



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

APPROVED

**BEACH REDEVELOPMENT BOARD
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
Tuesday, May 29, 2018, 6:30 P.M.**

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

Staff

Don Morris, Beach CRA Manager
Tom Green, Project Manager, Beach CRA
Lizeth DeTorres, Administrative Aide
Chijioke Ezekwe, CRA Project Manager
Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director
Michael Mitchel, Prototype, Inc.

Members of the Parks and Recreation Board

Bill Schonlau
Bruce Quailey
Brucie Cummings
Debby Eisinger
Dermot McQuarrie
James Jordan
Jo Ann Smith
Karen Polivka
Marianna Seiler
Marie Huntley
Paul Davidson
Roy Grimsland

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

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Self-introductions were made.

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.

Communication to the City Commission - None

II. Workshop to Discuss the Renovation of DC Alexander Park – Donald Morris, AICP, Beach CRA Manager

Tom Green, Project Manager with the Beach CRA, stated they hired Keith & Associates as the design consultants to produce a 15% conceptual design for the project. He said they want to obtain feedback from the two boards represented at this meeting in terms of project direction. Keith & Associates will ultimately produce three design concepts to take forward to the City Commission along with preliminary cost estimates.

BRB Chair Lee verified that there would be an opportunity for the two boards to meet again to review the concepts before the design concepts go to the Commission.

Mr. Green pointed out that the project would be 100% funded by CRA Capital dollars.

Paul Weinberg, Design Project Manager and Principal of Keith & Associates, stated their company is leading the team initiative, along with Brooks + Scarpa (Fort Lauderdale-based architect).

Mr. Weinberg showed a PowerPoint presentation highlighting project location, programming elements, stakeholder involvement, public workshop attended by approximately 30 individuals, www.dcalexanderpark.com that will update throughout the project, seating arrangements in the park, art and connectivity, lighting (dual lighting in the park), streetscapes, and a questionnaire for the workshop.

BRB Chair Lee asked if there was a legal issue involved in putting a third-party concession on the site. Mr. Weinberg said there is one issue with the deed and another that the property has never been platted. Neither is insurmountable, but they are issues to be aware of while moving forward.

BRB Chair Lee expressed concern having a passive area because she does not see people using it as a passive area – it appears to be unused empty space.

PRBAB Chair Eisinger pointed out it is not a maintained area and is rarely used except as a staging area for an event. There has never been seating in that area.

Mr. Hughes asked what the difference was between the passive park underway by the Venetian and the DC Alexander site. Mr. Morris said the park by the Venetian is just green space. Mr. Weinberg added that the intent at the DC Alexander site would be for more engagement. Mr. Hughes says he and others use the passive park by the bridge more than DC Alexander Park.

Mr. Green stated that the proposed park south of the bridge is currently half surface parking lot and half green. Eventually it will be all green, with a small sidewalk, landscape buffer, pedestrian site lighting, benches, and art. It is part of the Las Olas Corridor project. It is truly a passive site, with no programmatic themes.

BRB Chair Lee asked about the change in the current playground. Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director, stated there had been several concepts for the playground and concerns about the structure of the playground being maintained on the beach. Several different companies are engaged in the planning.

BRB Chair Lee wanted to make sure that nothing is duplicated in the CRA area, such as water features (splash pads). She confirmed that whatever the playground ends up being, it will be on the beach. Chair Lee reviewed the projects being done in the CRA, specifically around SR A1A and Las Olas Boulevard.

Ms. Cummings (PRBAB) commented that nothing botanical on the beach is native at this point, and she expressed interest in something educational to that effect.

Ms. Laughlin (BRB) stated that none of the beach lighting is up to the standard level of crime-prevention environmental design and said it needs to be upgraded.

Discussion ensued on how that lighting would impact the turtles, with Chair Lee saying they now have permission for dual lighting.

Ms. Smith (BRB) wanted to see art shows and craft shows at the venue.

Mr. Hughes (BRB) suggested an observation tower with botanical gardens because people want to get a view. That would combine a tourist destination with a park atmosphere.

PRBAB Vice Chair Polivka thought it would be a high traffic area once they re-introduce the swim meets at the Aquatics Center. She envisioned family stays at the hotels and families going back and forth to the Aquatics Center. The park would provide a place to take a break or have a picnic.

Ms. Seiler (PRBAB) liked the idea of connectivity, where people can walk back and forth between destinations. She also would like to keep the green space. She observed that people never put their towel down to sit on the grass and suggested seating options.

Mr. Luz (BRB) confirmed that the site is almost two acres and said he favored keeping it as green space and having a picnic place. He also liked the idea of highlighting native Florida plant species.

It was noted by another PRBAB member that she wanted to keep the site family oriented and liked art.

Ms. Smith (PRBAB) suggesting having activities like twice-monthly movies there and having a botanical area. She favored seating areas, having it family oriented, and perhaps having small craft shows.

Mr. Grimsland (PRBAB) wanted to preserve the grass to keep it green. He recommended finding something attractive to both tourists and locals. He thought having seating would help draw people.

Mr. Quailey (PRBAB) also liked the idea of having native species, preferably some shade trees. Seating would add to the comfort along with shade. He wanted to save the Indian, but did not want to see anything commercial there.

Ms. Laughlin (BRB) said that connectivity was the most important factor for her. While they have discussed making it “coastal iconic,” they have never figured out how to do that. She noted that people can sit and watch the view from the beach park, but there is not much of a view from DC Alexander Park. When the two hotels go up, she thought it would feel more like a plaza or meeting place, so it would be important to have shade and make it iconic.

Mr. Weinberg addressed the different connotations of “iconic.” He believed it would be something that is recognizable and special about Fort Lauderdale Beach.

BRB Chair Lee asked about the history of the Indian and observed there is nothing on the beach about the local Indians.

Mr. Schonlau (PRBAB) echoed Mr. Quailey’s comments. He thought it would be useful to have some historical aspect of the Indian. Mr. Weinberg mentioned it was not authentic to the area.

Mr. McManus (BRB) believed shade tree cover was critical and agreed with many of the previous comments.

Mr. McQuarrie (PRBAB) thought people needed a reason to come to the park and said there should be examples of art. He thought that promoting it as a picnic site or having a tower would draw too many people and result in long lines. He suggested combining the educational aspect with a reason for going to the park (maybe the botanical garden and art). He did not want to see any third-party vendors.

While she liked the idea of an observation tower, PRBAB Chair Eisinger thought it was not the right place for it. She wanted to keep it simple – perhaps have an Indian theme, enhance connectivity, and have a place for people to gather.

BRB Chair Lee addressed the programming of the area, mentioned that she loves to pick up unique crafts/jewelry, etc. when she travels. She suggested a regularly scheduled craft fair, perhaps bringing in the Seminoles. She also thought there was an opportunity to have quiet music like guitars or jazz to enhance the plaza feel. Chair Lee suggested bringing in food trucks on occasion and having iconic art work/sculpture pieces scattered in the area. She recommended looking at all the elements together: green, native plants, crafts, and art shows.

Mr. Quailey (PRBAB) suggested that if there is no historic connection with the Indian statue, that they highlight the Seminoles.

Mr. Luz (BRB) commented that Lauderdale by the Sea's public gathering space is very well used.

Mr. Grimsland (PRBAB) cautioned the members not to overthink the whole concept. People already come to the beach "in droves," and he suggested providing something different, a break from the sand.

Mr. Morris (CRA) said that many of the beach businesses have complained that there are not enough restrooms at the beach. He suggested having small restrooms in the park and asked for feedback on the idea.

BRB Chair Lee said restrooms are important and spoke about "bathroom pods" that are self-cleaning.

Mr. McQuarrie (PRBAB) suggested having a contest for iconic art that would generate publicity as a side benefit.

Ms. Cummings (PRBAB) asked why Friday Night Sound Waves could not be at DC Alexander Park. BRB Chair Lee said that the Business Improvement District (BID) paid for it to enhance business in that area. She said it would eventually move over to the SR A1A area. She added they need to name places (like the Hub) to help simplify branding.

Mr. Morris said there is no infrastructure in DC Alexander Park now, which is true of many places on the beach. The CRA has taken that into consideration in its planning for its projects.

PRBAB Chair Eisinger endorsed the idea of restrooms and liked the idea of the restroom pods that are popular in Europe. She said that Lauderdale by the Sea did a "phenomenal job" with their gathering place, noting that not everybody wants to be on

the sand. She said that this project did not have to be a big budget project, but should feature connectivity and be simple.

BRB Chair Lee emphasized that the programming on the beach was never addressed, and that is what makes an area come alive. Once the CRA is gone in 2020, there needs to be a revenue stream for ongoing maintenance. She suggested having that come from something in the park.

Mr. Hughes (BRB) asked how the Riverwalk Trust was formed, suggesting that may be a way to provide for future maintenance. Mr. Morris said they could bring information back if desired.

Mr. McManus (BRB) echoed PRBAB Chair Eisinger's comments and recommended regrouping after the summer.

PRBAB Vice Chair Polivka made three recommendations:

- Bathrooms at the park
- Have a small path for people who are dressed up (or women in high heels)
- Consider an art competition or "hunts" for children

Mr. Weinberg stated there is talk about refashioning SE 5 Street (two-way direction) and how it will tie into the park.

Regarding the Aquatics Center, BRB Chair Lee reminded all that it is up in the air, but should be settled by the end of the summer. PRBAB Chair Eisinger stated that the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHF) has a new CEO who has been very involved.

Mr. Morris advised they would meet again in several months and ask for the recommendations to take forward to the City Commission.

BRB Chair Lee confirmed that none of the board members could communicate with each other about the topic due to Sunshine Law.

III. Communication to City Commission – None

IV. Old/New Business – None

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

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

Attachments:

PowerPoint presentation on DC Alexander Park Project – Paul Weinberg