



City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

The Mayor’s 41st street Committee (“Committee”) is created pursuant to the Mayor’s authority to establish Mayor’s boards or committees under Section 2-27 (b) (2) of the City Code. The purpose of the committee is to study and make recommendations as to how to improve the experience for residents and visitors on 41st street, which is one of the major gateways to Miami Beach.

Mayor’s Blue Ribbon 41st Street Committee
4:00 PM Wednesday September 23, 2020
MINUTES

Committee Members in Attendance:

- Jerri Hertzberg Bassuk
- Michael Burnstine
- Yechiel Ciment
- Bonnie Crabtree
- Seth Gadinsky, Chair
- Eric Hankin
- Marcella Novella
- Jeremy Wachtel

Elected Officials in attendance

- Commissioner Steve Meiner

City Staff in Attendance

- Eric Carpenter, Assistant City Manager
- Maria Hernandez, GO Bond Program Director
- Amadeus Huff, Aide to Commissioner Meiner
- Amy Mehu, Interim Economic Development Director
- Gedel Merzius, Economic Development Specialist
- Allison Novack, Community Information Manager
- Kevin Pullido, Neighborhoods Affairs Manager
- Vanessa Veracruz, Neighborhoods Affairs Coordinator
- Thais Vieira, GO Bond Program Assistant Director
- Rickelle Williams, Economic Development Director

Seth Gadinsky opened the meeting at 4:13 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance of the meeting.

Approval of the August Minutes

The August Minutes were moved for approval by Bonnie Crabtree and seconded by Michael Burnstine.

City Update

Commissioner Steve Meiner gave a brief update about homeless outreach efforts on 41st street in collaboration with Mount Sinai. This item will continue to be discussed at the upcoming Neighborhood Quality of Life committee (NQLC) meetings. Commissioner Meiner also stated that the items regarding A frame signage and extension of sidewalk permits for retail spaces will be discussed at the upcoming City Commission meeting.

AECOM presentation

Gedel Merzius began the discussion by thanking all current and former members of the 41 Street Blue Ribbon Committee, for their hard work and dedication on this project. Merzius reminded committee members that although it hasn't seemed like it at times, they have made huge progress, and have had made huge impact on the direction of the project. Gedel highlighted the committee accomplishments: Helped to get the G.O. Bond passed, which gave us \$15M to execute this project. Helped to engage the local business community & residents throughout this process. Using Got the Alta Gehl Vision Plan completed and approved by Commission, which helped to inform this part of the project. Giving a tremendous amount of their own input and feedback, which staff, Alta Gehl and AECOM has incorporated at length.

Gedel also reminded them of the role of the consultants and their deliverables: Alta Gehl put their ideas in to a Vision Report. That was about ideas and concepts. AECOM has taken those ideas and concepts, and turned it in to a something VISUAL that is also feasible, and within budget, and actually allowed by FDOT, executable by CIP, etc. Gedel stated that this has been a complex process that has required the integration of multiple Master Plans, other city projects, County & State initiatives, etc. We are excited to wrap up a final design scheme and a Master Action Schedule.

Allison Novack stated that AECOM will present this same presentation at the upcoming G.O. Bond Committee. Also on October 1, the public will see the presentation with feedback from the committee incorporated into it. Maria Hernandez stated that she wanted to know the thoughts on Scheme 1 vs Scheme 2. Maria stated that they were looking to discuss what committee members like and don't like about each the presentation. Gedel stated that at the next meeting, they can make an official recommendation via Motion.

AECOM presented their schematic plan detailing project process and defining roles, street scape design, proposal in scheme 1 and scheme 2, Showing Alta Gehl design outcomes and the progress between the proposal on scheme 1 and the proposal for scheme 2.

Seth Gadinsky stated his displeasure with the plan stating through specific motions and past conversations he expected that the AECOM representatives and staff would present a master plan which would cover potential zoning options of city lots. Seth referenced the June 2019 41st street committee meeting where Bernard Zyscovich spoke about the need to create a master plan within the 41st street district. Bernard Zyscovich was invited to speak about the incremental steps into starting a master plan. Bernard stated that the first thing into creating a master plan is to figure out the existing conditions, understand the zoning restrictions, zoning possibilities and market conditions with an examination to how they compare with other streets within the area. Seth stated that this was his expectation coming into today's meeting.

Yechiel stated that they expected to see in the presentation discussion of alternatives to spaces of activation within the 41st street corridor. He also stated that the conceptual plan presented lacked options that would involve potential conceptual changes to 40th street and 42nd street.

Seth stated that he expected a plan that would exhibit possible zoning options for city lots with the intent of more development in the area with the need to create a master plan within the 41st street district. Seth was also frustrated that the plan failed to follow up with the recommendation of the committee to hire Bernard Zyscovich to create a master plan for 40th, 41st and 42nd Street as one district to enhance economic growth, mobility of the corridor, and determining if zoning changes should be made.

Gedel stated that this schematic streetscape plan never had any intention to create a Master Plan

Seth reminded the committee about the 41st street committee meeting in which Tom Mooney, Director of Planning City of Miami Beach stated that creating a master plan for a specific district would be feasible.

Gedel stated that the intention of the plan was to mainly develop a plan that would show a design that was consistent with the GO Bond direction of the project, which states that the design is for the revitalization of the corridor, not for any plan for potential private developments or zoning features. Gedel stated that any possible plan with a zoning component, would need to be directed to staff by the Mayors and Commissioners.

Eric Hankin stated that he was also disappointed that the schematic plan did not display bicycle lanes, or reference 40th and 42nd street. Additionally, Eric expected Section update that would enhance visibility of curb/gutter to make clear difference between sidewalk.

Bonnie Crabtree stated that she agreed with Seth, stating that the committee expected to see potential zoning options that would exhibit an opportunity for a Master plan along with a plan to revitalize the corridor. Jeremy Wachtel expressed his dissatisfaction of the plan stating that he expected somewhat of a visual presentation of a 3-D design that would encompass how 41st street would look as you drive onto the corridor.

Michael Burnstine asked AECOM and staff what the next steps regarding this plan will be. Allison Novack replied that the plans will be reviewed by staff and the AECOM consultants with the constructive criticism from staff. The plan will also be presented at the October 1, 2020 GO Bond committee meeting.

Allison Novack stated that staff will do their very best to observe the request of the 41st street committee through past committee minutes and motions. Maria agreed and stated that staff and AECOM will take a more comprehensive approach at delivering the needs of the 41st street committee for this schematic conceptual plan.

Maria stated that they will begin the process of working with commissioners and staff on getting a master plan that will highlight potential zoning options on surface lot locations within the 41st street community.

AECOM along with members of the staff stated that they will address the constructive criticism of committee members and community residents and will diligently work on the plan to receive positive feedback for the plan.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:43 PM