

MIAMI BEACH

Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee Meeting
City Hall, Commission Chambers, 3rd Floor, 1700 Convention Center Drive
September 26, 2018 - 9:00 AM

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, Chair
Commissioner Michael Góngora, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Mark Samuelian, Member
Commissioner Micky Steinberg, Alternate

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A meeting of the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee was held on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Chambers, 3rd Floor of City Hall. Commissioners in attendance: Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, Michael Góngora, Mark Samuelian, and John Elizabeth Aleman. Members from the Administration and the public were also in attendance.

Meeting started at 9:08 am.

OLD BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE RATIONAL RECOVERY PROJECT, SPONSORED BY THE FREEZONE YOUTH SELF RESPECT AND SOUTH BEACH SOBER COACH

January 17, 2018 - C4 M

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora

Organization Development Performance Initiative

DIRECTION: Item to be rolled over with the health fair item from the October 17, 2018 Commission meeting.

2. DISCUSSION REGARDING CRIME IN MIAMI BEACH

February 14, 2018 - R9 X

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora

Police

ACTION

Commissioner Góngora introduced the item stating a study to analyze the complaints and perception of crime, in regards to crime figures, has been discussed for the past few months. Commissioner Góngora continues to receive complaints about crime

primarily, in the Entertainment District and the beach walk. Drug deals are happening in the open and Commissioner Góngora would like to know why this is happening and what can be done to stop it.

A video was shown of crimes being committed in broad daylight on Ocean Drive.

Armand Meyara, Ocean Drive business owner, stated he has sent numerous pictures and videos to the Miami Beach Police Department over the past 4 years and nothing has happened. Instead of crime decreasing, crime has increased. Mr. Meyara expressed that he has called the Police several times but the officers tend to show up 15 minutes after the illegal drug transaction has been completed. After identifying the individual who has committed the crime to Police, the Police Officer informs Mr. Meyara that they cannot search the individual because they did not witness the crime. Mr. Meyara has even followed the criminals while on the phone with the Police to update them on the criminal's location. Since Mr. Meyara chose to remain anonymous and not act as a witness in order for the Police to search the individual when officers arrive on the scene out of fear of retaliation, he has been told by the Police Department to stop calling because he is being "annoying and wasting their time". Mr. Meyara also stated that the drug dealers have switched up their technique and are now dressing as club promoters with badges and flyers pretending to promote events.

Gabriela Provenzano owner of Art Connection Jewelry Store shared her account of the drug activities that occur near her store. Ms. Provenzano suggested having more undercover cops patrolling the streets in which Mr. Meyara agreed.

Commissioner Góngora stated that he does not believe the study recommended in the memo is necessary.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez stated that there is an item on whether to allocate \$150,000 to a crime study, however; she doesn't think we should spend this amount of money on such a small area when we already have some evidence.

Michael DeFilippi stated that the City doesn't need to spend money on this study but spend it on undercover resources. Mr. DeFilippi suggested creating an entertainment district specific narcotics team.

Sebastian Gonzalez, Mitch Novack John Duetzman and Ceci Ceci Velasco shared their thoughts and experiences on crime and noise on Ocean Drive.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez stated that 9th Street is ground zero for crime and drug dealing.

Chief Oates stated that the recurring theme with the Miami Beach Crime Prevention Group is that there is a revolving door of justice and this continues to be an issue. The criminal justice system does not seriously penalize drug sells. Despite the perception, crime is down in part to the partnership with the Miami Beach Crime Prevention Group.

Discussion continued on crime and drug sells on Ocean Drive.

Commissioner Aleman asked Chief Oates to come back on this issue of street level drug dealing, stating that this Commission has added more police positions, park rangers, lighting, and better activation.

DIRECTION: Referred to the Commission as a discussion to be added to the Goals Conference agenda. Come back monthly.

3. DISCUSSION REGARDING AN AUTONOMOUS MASS TRANSIT SHUTTLE TEST PROGRAM IN MIAMI BEACH

March 7, 2018 - C4 J

Sponsored by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez

Transportation

ACTION

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez introduced the item stating the City has not acquired a sponsor and no one seems to be interested, however, this was a great idea to showcase the new Convention Center.

Tonya Daniels, Marketing and Communications Director stated a big sponsorship such as this one take a long time. A relationship needs to be cultivated and budgeted and the process is not that easy. Ford is using autonomous vehicles in the City of Miami Beach as well as the City of Miami.

DIRECTION: Continue to work on getting an autonomous mass transit program in Miami Beach. Provide an update via LTC.

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING FUNDING FOR FEDERATION TOWERS' PROGRAMMING

April 11, 2018 - R9 S

Sponsored by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez

Office of Housing and Community Services

ACTION

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez introduced the item and stated she is happy that staff reached out to Stella regarding where to get the tickets and for providing her with a list of where the programming is. Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez asked about offering an onsite yoga class through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Maria Ruiz, Housing and Community Services Director, stated that the CDBG budget will go out to RFP in February 2019. This will be an ideal opportunity for Federation Towers to submit an application but this is the exact type of programming the CDBG is meant to fund.

DIRECTION: Staff to help Federation Towers facilitate an application for the Community Development Block Grant for 2019.

5. DISCUSSION REGARDING UNDERGROUNDING FOR NORTH BAY ROAD AND ALTON ROAD

May 16, 2018 - R7 O

Public Works

ACTION

Jay Fink, Public Works Assistant Director, introduced the item stating that undergrounding is typically generated by the Home Owners Association (“HOA”). Instead of waiting for that process to take place, the City took a proactive approach and reached out to different neighborhoods to find out who is in favor of undergrounding. On September 6, the City mailed out a petition to North Bay residents between Alton Road and La Gorce Drive/ Pine Tree Circle. The petitions are due by October 8, 2018. As of right now, there is nothing to report regarding the petition.

Commissioner Alemán stated making these types of upfront steps were traditionally the responsibility of the HOA but making it a part of the standard methodology is the responsibility of the City. Having specific tasks early enough to have a definitive answer as to whether each neighborhood is committed to undergrounding before proceeding with a neighborhood improvement project. Commissioner Alemán suggested staff come up with specific steps to the methodology that can be taken off the HOA and making it an official step in the City’s methodology for neighborhood improvement projects.

Commissioner Samuelian stated he is supportive of the idea and liked the fact the City is being more proactive. Commissioner Samuelian believes underground is good for the neighborhood and the City. This will help alleviate the risk of going down a path with the project and then have undergrounding resurface.

Commissioner Góngora is also supportive. Commissioner Góngora requested more information on changing the methodology for other neighborhoods in the future.

VOTE BY ACCLAMATION: Come back next month with the results of the petition and changing the methodology for other neighborhoods.

6. DISCUSSION REGARDING DOCKLESS BICYCLE SHARING PLATFORM REGULATIONS

May 16, 2018 - R9 Q

Sponsored by Commissioner Alemán

Parking

DIRECTION: Item withdrawn per the sponsors request at the September 26, 2018, NCAC meeting.

7. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE STATUS UPDATE OF THE BOARDWALK ALONG THE BEACH, FROM 23RD STREET TO 46TH STREET

May 16, 2018 - R9 R

Sponsored by Commissioner Steinberg
Capital Improvement Projects

ACTION

John Deutzman, Miami Beach resident, stated that six huts on the boardwalk have become a haven for active criminals and recommended that they be removed. Mr. Deutzman also stated that per the Florida Statute, Section 823.05, the huts are a public nuisance.

Commissioner Aleman stated per David Martinez, Capital Improvement Projects Director, it will cost less than \$10,000 to remove the wooden huts. Commissioner Aleman suggested having the huts removed now since there are plans to demolished them already.

Sebastian Gonzalez Miami Beach resident shared his thoughts on crime in Miami Beach and how the “stay away orders” are becoming a problem for residential neighborhoods.

Ray Breslin, Miami Beach, expressed his concerns regarding the safety of the boardwalk and suggested having the boardwalk between 24th street to 29th street demolished.

Barbara Garcia, Miami Beach resident, stated the lack of Police is the issue.

Matis Cohen, Miami Beach resident, urged the Committee not to deploy the resources from North Beach to South Beach based on rumors there will be changes in the Police Department.

Commissioner Góngora stated that this dialogue will be continued at the Commission Goals Conference and at the Neighborhoods Committee Meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Góngora made a motion to demolish the huts. Commissioner Samuelian seconded the motion. All in favor by acclamation.

8. DISCUSSION TO EXPLORE ADDITIONAL AVENUES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

June 6, 2018 – C4 Q

Sponsored by Commissioner Samuelian
Marketing & Communications

ACTION

Commissioner Samuelian introduced the item stating a number of tools have been added to help better connect the community such as Resident Connect and the Residents Right to Know. Some of the key issues discussed were:

1. Interest in knowing how we are doing, what are the measures via Constant Contact or social media.

2. Making sure all of the good assets are well understood by the community. Such as Miami Beach United loves what the City has to offer but they don't know how to get their hands on the information.

3. Specific opportunities such as a video about each Commissioner including the Vice Mayor of which the Communications Department implemented immediately and has received over 1,000 views as well as an electronic town hall featuring the Manager and Mayor.

4. Internal/external strategy for City projects.

Tonya Daniels, Marketing and Communications Director, provided a spreadsheet of all the tools the City uses and how often they are managed in terms of communicating with residents and visitors.

Commissioner Samuelian suggested staff provide statistics on the mailing list (Constant Contact) and a social media matrix.

Ms. Daniels stated through a partnership with the Sustainability and Environmental Department, they brought in a graduate intern who did an assessment of the internal communications strategy. From the feedback, they are creating a plan for internal communication that will then lead to improved external communication.

Commissioner Samuelian suggested having a resident engagement toolkit that takes the City assets and provides a link as guidance as well as an electronic town hall.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez suggested having a focus group or sending out a survey asking people their thoughts on the website in order to find ways to better improve the website.

Commissioner Alemán suggested that instead of sending out a survey, adding a tool on the website asking if they would like to fill out a survey.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez suggested placing icons to help aid the navigation process on the website.

VOTE BY ACCLAMATION: Come back on a quarterly basis with an update.

9. DISCUSSION REGARDING SAND SIFTING, BEACH CLEANING, AND MAINTENANCE

June 6, 2018 - C4 T

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora & Co-sponsored by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez Beach Maintenance

DIRECTION: Deferred to the October 31, 2018, NCAC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

10. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE RENEWAL OF THE POLICE AND PARKING DEPARTMENT TOWING PERMITS TO BEACH TOWING SERVICES, INC.

**AND TREMONT TOWING, INC. FOR A TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR,
COMMENCING ON MARCH 1, 2018 AND EXPIRING ON FEBRUARY 28, 2019**

February 14, 2018 - C7 A
Sponsored by Commissioner Alemán
Office of the City Attorney/Parking

ACTION

Rafael Andrade on behalf of Towing companies requested that the Committee send this item back without a recommendation (neither favorable nor unfavorable) to the Commission to renew the towing permits for the 3 year period. For decades, they have been traditionally renewed for 3 years however, last year they were only renewed for a year with the idea that something would happen within that year. Under the towing permit, on or about October 1, they are entitled to request a review of the maximum towing rates. There has not been an adjustment to the rates since 2012. The CPI has gone up approximately 11-12% from 2012 to now. There is an indexing provision in the permit that states the City Manager can review the rates once a 5% CPI threshold is met. The threshold has been met twice since 2012 and the City Manager has not exercised his discretion to conduct the review. Mr. Andrade requested that the review be done now and follow suit with Miami-Dade and remove the politics out of towing and rate increases and made them more automatic.

Aleksandr Boksner, Chief Deputy, City Attorney's Office, stated there is still time left in the one year renewal. The permits were renewed in February of this year. Standardizing the CPI would be an amendment to the towing permit and will need to go before the City Commission. Mr. Boksner recommended not having this item come before the Neighborhoods Community Affairs Committee until the January 2019 meeting where there could be a recommendation made for February 2019 City Commission meeting.

Commissioner Samuelian stated that this item should stay at NCAC until it is ready to go. Commissioner Samuelian is interested in exploring the following: improving the aesthetics by covering the facility and the policy for accepting credit cards.

Saul Frances, Parking Director, stated that research was conducted on acceptance of credit cards. There is a provision in the towing permit that requires each towing provider to have an ATM on site. The research indicates that because they are non-consensual tows, the person that gets towed can challenge the charge on their card to the credit card company or the bank and the bank will review it. Some banks will then process the charge back to the towing company causing it to be disruptive to the industry, therefore, causing a lot of towing company to not accept credit cards.

Commissioner Samuelian requested more information on the municipality towing companies that allow credit card and debit card payments.

MOTION: Commissioner Góngora made a motion to move this item to the full Commission to discuss renewing the permit. Commissioner Samuelian voted against the motion. Commissioner Samuelian requested to hear more about the research on credit card payments and covering of the facility. Information to be provided to Commissioner Samuelian by the next Commission meeting.

11. A. DISCUSSION TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND THE USE OF SERVICES LIKE FREEBEE AND THE COMMUNICATION TO POTENTIAL RIDERS

B. DISCUSSION REGARDING A PARTNERSHIP WITH FREEBEE TO TRANSPORT RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO/FROM MIAMI BEACH TO THE DOWNTOWN MIAMI OMNIBUS TERMINAL VIA THE VENETIAN CAUSEWAY

April 11, 2018 - C4 T/July 25, 2018 C4 B

Sponsored by Commissioner Samuelian/ Sponsored by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez
Transportation

ACTION

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez expressed that she would rather use Freebee than the shuttle and shared her experience of how when she was stuck on the Venetian and asked if Freebee can replace the trollies.

Jose Gonzalez, Transportation Director, stated informed that they've been looking at solutions. Earlier this year they issued a Request for Letters of Interest ("RFLI"), and they received three (3) proposals, however, one of the requirements in the RFLI is that the service be provided at no cost to the City. All three (3) proposers required some level of subsidy either through assistance obtaining sponsorships or just money from the City in general. The Procurement Department deemed all three (3) proposers non-responsive on or about March/April. There are discussions with Miami-Dade County because they were providing a Freebee service to supplement Route 115 and they have cut back on buses. They saw this as an opportunity to expand the service to Mid-Beach's residential community.

After speaking with other cities such as Miami Lakes, Coral Gables, and Key Biscayne, who all operate a Freebee service, it was found that the cities subsidize either the whole amount or a portion of the amount and through Freebee's advertising revenues, they offset some of the operating costs.

Mr. Gonzalez explained that they would like this type of on-demand service to supplement the trolley service. The trolleys have great coverage but it does not go everywhere.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez mentioned that a majority of senior citizens use the trolley so the fact that Freebee is app-based will eliminate the people who use the service the most. Linda Westin clarified that they spoke with the Key Biscayne operators who had the issue of elderly not using Freebee so they set up a number to call directly to Freebee and their officers would dispatch a Freebee vehicle to them and they seemed satisfied with that arrangement.

DIRECTION: Staff to explore a relationship with Freebee. Item to be supplemented via LTC.

12. DISCUSSION REGARDING MOVING FORWARD WITH AN ART INSTALLATION THAT CELEBRATES DIVERSITY IN OUR COMMUNITY, AS REQUESTED BY THE LGBTQ ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 11, 2018 - C4 X

Sponsored by Commissioner Steinberg

Tourism, Culture, and Economic Development

ACTION

Kathie Brooks, Assistant City Manager, stated the main issue was where this would be located. There currently is no funding for this item therefore once a location is selected this item will need to go to the Finance Committee.

Heather Shaw, Tourism, Culture, and Economic Development Interim Director, stated this item was discussed at Art in Public Places in November 2017 in which the item was deferred until a budget and location were identified.

Gayle Durham, member of the LGBTQ Advisory, stated the creation of an art installation to celebrate the past, present and future diversity in the City of Miami Beach. Ms. Durham recommended that the art installed to be located on Lincoln Road and Convention Center Park as a second preferred location. Ocean Drive would not be a desirable location because of the "heavy party scene" it would not be dignified for such an important symbol. Ms. Durham also stated that the art installation could be anything from a light show, street furniture or interactive video.

Commissioner Góngora suggested having a public installation on Lincoln Road similar to the umbrellas in Coral Gables (in feeling but not likeness).

Mrs. Brooks stated that the Convention Center already has \$6 million worth of art to be installed throughout the Center and surrounding parks and suggested placing the installation in another location.

Commissioner Aleman stated 1.5% of public projects fund Art in Public Places. Commissioner Aleman suggested the art installation come from the Art in Public Places budget.

Dennis Leyva, Art in Public Places Coordinator, stated that the funds that are currently allocated are for specific projects. There is currently a 1.1 million dollar project set to be installed in November 2019 in Convention Center Park. Mr. Leyva suggested disbursing the public art rather than focusing it on one area.

Mrs. Brooks clarified that the amount of money that the City would like to put towards this project needs to be identified. The funding can be increased over time in the AiPP fund.

Commissioner Aleman suggested waiting until after the November election to see if the GO Bond passes before identifying funding.

Matis Cohen suggested 41st Street, Rue Vendome, and the 73rd Street Bandshell as potential alternative locations for the art installation.

VOTE BY ACCLAMATION: Locations to be recommended to the City Commission for consideration are Lincoln Road and Washington Avenue (near old City Hall) and the budget will be discussed at the Finance and Citywide Projects Committee as part of a prior referral.

13. DISCUSSION ON THE CITY'S CURRENT LANE CLOSURE POLICY
May 16, 2018 - C4 AN

Transportation

ACTION

The administration presented the discrepancies between the fee policy charged for closure on major thoroughfares versus major thoroughfares that required Commission approval for closure:

- Collins Avenue from 5th Street to 23rd Street
- 17th Street from West Avenue to Collins Avenue
- Indian Creek Drive from 26th Street to 41st Street
- 71st Street from Indian Creek Drive to Collins Avenue
- West Avenue from 5th Street to Dade Blvd
- 16th Street

VOTE BY ACCLAMATION: Elimination of the discrepancies by requiring all streets in the fee policy to also require Commission approval. Item moved to the full Commission with a favorable recommendation from the Committee.

14. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF INSTALLING A TURNING LANE WHEN YOU ARE DRIVING EAST ON I-195 HEADING ONTO 41ST STREET AND TURNING SOUTH ON ALTON ROAD

May 16, 2018 - C4 AO

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora

Transportation

DIRECTION: Deferred pending a study from the State of Florida.

15. DISCUSSION REGARDING MOVING THE STAGING SITE LOCATED INSIDE THE MIAMI BEACH GOLF CLUB, AT THE CORNER OF MERIDIAN AVENUE AND 28TH STREET, TO A DIFFERENT LOCATION

May 16, 2018 - R9 W

Sponsored by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez

ACTION

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez introduced the item stating that they do not have a different location at one point it was a garbage dump (according to residents) in the middle of a neighborhood.

DIRECTION: Item withdrawn by the sponsor.

16. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE COMFORT OF CITY TROLLEYS AND REQUEST THE ADMINISTRATION TO REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE RETROFITTED TROLLEYS

May 16, 2018 - R9 X

Sponsored by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez

Transportation

ACTION

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez introduced the item and asked about the status of the retrofitted trolleys.

Jose Gonzalez, Transportation Director, stated that all the modifications have been implemented as of mid-April 2018. The modification included the footrest, railings, luggage rack, longer leather straps, and raised benches above the rear wheel wells. Since April, there have been little to no complaints about the new modifications made to the low floor trolleys.

Both Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez and Commissioner Góngora stated they have not received a lot of complaints lately about the trolleys. Commissioner Góngora also stated that Administration has done a good job at reaching out to the community at the request of the committee especial to Rebecca Towers and other areas.

Commissioner Samuelian stated he agrees with the modifications that were made and is glad that they helped.

DIRECTION: Item withdrawn.

17. DISCUSSION TO CONSIDER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PEDESTRIAN SCRAMBLE INTERSECTION IN MIAMI BEACH

June 6, 2018 - C4 P

Sponsored by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez

Transportation

DIRECTION: Go to the County for the approval of a pedestrian scramble pilot at the intersection of 17th Street and Meridian Avenue.

18. DISCUSSION REGARDING DEVELOPING A NON-PROFIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS TRAINING PROGRAM TO BE REQUIRED FOR ALL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING FUNDING FROM THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

June 6, 2018 - C4 S

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora
Office of Housing and Community Services

ACTION

Commissioner Góngora introduced the item. Commissioner Góngora stated he attended the LGBTQ Committee and there was a discussion on World Out Games and how to avoid a similar situation happening again in the future. It has occurred to Commissioner Góngora that the City gives money to small organizations that have voluntary boards with little to no training. These members do not know what is going on, what their role is as a board member and how to oversee money. Administration created a plan to offer training twice a year by in house employees (at no cost to the city) for these groups. The focus being on the smaller agencies with an annual operating budget of less than 5 million dollars and a minimum threshold of \$25,000 for grants. If agencies are getting less than that, they can be exempted. The training must be completed within a certain amount of time but is not a condition of receiving the funding.

Commissioner Aleman stated that Commissioner Arriola and herself sponsored an item requiring nonprofits to go to the institutions that are already in existence for grant writing before they come to Miami Beach. Over time, everyone started coming to the City first and that is not the primary purpose of the City's budget. Commissioner Aleman met with Garzette who is creating a development grant for smaller and brand new organizations ie. Mango Festival but they received very few applications. Commissioner Aleman suggested directing the agencies to Garzette first.

MOTION: Commissioner Góngora made a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for the required training program for entities receiving City grants and to use the \$25,000 threshold for exemption on smaller grants. Commissioner Samuelian seconded the motion.

19. DISCUSSION TO CONSIDER ALLOWING CERTIFICATION FOR PARENT PATROL VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST IN DIRECTING TRAFFIC

July 25, 2018 - C4 A

Sponsored by Commissioner Alemán
Police

ACTION

Richard Hall, Parent Patrol Volunteer, stated this initiative was started after the Parkland shooting. This initiative has been implemented at North Beach Elementary and Nautilus. The Parent Patrol Volunteer is there to provide help to the school's security apparatus and well as traffic direction due to traffic back up on Prarie.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez asked if the City had the capability to create a certification program and if there were an independent party that could certify it if needed.

Commissioner Aleman stated the City currently only certifies city employees. The request is to work out a methodology to certify the parent patrol. A year or two ago a child was hit by a car at North Beach Elementary during drop off time. Each school has more than one point that needs to be protected during drop off and pick up. The Parent Patrol Volunteers make sure all the children are safe around the school since PD and the school's Resource Officers cannot be everyone at once.

Chief Oates, Miami Beach Police Department, stated that the Police Department has the capacity to certify parent through an 8-hour course. The only issue would be the City's potential liability.

Commissioner Aleman suggested Administration come up with a program to certify Parent Patrol Volunteer that are apart of the official Parent Patrol Program at the schools where the program exist. Commissioner

MOTION: Góngora made a motion to move the concept forward to the full Commission. Commissioner Samuelian seconded the motion.

20. DISCUSSION REGARDING MERIDIAN AVENUE FROM 17TH STREET TO DADE BOULEVARD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE FEASIBILITY STUDY

July 25, 2018 - C4 C
Transportation

ACTION

Jose Gonzalez, Transportation Director stated that the goal of this project is to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and connectivity along Meridian Avenue from Dade Boulevard to 16th Street. Meridian Avenue is fundamental to connectivity; it connects to Dade Boulevard, Sheridan's Path on the north, as wells the 16th Street green bike lanes on the South. Over the past few months, a feasibility study was conducted as to what can be done in the short and long term in terms of providing better bicycle facilities and pedestrian crossings along Meridian Avenue.

Lynda Westin, Transportation Manager, showed a PowerPoint presentation outlining the different short term and long term options.

Kathie Brooks, Assistant City Manager, stated that short-term option 2 was the preferred option amongst the community even with the removal of the parking spaces as a short-term option.

Ms. Westin stated that the community also preferred long-term option 2 as a long-term option.

All three committee members expressed that they are comfortable with option 2 for the short term.

Ms. Westin stated these change would be implemented in the next budget cycle.

Commissioner Aleman expressed that changes needed to be implemented as soon as possible and offered to call someone from the County to speed up the process.

Ms. Westin stated that the long-term option would be implemented with the City's Sustainability Project which is scheduled for 2021.

VOTE BY ACCLAMATION: Proceed with short-term option 2.

21. DISCUSSION REGARDING EXPANDING THE BOUNDARIES FOR THE PACKAGE SALES OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (WHICH INCLUDE SALES OF ALCOHOL FOR OFF-PREMISES CONSUMPTION) IN THE MXE (MIXED USE ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT) AND ABUTTING AREAS

July 25, 2018 - C4 D

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora
Planning

ACTION

Commissioner Góngora introduced the item stating small business owners are at a disadvantage as it relates to the packaged sale of alcoholic beverages in the MXE District because national retailers continue to sell alcohol into later hours of the night.

Tom Mooney, Planning Director, stated Chapter 6 Section 6-3 was amended to prohibit alcohol sells in the MXE District and to regulate the hours of sells in legal non-conforming establishments in the MXE District and CD2 District. In most of Miami Beach, the limit on the packaged sells of alcohol is 8:00 am to midnight. However, within the MXE District and CD2 District, the hours are from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Commissioner Aleman stated certain locations were being penalized, specifically on 9th street where criminal activity occurs. It was shut down and helped clean up the street.

Commissioner Góngora stated stores like Publix and Total Wines are outside of the district and would not be included. The issue is a store in the district has to stop sales by a certain time while a competitive business just down the street is allowed to continue selling alcohol.

VOTE BY ACCLAMATION: Send to the full Commission with a favorable recommendation from the Committee.

22. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF EXTRANEOUS AND POTENTIALLY OUTDATED LEGISLATION IN MIAMI BEACH

July 25, 2018 - C4 E

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora
City Manager's

ACTION

Commissioner Góngora introduced the item and suggested someone review the City's outdated legislation. For example, Purdy Avenues awning ordinance may no longer be relevant along with other items throughout the City.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez stated the City's Code is tremendous and new ones are added to it every month. Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez suggested creating a committee to go through the Code every month. Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez also suggested having each department review the Code and find the ones that are obsolete.

Commissioner Samuelian stated he liked the directions suggested by the other committee members. Commissioner Samuelian also suggested the Administration reflect on whether there is a process for new legislation after a period of time to have a periodic review.

DIRECTION: Deferred for 90 days. Every department is to review the Code within their department for any obsolete legislation for review.

23. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PUMP NEXT TO 1410 WEST 21 STREET, WHICH IS RUINING THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND DAMAGED THE PROPERTY, POOL, AND SEAWALL

July 25, 2018 - C4 T

Sponsored by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez
Public Works

ACTION

Commissioner Góngora recused himself because his law firm represents the association for Sunset Island 3 and 4 who played a role in the pump placement.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez shared some of the complaints she has received from a Miami Beach resident that lives near the pumps.

David Martinez, Capital Improvement Project Director, stated the noise issue comes from the air condition system that controls the climate. Mr. Martinez expressed that although the system is operating properly, due to the location, he understands how the echoes are an issue. The pump is much louder than what they expected and will start to address the issue in steps (such as installing a buffer, elevating the system, landscaping and making changes to the system) in the next 3 to 4 weeks.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez requested the phrase progress be completed as soon as possible.

Mr. Martinez stated the resident has been trying to put in a new water heater/ gas service through Tico Gas and is unsure how it will affect the road. Mr. Martinez also provided an updated on the renovation of the new park.

Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez asked if the pump stations could be moved.

Mr. Martinez responded there will never be a perfect location for the pumps stations.

Commissioner Aleman asked about soundproof barriers.

Mr. Martinez responded that is the next step after landscaping.

No action taken.

24. A. UPDATE ON RUE VENDOME PLAZA ACTIVATION

B. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE ACTIVATION AND PROGRAMMING PLAN FOR RUE VENDOME AND NORMANDY ISLE

July 25, 2018 - R9 L/R9 M

Sponsored by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez
Tourism Culture and Economic Development

DIRECTION: Item withdrawn by the sponsor.

25. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE INTEREST OF THE COMMISSION IN OPERATING ELECTRIC SCOOTERS AT ALL AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A FUTURE PILOT PROGRAM

July 25, 2018 - R9 V

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora
Transportation

ACTION

Commissioner Góngora introduced the items stating that he has received a lot of outreach from electric scooter operators over the last few months to discuss whether Miami Beach would be interested in conducting a pilot project similar to the City of Coral Gables and City of Miami. Commissioner Góngora expressed that he is not advocating the use of electric scooters in Miami Beach but is open to listening about them. Secondly, Commissioner Góngora does not want to put electric scooters on sidewalks or pedestrian walkways. If this were to be considered, Commissioner Góngora suggested using them in the bike lanes, however, per the Legal Department that may not be permissible.

Aleksandr Boksner, Chief Deputy, City Attorney's Office, stated that as of right now, electric scooters cannot be legally operated on the roadways per DHSMV determination because it requires them to be licensed and tagged. Electric scooters fail to meet safety requirements, therefore, they will never be license and tagged thus cannot be operated on roadways. Under Sec 316.008, Miami Beach has limited authority on what is allowed on the roadways.

Commissioner Góngora suggested having the Legal Department look into this issue to see if the bike lane could potentially be an option.

Commissioner Samuelian is not in favor of moving forward but suggested monitoring the pilot programs of other municipalities.

Commissioner Aleman expressed interested in having an electric scooter pilot program in but is concerned about its safety and there has not been any resident interest.

DIRECTION: Monitor the test pilots in Miami Dade County and report back in 90 days as well as research potentially using the bike lanes in the future.

26. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF THE PERMANENT BENCHES NEAR THE LUMMUS PARK SIGN AS A PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURE

July 25, 2018 - R9 X

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora

Parks and Recreation

DIRECTION: Deferred to the October 31, 2018, NCAC meeting.

27. DISCUSSION REGARDING CO-NAMING 75TH STREET FROM DICKENS AVENUE TO HARDING AVENUE AS "RABBI ABRAMOWITZ WAY"

September 12, 2018 - C4 J

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora/Co-sponsored by Commissioner Samuelian
Transportation/Office of the City Attorney

ACTION

Commissioner Góngora introduced the item stating previously at NCAC and the City Commission, the ordinance was amended to allow the renaming and this item is to discuss the co-naming of 75th Street, between Dickens Avenue to Harding Avenue, Rabbi Abramowitz Way. Commissioner Góngora supports the co-naming of the street.

Dahlia Oppenheimer daughter of Rabbi Abramowitz shared why co-naming 75th street after her father was important to her and her family.

Commissioner Samuelian stated he is supportive of this item and it is a wonderful acknowledgment of a life well lived. Commissioner Rosen expressed similar sentiments.

MOTION: Commissioner Góngora made a motion to move this item to the full Commission. Approved by acclamation.

DEFERRED ITEMS

28. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE 23RD STREET AND 63RD STREET COMPLETE STREETS FEASIBILITY STUDIES

December 13, 2017 - C4 A

Transportation

DIRECTION: Deferred pending completion of community outreach.

29. DISCUSSION REGARDING POTENTIALLY ADDING THE NAME "MIAMI BEACH BOULEVARD" TO 5TH STREET

February 14, 2018 - C4 I

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora

Transportation

DIRECTION: Deferred pending a response from Mr. Michael Comras pursuant to the direction of the NCAC at its March 21, 2018 meeting.

30. DISCUSSION REGARDING CABLERUNNER AND ITS TECHNOLOGY

February 14, 2018 - C4 V

Sponsored by Commissioner Alemán

Public Works

DIRECTION: Deferred pending a written response from Cablerunner and Hazen and Sawyer.

31. DISCUSSION TO CONSIDER THE INSTALLATION OF THE BEAUTIFUL BARRIERS CONCEPT AS SECURITY BARRIERS AROUND THE CITY

April 11, 2018 - C4 Q

Sponsored by Commissioner Alemán & Co-sponsored by Commissioner Rosen Gonzalez
Property Management

DIRECTION: Deferred pending resolution of conflict from Beautiful Barriers.

32. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE POSITION OF CONDOMINIUM OMBUDSMAN WITHIN THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH

April 11, 2018 - R9 N

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora
Marketing and Communications

DIRECTION: Deferred pending meeting with Commissioner Góngora, Mr. Ryan Barras, City Ombudsman and the City's Attorney's Office on how to improve the position.

33. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE CONDITION OF WASHINGTON AVENUE, THE INCREASING NUMBER OF VACANT STOREFRONTS THEREIN, AND THE STATUS OF THE WASHINGTON AVENUE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

April 11, 20148 - R9 W

Sponsored by Commissioner Góngora

Tourism Culture and Economic Development

DIRECTION: Deferred for 90 days (October 31, 2018) pending a status report.

34. DISCUSSION REGARDING NAMING FOR THE NEW NORTHERN CONVENTION CENTER PARK AND THE MAIN CONVENTION CENTER PARK

May 16, 2018 - C4 AN

Tourism, Culture, and Economic Development

DIRECTION: Deferred pending feedback from the Miami Beach Commission for Women.

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 pm.