



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

The Mayor's Blue Ribbon 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 Thursday, January 28, 2020

MINUTES

Committee Members in attendance:

- Jerri Hertzberg Bassuk
- Betty Behar
- Michael Burnstine
- Yechiel Ciment
- Bonnie Crabtree
- Seth Gadinsky, Chair
- Eric Hankin
- Robin Jacobs, Vice Chair

Elected Officials in attendance

- Vice Mayor Steven Meiner

City Staff in attendance

- Maria Hernandez, General Obligation Bond Program Director
- Amadeus Huff, Aide to Commissioner Meiner
- David Martinez, Capital Improvements Projects Director
- Gedel Merzius, Economic Development Specialist
- Allison Novack, Community Information Manager
- Collette Satchell, Senior Capital Improvements Projects Coordinator
- Thais Vieira, GO Bond Program Assistant Director
- Rickelle Williams, Economic Development Director

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

Approval of December Minutes

Chair Gadinsky discussed the minutes from the December 1, 2020 41st Street Committee meeting and asked committee members if they had any questions pertaining to the minutes. Eric Hankin stated he has not received any correspondence about the December minutes or agenda. Gedel Merzius stated that he sent the minutes and agenda

to committee members and will investigate the issue. Committee members had no questions and the minutes were passed.

41st Street Streetscape project and next steps with CIP

Maria Hernandez introduced Capital Improvements Projects Director David Martinez to the Committee. David Martinez discussed what his upcoming role would be regarding the next steps for the 41st Street streetscape plan. The Mayor and City Commission approved the conceptual design for the 41st street streetscape plan, provided the caveat that no more than 15% of the Royal Palms trees are removed, and if healthy the Royal Palm Trees should be placed on side streets within two blocks of the corridor. Additionally, Benches must be designed to prevent homelessness and vagrancy. David stated that the next steps for the streetscape plan is the selection of a firm through the issuance of a Request for Qualification (RFQ) for the design development phase of the streetscape plan, a bid and award for the plan will follow, than a Construction Administration Services contract for the project will be administered to the selected firm.

David introduced Collette Satchell as one of the staff members that will be coordinating the execution of the plan. David also stated that the RFQ will tentatively be advertised in June or July.

41st Street seating update

Gedel Merzius updated the committee on the seating expansion initiative provided to businesses on the 41st Street corridor. Gedel stated that there have been efforts to reach out to other businesses mentioning that Lenny's Pizza, Pita Plus, Café Avanti and Roasters 'N Toasters have all been contacted about this initiative. Gedel stated that there are documents that are still pending from all the establishments and the documents are needed for the outdoor seating program to be implemented. Eric Hankin asked what those specific documents were. Gedel Merzius and Rickelle Williams stated there needed to be a submission of a Certificate of Insurance, Business Tax Receipt, an outdoor restaurant expansion application, indemnity agreement, sign-off from the property owner and a COVID plan.

Gedel also gave a status update on the breakdown of monthly expenses and the availability of funds left for the initiative from the 41st Street quality of life funds. Rickelle Williams added that the reported expenditures reflect costs for a three-month period for the single participating establishment. Chair Gadinsky stated that as a measure to expand the availability of funds perhaps after three months the establishments would need to pay the monthly expense for the rental of the tents and barricades. Bonnie Crabtree suggested that the establishments be notified at the time of signing up for the program. Rickelle Williams stated that there was an explanation to establishments that due to funding the rentals would initially cover a three-month time period, but there was no discussion that the initiative would be expanded beyond three months. Rickelle stated that there also was an anticipation that more restaurants would have participated in the program sooner.

Yechiel Ciment stated that the city has permitted and facilitated this initiative and has borne most of the financial relief and responsibility for businesses. Yechiel stated that it wouldn't be unreasonable that establishments begin to pay for the cost and fees, after the three-month period has expired.

Seth stated that staff should make sure that participating establishments understand that after the expiration of the three-month timeframe, there is an expectation of what their responsibility is, and what is the responsibility of the City. Vice Chair Jacobs asked if we could wait after the 90 days

has ended to make this decision, but also give them a notice that this is a possibility, so that they may look for ways to fund the seating area. Rickelle stated that staff will reach out to Tasty Beach Café with the intent to let the establishment know of the direction the committee has made in regards to funding the initiative.

Vice Chair Jacobs asked for clarification about the item, citing that the 41st Street Committee is giving establishments participating in the initiative the option of continuing in the restaurant expansion program if they choose to pay for rental equipment; and asked if this initiative be a permanent initiative. Chair Gadinsky stated that the longevity of the program is based predominantly on the city, and stated that he could foresee this initiative continuing as long as COVID issues remain. Robin stated that she would love to see this initiative as a permanent fixture for 41st Street establishments on a permanent basis. Rickelle stated that the Restaurant Expansion Pilot program has been periodically extended by the City Commission, and the latest extension runs through March 31st. Rickelle stated that she has observed that the City Commission has extended the pilot program based on existing conditions and circumstances.

Vice Chair Jacobs stated that she would like to set a motion that would allow the Restaurant Expansion Pilot Program to become a permanent fixture for establishments.

MOTION: City of Miami Beach continue the outdoor seating pilot program for restaurants on 41st Street in perpetuity; so long as the restaurant operators will work out the financial considerations after the 90-day period has expired.

Motion made by: Yechiel Ciment

Motion seconded by: Robin Jacobs

Motion Passes 8-0

City Updates

Chair Gadinsky introduced Vice Mayor Meiner and began the City updates by discussing the onsite law enforcement officers that will be assigned to patrol the 41st Street corridor. Vice Mayor Meiner stated that there will always be an officer assigned specifically to the 41st Street corridor 24-hours a day. Two officers will be assigned to the corridor for 6 hours out of the day. The police officers are interviewed to make sure they are conducive to the community. Vice Mayor Meiner stated that he is in full support of the outdoor seating pilot program to become a permanent fixture. Commissioner Meiner stated that he has had conversations with business representatives about the 41st Street area and commended the Committee for the work they are doing for the benefit of the community.

Michael Burnstine responded to Vice Mayor Meiner stating that the benefits of having on-street patrol officers is that they have relationships with members of the community and a built rapport. Mr. Burnstine also asked whether any of the police officers that are scheduled to be stationed on 41st Street have such a relationship with the community? Vice Mayor Meiner stated that he does not have that information at the time, but will look further into the police officer(s) assigned to the post.

Discussion on the Roosevelt Theatre

Chair Gadinsky stated that the owner of the Roosevelt Theater located at 4014 Chase Avenue, put in a unsolicited offer to the city to acquire the parking lot behind the Roosevelt Theatre for a mixed-use development. The plans were put on hold because there was no specific master plan

drawings associated with the public parking space behind the Roosevelt Theatre. Chair Gadinsky informed the committee that CBRE was hired by the city to study all the city owned property and analyze all the best possible uses for the city. Seth stated that there were findings in the study that would serve as a blueprint and was consistent with the vision that the Committee has for the 41st Street corridor. Chair Gadinsky asked if Rickelle Williams could brief the committee about the next steps. Rickelle responded saying that the discussions have been preliminary, and she did review the initial offer that described a mixed-use project of retail and residential space with a garage. Additionally, Rickelle stated that a meeting between the original submitter of the unsolicited offer and the staff will need to take place.

Yechiel asked if the original unsolicited offer could be shared with committee members to review the proposal. Rickelle stated that she would send it to Gedel for dissemination to the committee members.

Storefront Cover Program

Gedel stated that the storefront cover program will be returning to the city. The City Commission-approved initiative initially began in 2019 when the Commission authorized and identified funds for printing and installation of storefront covers for vacant storefronts citywide.

Business Improvement District (BID) workshop for the 41st Street business community

Gedel stated that staff has reached out to BID executive directors from the Lincoln Road BID and the Washington Avenue BID for a possible workshop opportunity. The intent of the workshop is to give business owners interested in the BID process an opportunity to seek information regarding the BID process.

Michael Burnstine stated that the upcoming BID conversation is a critical part of the whole process of the betterment of the 41st Street community. Chair Gadinsky stated that his vision is that hopefully the Committee would phase out and the BID would take over as the advisory component to the area. Michael added that the city could do so much and property owners need to step up.

Chairman Update

Seth Gadinsky stated that there is an upcoming meeting between City officials and a grocery store chain regarding a possible development. The meeting will focus on next steps and necessary resources to develop a grocery store behind Roasters 'N Toasters.

Public Comment

Betty Behar commended City of Miami Beach staff for their work to expand on the outside seating areas.

Meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Next meeting date: Thursday, February 25, 2021