

MIAMI BEACH

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Staff Report & Recommendation

Historic Preservation Board

TO: Chairperson and Members
Historic Preservation Board

DATE: July 12, 2016

FROM: Thomas R. Mooney, AICP
Planning Director



SUBJECT: HPB0516-0033, Discussion – Ocean Drive sidewalk café umbrella and furnishings design guidelines.

BACKGROUND

In May, 2015, Mayor Levine appointed the Ocean Drive Task Force. The purpose of the Task Force was to review conditions on Ocean Drive and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Commission regarding improvements to enhance the experience of those who visit Ocean Drive.

The Task Force set a goal of preparing recommendations that would aid in making Ocean Drive a better experience for visitors, as well as a place that residents would be comfortable visiting and returning regularly. In addition, the Task Force sought to do this while keeping in mind the on-going concerns of Ocean Drive business operators and their needs.

The Task Force met a total of ten (10) times between June 2015 and November 2015 to discuss relevant issues, as well as meet with experts, residents, business owners, property owners, and City officials. The Task Force discussed a number of issues including, but not limited to, the following:

- Sidewalk cafés;
- Lummus Park activation;
- Visibility of police officers;
- Noise in the area;
- The dimensions of the sidewalks;
- Appropriateness of City codes and compliance with the Code;
- Issues related to homeless in the area.

The issue pertaining to sidewalk café conditions was of great importance to the task force and the Chair created an "Umbrella and Appearance" Subcommittee. This sub-committee met a total of six times to fully investigate issues such as umbrella design, common code compliance issues, sidewalk café furniture, as well as the interaction between pedestrians and sidewalk cafés, and the available space for each. The sub-committee made recommendations to the full Task Force that were discussed and became the basis for many of the recommendations in the Task Force's final report.

On January 13, 2016, the Final Report of the Mayor's Ocean Drive Task Force, including recommendations for consideration, was presented to the Mayor and City Commission. The Commission referred further discussion of the recommendations of the task force to the Land Use and Development Committee and requested that the Committee present its findings to the City Commission by March 9, 2016.

On February 3, 2016, the Land Use and Development Committee (LUDC) discussed the Final Report of the Mayor's Ocean Drive Task Force and transmitted a favorable recommendation of the Mayor's Ocean Drive Task Force to the full Commission. These recommendations include the transfer of design review of sidewalk café permits to the Planning Department and development of a City-specified low profile umbrella design.

On March 9, 2016, the Mayor and City Commission and accepted the recommendation of the LUDC.

ANALYSIS

Attached is a draft of the Ocean Drive Sidewalk Café Design Guidelines, which was put together by Planning Department staff. These draft guidelines address all major components associated with sidewalk cafes, including umbrellas, furniture, landscaping, lighting and portable fixtures. Staff is seeking the input of the Historic Preservation Board, prior to finalizing the proposed guidelines.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends that the HPB discuss the item and provide recommendations for the City Commission to consider.

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