

# MIAMI BEACH

## **Mayor's Blue Ribbon 41<sup>st</sup> Street Committee**

4:00pm Thursday, November 14, 2019

Iberia Bank

400 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Miami Beach

### **MINUTES**

#### **Committee Members in Attendance:**

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

#### **City Staff in Attendance**

- Bo Martinez
- Gedel Merzius

Seth Gadinsky opened the meeting at 4:26 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes:** Robin Jacobs made a motion to approve the minutes of August, September and October at the committee meeting. Bonnie Crabtree seconded the motion.

**Future meeting 2020 meeting Dates:** Seth Gadinsky ask that staff prepare a list of available dates for the upcoming 2020 year for discussion at the December meeting. Gedel Merzius emphasized that the presentation

#### **Presentation on Better Bus Project:**

Transit Alliance is a local nonprofit organization advocating walkable streets, bikeable lanes and better public transit in Miami Dade county. These concepts are not proposals rather different ways of thinking how the bus transit can be redesigned depending on specific goals of a community. While the Better Bus Project is focusing on the County bus network, it also looks at improvements to trolley services in the cities of Miami, Miami Beach, and Coral Gables. Last month, two network concepts were released by Transit Alliance which also suggest changes to our trolley routes. Azhar Chogle presented to the committee on concepts and how each one of the affect regional and local service.

**MOTION: Supporting the revamping of the bus system prioritizing increased connectivity between Miami Beach and the mainland while further prioritizing connectivity within the city to 41st street while maintaining the free trolley service.**

*Motion entertained by: Seth Gadinsky (Chair)*

*Motion made by: Yechiel Ciment*

*Motion seconded by: Betty Behar*

*Motion passed: 10-0*

*Member absent: None*

Yechiel Ciment, stated that he would like the Transportation Department to give a presentation regarding scooter system on whether scooters on Miami Beach would be beneficial. Bo Martinez stated that staff will meet internally to discuss what was passed through the commission on what is being planned from the city's perspective than report back to the committee.

**Discuss 2020 Committee Objectives**

- **41<sup>st</sup> Street District-Wide Action Plan**

Bo Martinez stated that staff is currently concentrating on evaluating all of the city-wide plans and designs that were adopted. Staff is looking to hire a consultant that will prioritize all of the plans, meet with different stakeholders related to 41<sup>st</sup> street committee and create a schedule for these projects and cost amount for implementation. Bonnie Crabtree asked about the timeframe into when this will take place. Bo stated that we would like to name the consultant within a month. Eric Hankin asked whether the study will be broader than 41<sup>st</sup> street. Bo stated that the study will encompass the 40<sup>th</sup>, 41<sup>st</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> street corridor as one street scape study. Bo stated that a scope of services was sent out to a preferred pool of consultants. Bo also stated that the committee will be needed to after the prioritization of projects and the implementations of the projects.

- **Activating space within the 41<sup>st</sup> street corridor**

Committee spoke about the November Movie Night that was held at Muss Park, Eric stated that he attended the Movie Night but informed the committee that hardly anyone showed up and there was no connection to the 41<sup>st</sup> corridor. The actual movie night notice had no time displayed. Betty Behar suggested that staff create physical flyers to disseminate through the community for the next movie night which will be held January 19, 2020. Jeremy stated that he would have no problem to donate snacks to movie goers.

Michael Burnstine suggested that some establishments should be reached out to see if they would like to give movie night specials to encourage movie goers to enjoy the area.

Yechiel added that if any type of programming was to be done on the 41<sup>st</sup> corridor it should be done on city lots or the Lieberman park. Betty Behar stated that the GCC expressed interest in curating cultural events at the Roosevelt Theatre if the theatre was revamped.

Robin Jacobs stated that it would behoove committee members to promote businesses that are opening on 41<sup>st</sup> street and encourage and inform the community to support those businesses.

Marcella Novella mentioned the monthly City of Miami Beach Cultural Crawl and how it can be extended to the 41<sup>st</sup> street corridor to activate empty spaces into artistic elements.

Jeremy Wachtel mentioned about artist and how they can create artwork pieces in empty spaces on the side of buildings. Robin stated that one of the goals the committee should concentrate on is how to form a bid, committee members agreed with that statement.

- **Lighting on 41<sup>st</sup> street**

Bo stated that there is a three-prong approach that is a part of the total street scape plan. The first step in that plan consist of holiday lighting than a scope will be made and a RFP will be established to specify the recommendations form the committee. Bo reminded the committee that using the same electrical power that is used for temporary holiday lighting would not be sustainable for decorative lighting along the corridor of 41<sup>st</sup> street.

Yechiel stated that he rather the temporary lighting in the meantime to show community members and people who commute through 41<sup>st</sup> street that 41<sup>st</sup> street is open for business just under construction.

- **Discussion of the 41<sup>st</sup> street Farmers Market**

Gedel stated that a curator for the Farmers Market has been selected and the terms and location of the curation of the market has yet to be disclosed. Gedel ask that committee members create a list of preferred potential restaurants that would be interested in participating in the farmers market.

### **Commissioner Update**

Francisco Diez-Rivas spoke about Electrify America which is a company that focuses on electric vehicle charging, electrify America offers the largest number of public, high powered, fast charging stations on the market. Francisco stated that there is a need for more charging ports to be established at the City of Miami Beach.

Seth Gadinsky gave a brief update about the Publix update. Seth stated that a meeting will be taking place in November.

**Meeting adjourned 6:05 pm**