



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 p.m. Thursday, June 24, 2021

MINUTES

Committee Members

- Seth Gadinsky, Chair (P)
- Robin Jacobs, Vice Chair (P)
- Jerri Hertzberg Bassuk (P)
- Betty Behar (P)
- Michael Burnstine (P)
- Yechiel Ciment (P)
- Bonnie Crabtree (P)
- Marcella Novela (A)
- Eric Hankin (A)
- Jeremy Watchel (A)

P = Present; A = Absent

Members of the public in attendance

- Leonte Almonte, Kimley-Horn
- Mike Siegel
- Myles Gilbert
- Avra Bank
- Holly Wallack

City Staff in attendance

- Amadeus Huff, Aide to Commissioner Meiner
- Rickelle Williams, Economic Development Director
- Amber Tarrac, Economic Development Assistant Director
- Jenny Hernandez, Economic Development Office Associate
- Colette Satchell, Senior Capital Projects Coordinator
- Herman Fung, Capital Projects Coordinator
- Cindy Casanova, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director

Seth Gadinsky, Chair, opened the meeting at 4:06 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

1. April and May Minutes

Seth asked to add to the May minutes that Bonnie mentioned reaching out to Milam’s Market to have them come to the community.

Motion: Yechiel Ciment made a motion to approve the minutes from April and May’s meeting, seconded by Robin Jacobs. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. City Update

Movies in the Park

- Cindy informed that the Parks & Recreation Department usually hosts “Movies in the Park” in the winter and spring months as it gets darker earlier in the day between December through February.

- This September they will be hosting a movie as part of “Back to School.”
 - Yechiel stated that the turnout for the Movies is always great. He appreciates that they have kosher food for sale.
 - Robin suggested food trucks or inviting local 41st Street vendors to sell food.

RFQ for the 41st Street streetscape plan: Capital Improvement Projects Department

- Herman informed that the RFQ for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Services was approved at the June 23rd Commission meeting which included an item seeking a construction manager at-risk.
- Colette advised that Procurement would send out the RFQ on June 25th and it will be advertised for about 45 days. They anticipate it to be awarded at the September or October Commission meeting.
- Colette stated the Evaluation team will be composed of City staff and Committee members.
 - Bonnie asked for an update on when the Indian Creek Project will be finished.
 - Robin stated she will forward the emails that the City sends in regard to updates.

Farmers Market

- Amber informed that there is a current RFP out for the Lummus Park area, which currently does not include Mid-Beach. We will wait to see if it will be updated to include Mid-Beach or not, which we will know by July 6th and our next meeting.

41st Street Vacant Lots

- Amber stated the discussion item was at the June 23rd Commission meeting sponsored by Commissioner Arriola, however, the item was deferred. She will keep the Committee informed of when it will go to Commission again.

Stop Signs at Intersection

- Yechiel advised that at the intersection of 37th & Sheridan there is a stop sign going east to west but none going north to south. A few people have brought it to his attention about it being dangerous.
 - Amadeus explained that the plan is to put a roundabout. In order for them to put stop signs, it will need County approval.
 - Robin acknowledged that the City will be putting a roundabout on Pine Tree Drive and 47th Street.
 - Bonnie asked why the County needs to approve this.
 - Leonte stated that the roundabout on Pine Tree Drive and 47th Street is going to be under construction by August of next year. He also informed that all stop signs must be approved by the County.
 - Michael informed that at Michigan and 46th Street they were able to put 2 stop signs so the Committee should not be discouraged about the possibility.
 - Amadeus stated that at the intersection of 37th and Sheridan they have done traffic studies, but speed hasn't been the issue. The issue is the perception that traffic is going to stop therefore people are continuing to drive thinking that traffic north to south is going to stop.
 - Amadeus advised that Commissioner Meiner will put a resolution directing the Transportation Department to address the issue.

- Robin mentioned that the Transportation Department should fix the light where the KFC is as it is currently hard to see.
- Yechiel suggested to have someone from the Transportation Department speak at the next meeting about the traffic light and stop sign issues.

Motion: Recommendation for the City of Miami Beach to encourage the County to allow for the installation of a 4-way stop sign at the intersection of 37th & Sheridan and to explore methods of streamlining more efficient transportation methods going forward so as not to continuously deal with City and County bureaucracy.

Motion made by: Yechiel Ciment

Motion seconded by: Betty Behar

Motion passed: 7 – 0

3. Chair Update

4000 Chase lot behind the Roosevelt Theatre

- Seth informed he has a call set up with the owner, Commissioner Meiner, and Planning Director Tom Mooney to discuss the possibility of development. Commissioner Meiner wants to learn more about the issue in order to possibly become the sponsor. For development to occur, it would need to go to referendum and would need a sponsor.
- Jerri asked if this lot would push the sale of other options.
- Seth informed that the City of Miami Beach's Mid-Beach has a lack of workforce housing.
- Jerri stated she was recently at a theatre in Nashville similar to the Roosevelt and they turned it into a food hall.
- Seth agreed the lot will serve as mixed-use, for housing and commercial purposes.

Grocery Store

- Seth reached out to Milam's Market, but they didn't seem too confident about the location.
- Michael had an idea ran by Tom Mooney to move forward with the possibility of adding a pharmacy within an established building.
- Seth mentioned Publix is interested in coming to the community and he will be having breakfast with them next week to discuss.

Business Improvement District (BID)

- Seth stated BID formation is moving forward - engaging Ira Giller as interim lead to form the BID and Amy Mehu is assisting with developing a budget on a \$.50 per square foot assessment.

4. Committee Discussion

Fountain at Henry Lieberman Square (corner of Pine Tree Dr. and 41st Street)

- Seth stated he hasn't seen the fountain work in a long time and the City could make better use of it.
 - Betty agreed and advised that it attracts nuisances.
 - Seth suggests the City focus on beautification and activation of the area. He reminded the committee that when they did the Farmer's Market, they weren't able to use the fountain space.

MOTION: Recommendation to have the City of Miami Beach explore either repurposing and/or beautifying Lieberman Square on Pine Tree Drive and 41st Street.

Motion made by: Yechiel Ciment

Motion seconded by: Robin Jacobs

Motion passed: 7 – 0

Open House

- Amber informed the Committee about the Open House program stating anyone who has a vacant storefront, the property owner donates the space to the artist while the artist receives \$2,500 stipend to activate it by displaying something in the window or having a full exhibit or performing art. There is a 30-day commitment to participate, but it can be extended. Thus, allowing the public to come see the space and possibly lease it.
 - Betty stated there is a new art gallery that opened on 41st Street and she believes they have a dance studio. She asked if the property owners receive a tax benefit for donating their property and suggested that might be an incentive for property owners.

5. Public Comment

41st Street Committee Meeting in Person

- Yechiel reminded the Committee they had agreed to continue with Zoom meetings until December.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Next meeting date: July 22, 2021