

Mayor's Blue Ribbon 41st Street Committee

4:00 p.m. Thursday, December 10, 2021

MINUTES

Committee Members

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

P = Present; A = Absent

Other attendees

- Valerie Navarrete
- Michael Goldberg

City Officials and Staff in attendance

- Amadeus Huff, Commission Aide
- Josiel Ferrer, Transportation and Mobility Assistant Director
- Herman Fung, Capital Improvement Projects Coordinator
- Jenny Hernandez, Economic Development Office Associate
- Diana Fontani Martinez, Committee Liaison, Redevelopment Specialist
- Colette Satchell, Senior Capital Projects Coordinator
- Rickelle Williams, Economic Development Director

Seth Gadinsky, Chair, opened the meeting at 4:05 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

1. **Introduction of New Staff Liaison: Diana Fontani Martinez-** Rickelle Williams informed the Committee that Diana Fontani Martinez joined the Economic Development Department and will serve as liaison. Diana informed the committee of her background with chambers of commerce and business incubators. Seth welcomed her to the Committee.
2. **Discussion on Meeting in Person-** Seth asked what the City's position is regarding meeting in person. Rickelle informed the Committee that the City is allowing in person meetings and that hybrid meetings are not required. Amadeus Huff asked the Committee to meet in person but have the hybrid option. It was determined that for the next meeting set for January 13, the Committee would meet at City Hall on the 3rd floor breezeway. A Committee member mentioned that they were not sure if their citywide parking had been activated. Diana indicated she would check with the Parking Department to ensure the Committee members had their citywide parking pass activated.
3. **Approval of October 28, Minutes-** Yechiel Ciment made a motion to approve the minutes from Oct [date], 2021 ober's meeting, seconded by Michael Burnstine. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. **Approval of Bi-annual Report-** Seth stated that he had not had a chance to review the bi-annual report. Diana mentioned that the report is due on January 7. Seth requested for Diana to send out the bi-annual report to all Committee members and for them to approve and provide edits.

5. City Update

Capital Improvement Projects: RFQ for the 41st Street Streetscape Plan

- Herman Fung informed the Committee that they still have not finalized the agreement with Brooks and Scarpa, the awarded Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firm. He stated that they have a meeting with them tomorrow so hopefully this will be finalized soon. Seth asked if this was normal that this was taking a long time or was there some sort of impasse. Herman stated it is normal for both parties to go back and forth with legal and pricing details.
- Seth also asked about the construction manager proposal for this project. Herman reminded the Committee there was only one proposal submitted and they would like to have more options. Herman added that at the October 13th Commission meeting, the Commission accepted the recommendation from the City Manager to reject the Construction Manager at Risk proposal.

Parks and Recreation: Movie Night

- Diana informed the Committee of the following update: The Parks and Recreation Department usually has *Movie in the Park at Muss* in January & October, however, for 2022 the Miami Jewish Film Festival will be hosting an event including a movie and they did not want to compete. Event details below:

Miami Beach Art Walk - hosted by the Miami Jewish Film Festival
Muss Park - 4300 Chase Avenue
Sunday, January 16, 2022
6 PM - 10 PM

Movie in the Park (tentative date)
Muss Park - 4300 Chase Avenue
Sunday, October 23, 2022
7 PM - 9 PM

- Committee members inquired about why the Parks and Recreation Department cannot host a movie night sooner than October 2022. Diana indicated she would check with the Parks and Recreation Department.

Transportation and Mobility: Traffic on Pinetree Drive

- Josiel Ferrer gave an update on the traffic signal that the County is proposing on Pinetree Drive. The County is proposing closing out with delineators at all the median openings (31st, 34th, and 37th). The Transportation Department received many concerns about this from the Bayshore neighborhood community. Due to these concerns, the proposed closure would be only for a 90-day pilot program. After the pilot program, the City and County will review and collect data. They will determine if a traffic signal is necessary or keep these roads closed.
- Seth asked about the status of the rumble strips and the possibility of doing a traffic light on 34th. Josiel stated that rumble strips will most likely be installed in January 2022.

- Betty Behar asked for an update on the Indian Creek project. The last update that Josiel heard from CIP is that they are looking to complete the project in 2022.

Tourism and Cultural Development: Farmers Market

Diana informed the Committee of the following update: Florida Fresh Market Enterprises Inc. has been selected as the operator and the City is finalizing the agreement. We expect to launch in Lummus Park in January 2022 and once successfully operating will expand to additional locations including, but not limited to, the Mid-Beach 41st street corridor. Seth requested that we keep track of the progress of the Farmer’s Market and to put this item on the agenda in January.

6. Committee Discussion

Henry Liebman Square

- Diana gave the following update on behalf of the Facilities and Fleet Management Department. Since the last discussion regarding Henry Liebman Square on October 28, 2021, Commissioner Meiner has made a referral to the Neighborhoods and Quality of Life Committee (NQLC) to discuss methods to improve lighting and camera functionality, supporting the Committee's motion. This referral was approved during the December 9th Commission Meeting (C4-Q). There are no further updates on this item until it is heard at NQLC.

Chair Update-

- Seth informed the Committee that the Mayor’s Office told him that he can no longer serve as Chair because he has served for 4 consecutive years. He understood that it was just him but now City staff has informed him that it is the whole committee that could be dissolved but up to the Mayor since it is his committee. Rickelle confirmed that according to the City Clerk it was only Seth that can no longer serve. Seth stated that he will no longer be the chair and asked what the selection process was. Rickelle stated that there should be a discussion item in which a chair should be nominated and the Committee votes on a new chair. It was determined that Diana will email the Committee to see who is interested in being Chair and then we will pick from that selection.
- 41st Street Business Improvement District (BID) formation- Seth has been working with Amy Mehu and Ira Geller on the BID formation. They have been meeting with several of the stakeholders and businesses on 41st Street. Seth feels that once the BID is formed, then the BID would take over the Committee and then the Committee will sunset. It was expressed that the BID should have resident input once it is formed. He stated that they are working on how much the members will pay but have not finalized that yet. He does not see that happening before April. Seth thinks we should ask the City to extend this committee past April and to have the Committee ensure the implementation of the GO Bond project on 41st Street. There is no timeline for the Committee to dissolve so just leave it open. The Committee agreed.
- Grocery store (parking lot behind Rooster and Toasters) update- Seth stated that he is meeting with the Mayor and the developer for this project in about two weeks. The purpose of the meeting is for the developer to present renderings and site plans. The developer plans to meet with the City to discuss options of acquiring the parking lot via acquisition or long-term ground lease.
- 4000 Chase parking lot update- Seth stated that Commissioner Meiner has stated that he

would no longer be the champion for this request and therefore Seth reached out to the Mayor and his reaction was favorable. City input and sponsorship is necessary for the development of this parking lot since it is City owned.

- Discussion of Next 41st Street Committee meeting dates- It was determined that the Committee would meet on the second Thursday of each month. Diana to check the holiday calendar to see if there are any conflicts. Diana to send meeting invite for January 13, 2022.

7. Public Comment-

- Valerie Navarrete stated she can assist with anything that the Committee needs in regard to any homeless and police issues.
- Robin Jacobs stated that a while back the Committee had discussed the possibility of having interactive kiosks along 41st Street. She recently spoke to a kiosk vendor and they are interested in the idea. The Committee thought it was a good idea because many individuals walk to Walgreens and Dunkin Donuts but then they stop because they do not know what else is on 41st Street. The Committee made the following motion:

Motion: Recommendation for the City of Miami Beach to explore the installation of multiple interactive kiosks throughout the 41st Street Corridor to directing and obtaining funding to promote the 41st Street businesses.

Motion Made By: Yechel Ciment

Motion Seconded By: Betty Behar

Motion passed: 8-0

- A Committee member asked if anyone knew what new businesses were opening up on 41st Street. Rickelle stated that we can provide a list of new businesses opening in the area on a monthly or quarterly basis to the Committee. In addition, Rickelle mentioned that the old Chocolate store location (456 W 41st Street) is going to be a first Mid-Beach participant of the City's Vacant Storefront Program spearheaded by the Economic Development Department.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Next meeting date: January 13, 2022