widths, remove sidewalk clutter, re-program on-street parking. Keep four travel lanes with one turn lane. This will allow the sidewalk space to go from 10 feet to 23 feet.

Option 2: Eliminate turn lane, reduce lane widths, remove clutter, re-program on-street parking. This will allow the sidewalk space to go from 10 feet to 29 feet and could include a protected bike lane.

Option 3: Eliminate two travel lanes, 1 being a turn lane, reduce lane widths, remove clutter, re-program on-street parking. This will allow the sidewalk space to go from 10 feet to 34 feet and would include a protected bike path. *It was noted by the Assistant Director for Transportation, Josiel, that this option would present the most issue because the Fire Department needs the turn lane.*

Jeremy Wachtel mentioned that currently the buses use the on street parking to pick up and drop off riders. If the plan shows the removal of these spaces, he inquired as to how the buses will be accommodated. Julia mentioned that certain streets could be built to have dedicated lanes and/or stops to accommodate the bus/trolley or use the side streets for pickup. Eric Hankin followed this by saying that none of the street designs show for dedicated bus lanes, given that this is part of the County SMART plan, this needs to be considered.

While the long-term vision of 41st Street will require intensive capital investments and redesign of the street, Julia stated that the Committee should begin with pilot activations to test different concepts before accepting a final design. The design brief suggests several pilot projects: green zones, enhanced pedestrian crossings, play zones, dedicated zones for bicyclists on 41st.

Michelle informed the Committee that they need to make two motions during the meeting. The first is to accept the design brief as the main strategy and vision for 41st Street. The second motion is to identify and prioritize the pilot projects that the Committee wishes to move forward first.

Eva Silverstein updated the Committee informing them of a recent discussion at the Finance Committee regarding a temporary shade structure project. She explained that the Commission is interested in creating a similar installation to the Umbrella Project and that the 41st Street Committee could make a recommendation that 41st Street be an area of consideration.

There were three motions made by the Committee:

1. To adopt the Gehl Studio design recommendations as the vision for the 41st Street corridor and priorities for the Committee.
Motion made by: Eric Hankin
Motion seconded by: Betty Behar
Motion Passed: Votes 6-0
2. The Committee recommends the following pilot projects be made a priority for future implementation: parklets, temporary shade structures, increased lighting, programming, and a pilot bicycle lane on 41st Street.
Motion made by: Betty Behar
Motion seconded by: Jeremy Wachtel
Motion passed: Votes 6-0
3. The Committee recommends that the Finance and Citywide Projects Committee allocate funding and prioritize 41st Street as an area of opportunity for a temporary and creative shade structure.
Motion made by: Jeremy Wachtel
Motion seconded by: Michael Burnstine
Motion Passed: Votes 6-0

The Committee additionally discussed what types of programming they would like to see piloted on 41st Street. Eva Silverstein stated it would be good to test out a few ideas in the Fall – in advance of the GOB vote – such as a movie night, food truck event, and possibly a Halloween activity so as to demonstrate momentum on the corridor. Eric stated that it is important for the Committee to begin discussing the branding and marketing plan for the street.

Due to time constraints Seth recommended that the discussion items for activating storefronts and the future use of parking lot P63 be deferred to the September 2018 meeting.

Public Forum: Steven Meiner discussed the current issue with public safety. He stated that there has been an issue with homeless and requested that the Committee make it a priority to discuss this at their next meeting.

Ideas and Suggestions:


- Invite the officer dedicated for 41st Street to the next meeting to discuss public safety concerns

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Minutes Approved by the Mayor's 41st Street Committee

on: 9/4/11



Seth Gadinsky, Chair