



APPROVED
BEACH REDEVELOPMENT BOARD
501 SEABREEZE BOULEVARD
FORT LAUDERDALE AQUATIC COMPLEX
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33316
Monday, July 16, 2018, 2:30 P.M.

MEMBERS	FEB 2018/JAN 2019				
	REGULAR MTGS		SPECIAL MTGS		
		Present	Absent	Present	Absent
Ina Lee, Chair	P	5	0	2	0
Thomas B. McManus, VC	A	3	2	2	0
Art Benochea	P	2	0	0	0
Jason Hughes	P	3	2	1	1
Abby Laughlin	P	4	1	2	0
Christian Luz	P	3	2	1	1
Kristen Maus	P	2	0	0	0
Tim Schiavone	P	4	1	2	0
Shirley Smith	P	5	0	2	0
Aiton Yaari	A	2	3	1	1

Staff

Don Morris, Beach CRA Manager
 Laura Voet, Aquatics Center Manager
 Felicia Reich, Intern
 Lian Chan, Prototype, Inc.

Guests

Debby Eisinger, Member of Parks and Rec Board

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum – Ina Lee

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Quorum Requirement

As of this date there were 10 appointed members to the Board, which means 6 would constitute a quorum. It was noted there was a quorum at the commencement of the meeting.

II. Approval of BRB Minutes – Ina Lee

- **July 18, 2018 Regular meeting** -To be addressed at the August meeting

III. Discussion of Tour Observations – Don Morris, AICP, Beach CRA Manager

Ms. Laughlin commented that where the tram goes around the garage, there is an under-portion of the Las Olas Bridge. She suggested activating the area because it is a nice, shady spot. Mr. Morris said they considered doing something there, but it is owned by FDOT, and there are limits to what can be done. They allow parking, but other than lighting, there appears to be nothing more that the CRA can do there.

Mr. Hughes mentioned an underpass park he saw in Toronto where they put lights, graffiti art, and activated it for kids to play. He said the site under the bridge is a great spot to do the same.

Mr. Morris said they have discussed it with FDOT. When the 15% design plans were completed, they were in constant contact with them to see what could be done underneath the bridge. Right now it has marina parking, with room for 15-20 spaces. He said he would talk to FDOT again, but was not optimistic.

Mr. Hughes observed that the intersection where one would turn left at the Drunken Taco to get to Seabreeze Boulevard going west to get to Birch, is a dangerous place. There is no signal.

Ms. Maus brought up another dangerous intersection where they turned around to go north at Sebastian. She said there is a huge Seagrape tree there, and cars coming out are not visible.

Chair Lee asked where the tram goes after it leaves the parking lot to go back to the garage. Mr. Morris said that it should ideally go to a light; they could turn left at Las Olas Boulevard, but it is a tight turn. The tram would have to go farther north.

Mr. Morris said there is a main tram and an attached trailer about the same size. The leg room was originally too small, so they extended it to 24 inches. He believed they have two trams and one trailer.

In response to a question by Ms. Laughlin, Mr. Morris stated that if they need more trams to meet increased demand, the City can purchase them because it is a pilot program. He said they added additional security elements to the Streetscape (cameras, bollards, etc.) which increased the budget, and they may need to come back for more money. He emphasized that additional trams would not come out of the CRA budget.

Mr. Morris explained that once the CRA goes away, there will not be any restrictions for the trams to stay in the CRA boundaries. The City may decide to take the trams up and down the beach, since they will become City property when the CRA is gone.

Chair Lee recommended having signage for the garage before people get on the bridge and after they get off the bridge. Mr. Morris said they have been talking with TAM, and they are planning some offsite signage that hopefully would be able to display how

many spaces are available in the garage. It would ideally be on the west side of the bridge. He will bring plans at some point in the future.

Ms. Maus asked why the drop-off area for the parking lot across from the Elbo Room was blocked off. Mr. Morris said it is designed for trolley access, a drive-through for cars, and a pass-by lane (three lanes). The City Commission raised concern about the lane being used as a cut-through for cars; since it is a park, they did not want the traffic. Mr. Morris said they did not change the design, but are installing an electronic arm to allow emergency vehicles and trams to pass through. If it is going to be changed, it will have to be changed at the City Commission level via a revised site plan amendment.

Mr. Morris emphasized the need for safety, saying that children might jump off the tram and run around and get hit by a vehicle speeding through. They need to figure out a solution that will be safe.

There will be a raised intersection at Seabreeze Boulevard and at SR A1A, that will include pedestrian first lighting and a widened sidewalk. They are encouraging people to walk from the garage to Las Olas Park to increase activity there.

Discussion ensued on how long it would take the tram to make the round trip to the beach, with Ms. Smith thinking it would take a half hour, and Ms. Laughlin pointing out lots of people will walk to the beach. Mr. Morris said they will assess the interest when it gets started. Once the park is activated, it should be a draw for people.

Regarding the Oceanside Park, Mr. Morris said they need to determine a name for it, and Chair Lee thought that would be part of the branding of the area. She said Lauderdale by the Sea did a great job with signage, and the "feel" of their beach. She commented they need to bring creative people in on the task.

Mr. Morris noted that once the CRA is done, they "turn the keys" over. The decision of naming the park will also have to involve the department that assumes ownership.

Chair Lee brought up the condition of the sidewalks from the Aquatics Center down to Bahia Mar. She said they do not look good and are not friendly for walking. Mr. Morris commented property owners are responsible for repairing broken sidewalks. The sidewalk problem has been ongoing, particularly from Las Olas to the turn-around. A wider sidewalk with some obstacles to vehicles would be beneficial. If the CRA does not do the improvements, the City could choose to do so.

Ms. Smith commented that there were Porta-Potties on the sidewalk in front of a property at the beach for several years. While they are now gone, the sidewalk itself is unwalkable.

Mr. Morris said they contacted DSD and got the Porta-Potties removed and the fence fixed. As far as closing roads for construction, that is happening City-wide, but the CRA

cannot address it due to time constraints and lack of projects in the CRA area. Builders should be aware that they have to leave a walkway.

Once the new owner of the property is known, Mr. Morris will follow up regarding the walkways. He said they will have to reapply for permits, so it may take some time.

Chair Lee wondered if they could ask the new owner to have the sidewalk in front of their building complement the new designs that the CRA is putting in. Mr. Morris said they could be asked, but they already have an approved site plan.

Mr. Hughes observed that Skanska has done a good job keeping the area clean. He said they honor the noise ordinance well. Mr. Morris added they have a consultant on board and they distribute information in a very timely manner.

Debby Eisinger offered to answer any questions about the Aquatics Center, stating she was here as a resident of Fort Lauderdale.

Chair Lee said they need to make the economic impact viable, and asked what the business plan is for getting the big meets back.

Laura Voet, Aquatics Center Manager, advised that they heard from US Masters Swimming that they want their national championships back here. Their Spring championships bring 2,000 people. She said when they get full force, they had about 100 event days a year; they close only on Christmas Day. They have to strike a balance between keeping the pool available for the community and accommodating the meets. She said training camps are very popular now, and they have to turn some away.

Chair Lee asked when the meets would start coming back, and Mr. Morris replied they have to get the Center built first. He hoped there would be a contract and proposed design and construction schedule at the August meeting. Mr. Green will be able to address that.

Ms. Voet estimated they do not want their first meet to be a national championship, and they are targeting 2021 for their bigger meets. She did not think they would be able to keep one pool open while they are building because of liability.

Mr. Hughes verified that the capacity of the stands will remain about the same – 1,500.

Ms. Voet said they can explore getting awning coverage for the stands, although it costs about \$1 million. They would want something that they could take down in the event to storms and they could be installed after the center is built.

IV. Communication to City Commission - None

Mr. Morris said the joint meeting with the Commission is still scheduled. If it does not work out for the August meeting, he will inform everybody in advance. He said that all the prior Communications have been presented to the Commission.

Chair Lee thought they needed to keep tabs on costs once construction on the Center starts. She wanted to know where money would come from if it exceeded their budget. Mr. Morris replied that there is a contingency built into the budget. At this point, he believed they need to move forward with the \$27 million.

V. Old/New Business

Ms. Maus asked if there might be a better venue for Friday Night Sound Waves because of noise coming from the Elbo Room – perhaps DC Alexander Park.

Mr. Morris said there is no infrastructure at DC Alexander Park, and they would have to bring in generators. There is planned infrastructure for the Hub and also for DC Alexander Park in the future.

Ms. Maus asked if the Hobi cats are still allowed access. Ms. Voet advised there was a water spout several years ago at a non-motorized boat launch area where all the catamarans were destroyed. They took the dock away, but Hobi cats can still launch from there. Ms. Voet showed where the launch area was. She also showed an area where people can land their boats.

Discussion ensued about whether to have a BRB meeting in August. Ms. Omengebar said there was nothing for the agenda. Chair Lee suggested skipping it unless they have a joint meeting.

Motion made by Ms. Laughlin, seconded by Mr. Benochea, to skip the regular August meeting unless there is a Joint Meeting with the City Commission. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Morris said he would send out the date for the Joint Meeting.

Mr. Morris suggested that when they do another tour, they do it earlier in the morning and walk more.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

[Minutes transcribed by J. Rubin, Prototype, Inc.]

Attachments:

Diagram/photo of Hobi cat launch area – Laura Voet