MIAMIBEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee Members

FROM:

DATE: February 28, 2020

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON THE CITY'S BLUEWAYS MASTER PLAN**

HISTORY:

At the July 17, 2019 Commission meeting, an item regarding an update on the City's Blueways Masterplan was referred to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee (FERC), formerly known as the Finance and Citywide Projects Committee. The item was deferred to the February 2020 committee meeting.

ANALYSIS:

Blueways Master Plan

The Blueways Master Plan (the "Plan"), adopted by the City Commission on June 10, 2015, is a conceptual plan that explores our system of waterways, and identifies areas of interest where the City may potentially expand aquatic recreational opportunities. With a grant in the amount of $40,000 from the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND), and matching general fund dollars, the City contracted with EDSA, a landscape architectural firm, to conduct a study and develop a conceptual master plan.

The overall objective of the plan was to use the natural resources within the City in order to connect people to the water at convenient locations, thus allowing for the enhancement of aquatic recreational, programming, and water-based transportation opportunities within our community, as well as providing additional opportunities for economic development.

The Plan identifies over 60 areas of interest, which are opportunities to revitalize existing waterfront public spaces and create inviting and interactive experiences along the water. This document also emphasizes the need to expand pedestrian connectivity throughout, allowing everyone to travel from land to water.

It is important to note however, that components of the Plan do not represent a definite improvement, and each area of interest must still be individually vetted as the opportunity presents itself. This master plan document serves as a living document to be revisited and built upon as needed.

Below are the areas of interest listed in the Plan:

North Beach District – 29 areas of interest

1. Crespi Bridge Pocket Parks and Launch (1 area of interest)
2. North Beach Street End Pocket Park and Launch (19 areas of interest)
3. Parkview Island Waterfront Park, Launch, and Dock (1 area of interest)
4. Normandy Shores Park and Dock (1 area of interest)
5. North Beach Police Sub-Station Park and Launch (1 area of interest)
6. Brittany Bay Park, Launch and Dock (1 area of interest)
7. Mangrove Habitats (5 areas of interest)

Middle/North – 10 areas of interest

1. La Gorce Pocket Park and Launch (1 area of interest)
2. La Gorce Street End Pocket Park and Launch (1 area of interest)
3. North Bay Street End Pocket Park and Launch (1 area of interest)
4. Indian Beach Park and Docks (1 area of interest)
5. Pine Tree Park (1 area of interest)
6. Muss Park, Launch and Docks (1 area of interest)
7. Mangrove Habitats (4 areas of interest)

Middle/South – 17 areas of interest

1. Chase Avenue Parking Lot (1 area of interest)
2. Indian Creek Street Side Park (1 area of interest)
3. Mount Sinai South Open Space (1 area of interest)
4. Lake Pancoast (1 area of interest)
5. Residential Pocket Park (2 areas of interest)
6. Collins Canal Living Shorelines and Dock (1 area of interest)
7. Maurice Gibbs Dock and Launch Enhancements (1 area of interest)
8. South Beach Street End Park (1 area of interest)
9. Pedestrian Promenades (4 areas of interest)
10. Mangrove Habitats (4 areas of interest)

South – 11 areas of interest

1. Lincoln Road Street End Pocket Park and Dock (1 area of interest)
2. Monument Island Dock and Enhancements (1 area of interest)
3. 14th Street End Pocket Park and Dock (1 area of interest)
4. 10th Street End Pocket Park and Dock (1 area of interest)
5. Pedestrian Promenade (4 areas of interest)
6. South Pointe Park and Dock (1 area of interest)
7. Mangrove Habitats (2 areas of interest)

Over the years, residential neighborhoods have expressed concern over the activation of residential street ends, citing lack of public parking as a major concern. While there are numerous areas of interest identified at residential street ends, these areas have been placed at the lowest priority for activation.

Current Waterway Access Points

Existing public launch sites in Miami Beach include the floating dock at Pine Tree Park, which is slated for renovation through G.O.B. funding, the boat dock at Maurice Gibb Memorial Park, and the non-motorized kayak launch site at Park View Island Park, on 73rd Street and Dickens Avenue

At the time of this memo, construction of a non-motorized dock at Maurice Gibb Memorial Park is

slated to begin by the end of February and will take at most 4 months to complete.

Mooring Field Study

Due to an increase in demand for local anchorage, the waters surrounding Miami Beach have become a popular unregulated mooring area. Since the increase in density of unregulated mooring of boats over time is unsustainable, the City elected to take a proactive approach to managing this issue and commissioned a mooring field study in Sunset Harbour in 2019.

The Environmental and Sustainability Department presented findings from the feasibility study to the Sunset Harbour Neighborhood Association on February 11th. This item will be on the agenda at March City Commission meeting.

CONCLUSION:

Committee to discuss the Blueways Masterplan.

Applicable Area

Not Applicable

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-14?	Does this item utilize G.O. Bond Funds?
No	No

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
Exhibit A - Blueways Master Plan	Other
Blueways Master Plan (continued)	Other

Commissioner Arriola said we are going to have at least 3 events coming up shortly. For example, the North Sea Jazz Festival for next Spring Break, we won't have a full funding commitment until the budget is approved in September. This event needs a real commitment in order to move forward, whether it is them or someone else. Even though it is a year out, they won't have a final certainty until we approve the budget in September. He asked how we deal with these scenarios.

John Woodruff said there are always going to be exceptions and timing issues, so he thinks the sooner we run all of the requests through the criteria and see where it is falling out, we can try to accommodate whatever needs to be accommodated. Depending on the legal opinion, maybe we can approve the contract now subject to the funding later. If there are situations where right now, the process isn't going to work for a certain event, maybe we can grandfather them in, we would have a lot more notice for the organization and consider requesting funds in a subsequent budget year.

All three requests that will be discussed today are for next fiscal year. Their timing is good.

If anything is not working adjustments will be made.

MOTION: Commissioner Samuelian moved that we proceed with the recommendation, incorporating the feedback that was given by the Committee and bring it to the Commission and get something in place as soon as we can. Commissioner Richardson seconded with incorporating the due dates as discussed. All in favor.

11. **UPDATE ON THE CITY'S BLUEWAYS MASTER PLAN**
July 17, 2019 – C4 K
Sponsored by Commissioner Arriola
Parks and Recreation

ACTION

Barbie Hernandez, Parks and Recreation Division Director, presented the item. She went through the presentation and explained when it was adopted and how we received a grant. She spoke about what the master plan entails.

Commissioner Arriola asked what is needed from this item.

Barbie Hernandez said this is an update for the new commissioners and it was presented as requested.

Commissioner Richardson requested Parks and Recreation to schedule a time to talk to him about this master plan to spend the adequate amount of time going over it.

Commissioner Samuelian said it was referred in July 2019, he asked if there were any specifics around the conversation.

Commissioner Arriola said the reason he put this item on here, we did this master plan about 5 years ago, and in his mind we haven't done enough. We spent money and it is a very good plan. Resident access unless you live on the water isn't where it needs to be. We have money in the G.O. Bond for dredging and we have created one kayak launch, but in his opinion, we are not fulfilling the master plan. He doesn't think we have prioritized it enough. He asked what the appetite is to start activating the waterways so they can be enjoyed by children and residents who don't have it as part of their backyard.

Commissioner Samuelian said one thing that jumped out at him is in the South area, Lincoln Road street end and it is something that has come up in the West Avenue project.

Matis Cohen, business owner, spoke. He said that he is happy this conversation is happening and that it started at this Committee. In 2008, there was a plan to expand behind the water tanks in North Beach. He

proffered to the City that we do something with Indian Creek and an easement for the City to build a seawall. There were originally 3 kayak launches in North beach and now in the plan there is only one. There was extensive work that was done on this plan and got one kayak launch out of that.

Commissioner Arriola said the reason this is at the Finance Committee is that he is frustrated that we are not doing more. He wants to personally start paying more attention to this. He said if Commissioner Samuelian wants to champion the Lincoln Road street end, that would be wonderful. Part of the reason he asked Mr. Palms from the Orange Bowl Committee about bringing their paddle boarding competition here is so that residents can start seeing there are ways to enjoy our waterways. The only people he sees in his neighborhood doing it are tourists. The water is not very accessible unless you live on the water. We have dozens of street ends across our city that aren't utilized right now, we need to start turning them into public assets.

Matis Cohen said we need a comprehensive plan that will work along the waterway. He mentioned again the 2008 plan of the water tanks behind North Beach and the original blue ways master plan had 3 kayak launches in North Beach alone and he didn't see them in this plan.

Commissioner Richardson asked for the meeting to include all of what has been mentioned.

Commissioner Arriola said this can be tied into adaptative reuse. He talked about paddle boards and kayaks.

Barbie Hernandez said she thinks the 2008 plan is a great plan already, it was just not vetted with the community, that is something we can continue doing with the community and informing them and educating them.

Commissioner Arriola suggested each of the Commissioners championing a neighborhood and bringing it to the Committee for the budget process, that is one way we can accelerate the Master Plan.

Commissioner Samuelian said the one he mentioned earlier would be great, the end of Lincoln Road right on the bay, as part of the West Avenue project, we should do something nice there, he is happy to champion that.

Commissioner Richardson said that he will meet with Parks and Recreation staff in early March to get the briefing before we come back to the next Committee meeting and he will pick out his favorite place and keep moving forward.

DIRECTION: Staff to brief Commissioner Richardson on the master plan. Staff to educate the community on the master plan. Continue discussions on locations to access waterways.

12. **DISCUSSION REGARDING EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDING**
January 15, 2020- C4 C
Sponsored by Commissioner Arriola
Organizational Development

ACTION

Commissioner Arriola opened the item. He said he brought this up because he is very interested in pursuing something, as of 3 years ago he became a father and has become more attuned to the need for early childhood education and the gap that exists currently in our school system. Our schooling doesn't really kick in until kindergarten, however, early childhood education is really important for the first 3-4 years of their lives before they get to kindergarten. One of the issues we have in Miami Beach is we have some amazing public schools, almost all "A" schools, but Miami Beach is incredibly expensive to live. One of the things he has always wanted to do better is attract and keep young families. His thought is to create incentives to keep young families here. One of which is having a stipend or tuition reimbursement to keep our families here. He wanted to explore with this Committee whether this is a good policy direction to go in.