



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

MAYOR'S AD HOC BLUE RIBBON 41ST STREET COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 8, 2022 - 5:00 p.m.

First Horizon Bank 400 Arthur Godfrey Rd, Ste 210, Miami Beach, FL 33140

Minutes

Committee Members:

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

P = Present; A = Absent, E = Excused

Commission/City Staff/Consultants:

- Commissioner Steven Meiner
- Jeff Cruz, Stantec
- Diana Fontani Martinez, Redevelopment Specialist/Committee Liaison
- Herman Fung, Capital Projects Coordinator
- Gabriella Gonzalez, Neighborhood Affairs Coordinator
- Jeffrey Huber, Brooks + Scarpa
- Milos Majstorovic, Transportation and Mobility Assistant Director
- Elizabeth Miro, Facilities and Fleet Assistant Director
- Roberto Novo, Aide to Commissioner Steven Meiner
- Kevin Pulido, Neighborhood Affairs Director
- Colette Satchell, Senior Capital Projects Coordinator
- Heather Shaw, Economic Development Assistant Director

Community Attendance:

- Gus Doyle
- Michael Goldberg
- Jeremy Watchel
- Seth Weissman

Yechiel Ciment, Chair, opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

1. October Minutes

Motion: Seth Gadinsky made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting, seconded by Betty Behar. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. City Update

A. 41st Street Corridor Streetscape Project - Office of Capital Improvement Projects

Jeff Huber, Brooks + Scarpa, provided an update on the project and shared a revised presentation. Some of the feedback/questions from the Committee about the presentation include:

- a) Is the project on budget? *Yes, we are within the target budget.*
- b) How long will the project take? *The project will be done in phases and work with other city projects to minimize construction time.*
- c) What is the difference between mid-block crossings and oasis? *The plan is to expand and amplify the current midblock crossings and convert them into oasis. The plan is to add shade trees to the oasis area but keep the palm trees. FDOT is on board with this idea if we are not changing the width of the travel lanes and not adding any traffic signals.*
- d) Is it possible for the project to be done in the late evening hours or nighttime? *The project is scheduled to start construction in 2024 and it is a two-year project. A traffic consultant is on board and will assist on how construction can be completed with the least impact of traffic flow. Once the consultant finishes up the traffic impact report, we will share the report with the committee. Nighttime work has a very high cost to it and is currently not included in the budget.*
- e) Who oversees the public art pieces included in the project? *The Art in Public Places Committee oversees all public art piece selection, and the Tourism & Culture Department manages the process. Diana Fontani will ensure that a representative of the Art in Public Places Committee and/or the Tourism & Culture Department attends a meeting and presents any proposed art pieces for 41st Street.*
- f) What is the style of the proposed fixtures along 41st Street? *Miami MiMo style*
- g) Are there any efforts to improve the traffic flow on 41st Street with this project? *Yes, ongoing with FDOT and the Transportation and Mobility Department.*
- h) How does the plan address the homelessness situation on 41st Street? *The plan is to place the majority of the seating in the oasis where there will be more activity that typically deters the homelessness.*

Collette Satchell will ask the traffic consultant to investigate the most cost and time efficient and less impactful (on residents) times/locations to do construction and will report back to the Committee.

B. BID Formation Update - Heather Shaw stated that the BID is progressing. The

Administration and City Attorney's Office are meeting with the BID Steering Committee regularly. The BID is on track to have elections for the BID in May 2023.

- C. 41st Street Request for Letters of Interest (RFLI)** - Seth Gadinsky informed the Committee that the RFLI issuance has been held until 2023 so as not to compete with the holidays.
- D. Transportation Update** - Milos Majstorovic stated that pedestrian automated signaling has been removed and now pedestrians must request to cross. In addition, the County approved the removal of the traffic signals on 40th Street and installation of a 4-way stop for 3-6 months.
- E. Support Small Business Campaign** - Diana Fontani informed the Committee that the City issued a *Support Small Business* campaign after Thanksgiving to continue support after *Small Business Saturday*, which was the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The Committee suggested that the Administration consider a Small Business Sunday event in the spring for 41st Street because a number of 41st Street businesses were closed on *Small Business Saturday*.
- F. Fountain at Henry Liebman Square** - Elizabeth Miro gave an update on the fountain, sharing the project was postponed until additional funding is available among other issues. A Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 approved budget amendment has the project proceeding to the procurement phase, with construction expected to commence in February/March 2023.

3. Committee Projects and Other Updates

- A. January 2023 Community Activation** – Diana Fontani informed the Committee that the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) will be issued in December and the activation, if approved by the Committee, will be pushed back to February. Robin Jacobs informed that there will be a street block party sponsored by the Police Athlete League (PAL) on 41st Street set for the first week of February. Eric Hankin suggested that the City have a booth with renderings at the block party to inform the community of the 41st Street G.O. Bond Project. Diana Fontani to send invite to the Committee.
- B. Freebee** - Gus Doyle, Director of Business Development for Freebee gave an overview of Freebee. Freebee is dedicated to utilizing an integrative approach towards facilitating healthier habits for municipalities and their residents alike. He stated that currently Freebee has two vehicles in Miami Beach and that more are needed. Freebee is in the process of obtaining Tesla vehicles and additional vehicles will reduce waiting time.

The Committee passed the following motion:

The Mayor's 41st Street Blue Ribbon Committee recommends the City of Miami Beach support an increase and expansion of the Freebee fleet, from two (2) vehicles to eight (8) vehicles, to service the Mid-Beach area.

Motion made by: Seth Gadinsky
Motion seconded by: Betty Behar
Motion passed: 7-0

Note: Post meeting, the Administration identified that pursuant to a competitive solicitation, the Freebee On-Demand Transit Service Pilot Program operated from May to December 2019. After the pilot program was successfully received, the City and Freebee entered a three (3)-year agreement that expires on December 31, 2022.

On November 16, 2022, the City Commission approved a five (5) year agreement with Freebee, wherein two (2) electric vehicles will continue to service the Mid-Beach community. The popular alternative transportation service assists the City in achieving resilience and mobility goals, reduces carbon footprint, reduces congestion, and improves mobility options for our residents.

- C. Love 41st Street Campaign** - Bonnie Crabtree shared that the final poster design and the Committee acknowledged the posters and applauded Bonnie's efforts. Diana Fontani shared that she planned to distribute to the businesses along 41st Street.

Yechiel Ciment requested a 41st Street logo to be created for future use. Heather Shaw suggested that the creation of a 41st Street logo be postponed and done in collaboration with the 41st Street BID.

- 4. 2023 Calendar**- The Committee agreed to return to two (2)-hour meetings in 2023.
- 5. Public Comment** - Seth Weissman stated that he has safety concerns regarding the 41st Street G.O. Bond project and he will send his specific comments/concerns to Diana Fontani.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Next meeting date: Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.