



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, January 12, 2023 - 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 (P)
Betty Behar (P)
Michael Burnstine (P)
Seth Gadinsky (P)
Eric Hankin (A)
Robin Jacobs (E)
Marcella Novela (P)
Jeremy Watchel (P)

P = Present; A = Absent, E = Excused

Commission/City Staff/Consultants:

Vice Mayor Steven Meiner
Rickelle Williams, Assistant City Manager
Heather Shaw, Economic Development Assistant Director
Lissette Arrogante, Tourism and Culture Director
Fernando Pestana, Tourism and Culture Administrative Services Manager
Diana Fontani Martinez, Redevelopment Specialist/Committee Liaison
Roberto Novo, Aide to Commissioner Steven Meiner

Community Attendance

Michael Goldberg

Yechiel Ciment opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. December 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. Artisanal/Farmer's Market - Tourism and Culture Department- Lissette Arrogante informed the Committee that the 41st Street Artisanal/Farmer's market, operated by Florida Fresh Market, will be starting on February 12, 2023, from 12 noon - 6pm. The market will be in P58, a city-owned parking lot between Royal Palm Avenue and Prairie Avenue. Yechiel Ciment recommended kosher be included in the participating vendors. Lissette asked that vendor recommendations be forwarded to Diana Fontani and she will forward to the Tourism and Culture Department.

B. January 2023 Community Activation- Economic Development Department- Diana Fontani informed the Committee that the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) for the Community Activation at Muss Park closed on January 9, 2023. One proposal was received from Babatunde Epoyun/Blue Purple Vail LLC. They are proposing a youth music talent and arts event at Muss Park. It could include musical performance and art exhibitions by local youth across three age groups. Local food vendors will be invited to showcase their food. The total cost of the proposal is \$24,000. The Committee agreed to postpone the Community Activation because the advanced date for the Artisanal/Farmer's Market will satisfy their efforts to engage the community on and around 41st street with family friendly activities.

C. Community Activation/Police Department Community Block Park Party-Sunday April 23, 2023- Diana Fontani shared that the Miami Beach Police Department is hosting a community block party on April 23, 2023 at Muss Park (originally scheduled for February). This engagement will enhance the Artisanal Market. The Committee asked that the Administration set up a table to share the 41st Street G.O. Bond Streetscape Project and provide information and data.

D. Business Improvement District (BID) Formation Update – Ira Giller, Chair of the 41st Street BID Steering Committee gave an update on the status of the BID formation. The City Commission approved starting the process of the BID formation. The BID Steering Committee is comprised of ten (10) of the largest businesses/property owners on 41st Street including Committee member Seth Gadinsky. Ira shared that the property owners will take a vote in May to determine if they move forward. If the BID is formed, they would have a full-time executive director and will have a special assessment fee that is still being finalized. Ira shared that the BID is coming, and it will be good for 41st Street. Rickelle Williams acknowledge Vice Mayor Steven Meiner for his leadership in sponsoring the resolution for the BID formation.

E. 41st Street Request for Letters of Interest (RFLI) For Public Owned Lots – Rickelle Williams gave an update on the RFLI and stated that this was approved by the City Commission, and it is slated to go out this month. The Communications and Marketing Department will be promoting the RFLI and it will be out for at least 30 days. Discussions were held on the status of Publix and the Forge. The Committee also discussed a new deli opening in mid-March where the old Capri restaurant was located.

F. Approval of the July-December 2022 Biannual Report - Economic Development Department-

Diana Fontani shared the biannual report and explained that it is a summary of Committee accomplishments and future plans. The Committee unanimously approved the July-December 2022 Biannual Report.

3. Committee Projects and Other Updates

4. Chair Update

Election of Chair & Vice-Chair

Chair - Betty Behar nominated Yechiel Ciment as chair of the Committee and Yechiel Ciment accepted. All eight (8) committee members were in favor.

Vice-Chair - Jerri Hertzberg Bassuk nominated Bonnie Crabtree as Co-Chair and Bonnie Crabtree accepted. All eight (8) committee members were in favor.

Transportation Update - Diana Fontani read the following update on behalf of the Transportation and Mobility Department:

CHASE AVE and W 40 ST: After conducting a traffic study, the County approved the installation of a new crosswalk on the south side of the intersection and agreed to add static signs as the appropriate pedestrian treatment for the crossing. The County has no objection if the city desires to enhance the crossing with pedestrian flashing beacons. The County has not provided a timeline as yet for the implementation of the new crosswalk.

PRAIRIE AVE and W 40 ST and ROYAL PALM AVE and W 40 ST: The County conducted a capacity analysis which indicated that these two intersections will operate more efficiently with all-way stop signs in lieu of the existing traffic signals. The transition of replacing the existing traffic signals with all-way stop signs will be coordinated by the County. The County recommended simultaneously installing the multi-way stop signs and covering the traffic signals for a period of time (3 to 6 months) before the complete removal of the traffic signals. The County has not provided a timeline as yet for this work.

The Transportation and Mobility Department will continue to have discussions with the County on the above items and provide updates.

Vice Mayor Steven Meiner mentioned that Rickelle Williams was promoted to Assistant City Manager and that her portfolio includes the Transportation and Mobility Department. Rickelle Williams shared that the Transportation Department receives many calls and comments regarding 41st Street. The city is limited to what they can do independently as they must work in conjunction with Miami-Dade County and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Public safety will always be the top priority.

Public Comment – No public present

Meeting Adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Next meeting date: Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

