

MIAMI BEACH

Mayor's 41st Street Committee
4:00pm Tuesday, October 9, 2018
Iberia Bank
400 41st Street, Miami Beach

MINUTES

Committee Members in Attendance:

- Seth Gadinsky, Chair
- Betty Behar
- Michael Burnstine
- Yechiel Ciment
- Francisco Diez-Rivas
- Eric Hankin
- Robin Jacobs
- Jeremy Wachtel

Committee Members Absent:

- Jerri Herzberg Bassuk

Members in Attendance not on Committee:

- Michael Goldberg
- Adrian Gonzalez
- Michael Grieco
- Seth Heller
- Valerie Navarrete

City Staff Present:

- Heather Shaw, Acting Director Tourism, Culture and Economic Development
- Roberto Morales, Client Services Homeless Outreach
- Nancy Grant, Homeless PG Coordinator
- Jose Gonzalez, Transportation Department Director
- William Rivera Paz, Traffic Engineer, Transportation Department
- Josiel Ferrer, Assistant Director, Transportation Department
- Carlos Cuellar, Miami Beach Police Department
- Jenny Hernandez, Tourism, Culture and Economic Development

Seth Gadinsky opened the meeting at 4:11 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

Heather Shaw stated that Kathie Brooks sends her apologies as she was not able to attend the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes: Michael Burnstine made a motion to approve the September 4, 2018 meeting minutes. Betty Behar seconded and the motion passed 8-0 to approve the meeting minutes.

Parklets and Vacant Storefronts: Heather Shaw read an item from the September minutes where the Committee talked about partnering with Design and Architecture Senior High (DASH) students to develop a unique symbol of unity which could be used as inspiration for 41st Street corridor parklets and vacant storefront coverings. The students will design concepts for modular, prefabricated and transportable parklets, which will be temporarily set up in parking spots along the street. A graphic design component will also be developed for installation in vacant storefronts. \$40,000 of the \$100,000 budgeted in the fiscal year of 2018-19 is to be used for this purpose. Michael Burnstine made a motion to approve and go forward with the item in regards to parklets and vacant storefront designs. Betty Behar seconded and the motion passed 8-0 to approve the item.

Pilot Project Prioritization and Community Outreach Plan: Heather Shaw read another September item where Eva Silverstein, Director of Tourism, Culture & Economic Development reviewed the proposed pilot projects in the Alta/Gehl report. She informed the Committee that creative shade structures - one of the recommendations for pilot projects - are being considered by the Finance and Citywide Projects Committee at the September 14th meeting. She further explained that 41st Street could be one of the possible locations for installation of a creative shade structure. Eric Hankin made a motion to approve the item in regards to shade structures. Betty Behar seconded and the motion passed 8-0 to approve the item.

Possible Solutions to Homeless Public Safety Concerns: Valerie Navarrete, Chair of the Miami Beach Homeless Committee introduced Nancy Grant and Roberto Morales of the Homeless Outreach Department. Roberto Morales stated he is the Client Specialist who offers shelter services, relocation assistance for loved ones, ID assistance, and support group which teaches how to be proactive and take responsibility for themselves. Morales gave a brief background as he once was part of that homeless group.

Heather Shaw asked what they recommend residents and business owners should do. Morales stated they should submit a complaint email through the City's website so that the department can take necessary action. Business owners should also have a "No Trespassing" sign as this allows a Police Officer to make an arrest if needed.

Middle Beach Police Officer Cuellar informed the Committee that Mount Sinai Hospital is the closest receiving hospital for Baker Act patients, and that many of the homeless individuals are Baker Act patients. Nancy Grant stated that they get released in the early morning hours which leave them to wandering onto 41st Street causing a nuisance to customers and families in the corridor. Robin Jacobs mentioned that their goal is to cut down on the crime from the homeless not necessarily get rid of all of them. Valerie Navarrete informed that Camillus House will be launching a mobile car program to medicate the mentally ill. The Committee suggested there should be a program for the homeless after they are released from Mt. Sinai Hospital so that they may be taken to a shelter or given other resources. Francisco Diez-Rivas asked that for the next meeting we know where we source funds for projects like this.

Yechiel Ciment made a motion to invite a City Attorney representative to discuss, with the Committee, what ordinances, if any, can be changed to help address the mentally physically ill homeless population on 41st Street; for the Committee to reach out to Mt. Sinai Hospital to have a representative attend a Committee meeting to discuss the Mt. Sinai Hospital homeless

outreach plan and its impact on the 41st Street corridor; for the Committee to reach out to the Church Casa Dei Bambini to inquire how they are assisting the homeless people that are sheltered there in the evenings daily; for the Committee to reach out to businesses to ensure they are aware of and have signed up for the “No Trespassing” signs and affidavit program; and for the Committee to ask City Homeless Services if there are regional and/or federal resources that could be accessed to address more homeless support activities on the 41st Street corridor and if so, how are those resources allocated. Robin Jacobs seconded and the motion passed 8-0 to implement this action plan.

Existing Regulations Regarding Sale of Alcohol in the 41st Street Area: Seth Gadinsky explained that he thought this was a restriction to all businesses due to having a school in the area but it turns out it's not. The restaurant/business just needs to go in front of the Commission in order to obtain a license to sell alcohol.

Traffic Issues Affecting 41st Street: Josiel Ferrer gave an updated Transportation presentation for the 41st Street corridor and informed that the City of Miami Beach is the only City that can control traffic light changes. Julia Tuttle has an annual average daily traffic of 41,000 vehicles per day. The travel time from Indian Creek Dr. to Alton Road in the morning is 6 minutes and in the afternoon it is 8 minutes which includes all 9 traffic lights. Transportation Department is currently working with a traffic engineering company to improve circulation of traffic flow. Ferrer explained that during peak hours on 41st Street and Prairie Ave., the cycle time from gong east to west is at 118 seconds whereas the cycle time going north to south ranges between 7 - 24 seconds. Ferrer also explained that there are inductive loops in place at traffic lights that read the amount of metal on top of it thus communicating to the traffic light when to change.

When the Committee discussed potential modifications of signal timing Ferrer mentioned they could; reduce cycle length/revert to typical signal timing, have automatic pedestrian phases, or have Exclusive pedestrian phases. The Committee, agreed with the Transportation Department, and suggested it was better to reduce cycle length as it reduces waiting time and delays for side streets however, it will cause a reduction in green time for the main movement causing delay on the main phase. The Transportation Department will also study the bulb outs to try to get more traffic flow going north-south.

Façade Renovations: Seth Gadinsky talked about having unified awnings of the street and recommended that 41st Street should ultimately have a Business Improvement District. However, Robin Jacobs stated that at the 41st Street Business Association made it seem like they were not really interested in having a BID at the moment. Michael Burnstine stated that by having a BID, rent will go up for the businesses but it also means that commerce goes up. Gadinsky suggested waiting until after the GO Bond passes in order to continue with a decision.

Proposed Parklet Locations: Seth Gadinsky informed that he and a few others went to Eric's classroom at DASH to see what the students have already created as ideas for the parklet and vacant storefronts. Eric Hankin appreciated those who went to the school to look at the projects as the school doesn't really get much community involvement. Gadinsky asked the Committee if they had thought about a location for the pocket park. Jeremy Wachtel suggested they should put it in front of the Central Ace Hardware store as a play area since its right across the street from the school. If allowed to have a second one, the Committee would like it to be in front of a restaurant for the purpose of people being served or not. Yechiel Ciment suggested putting one in front of the Roosevelt restaurant to get more people to come to 41st Street. Betty Behar also suggested putting one in front of Café Avanti. Gadinsky recommended talking to the business owners first to see if they are interested in having these pocket parks in front of their business.

Robin stated she will speak to Jessica Fuentes to see if she's interested in having a parklet in front of Café Avanti.

Storefront Activations & Art Competition with Local Schools: Heather Shaw mentioned the Finance Committee decided to change the ordinance on vacant storefronts to make them more business friendly. The ordinance will be revised so that there is enough room to present the artwork from the students and still have space to put the realtor's information on the storefront as well. It was also recommended that some money is utilized to make additional storefront coverings. Therefore, the City will provide storefront coverings for the business until the ordinance has been changed.

The Finance Committee mentioned they would also like to do a "Call to Artists" to design a piece that embraces the entire City or parts of Miami Beach. Heather Shaw suggested that she would instead want the Commissioners to consider utilizing DASH students' to design storefront coverings.

Public Comments: Heather Shaw stated that Commissioner Arriola had an interest in doing something similar to Coral Gables' Umbrella Project but on 41st Street. The Commissioner asked to set aside \$50,000 which he would like matched, given that the Umbrella Project cost about \$120,000. Shaw revealed that an artist had come up with an idea of putting an electrical rainbow across 41st Street. The Committee's concern about this new project on 41st Street is that it would have to be a vehicular one as this street isn't a pedestrian road. Gadinsky suggested the project could also be done in the pocket park once it is completed.

Seth Gadinsky had previously suggested a mechanical garage at the Chase lot behind the Roosevelt Center and after speaking with Saul Frances, Parking Director, he stated he would be open to it if he found a system they could work with. Gadinsky mentioned he also spoke with Publix who is also working on the lot behind Roasters 'N Toasters.

The Committee agreed to have the next meeting on Monday, November 19th from 4 – 6 pm at IBERIABANK.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes Approved by the Mayor's 41st Street Committee

on: _____

Seth Gadinsky, Chair