



APPROVED
BEACH REDEVELOPMENT BOARD (BRB)
AND
PARKS, RECREATION AND BEACHES BOARD (PRBAB)
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8th FLOOR CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
Monday, October 1, 2018, 11:00 A.M.

BRB MEMBERS	FEB 2018/JAN 2019				
	REGULAR MTGS		SPECIAL MTGS		
		Present	Absent	Present	Absent
Ina Lee, Chair	P	6	0	3	0
Thomas B. McManus, VC	A	3	3	2	1
Art Bengochea	P	3	0	1	0
Jason Hughes	P	4	2	2	1
Monty Lalwani	P	1	0	1	0
Christian Luz	A	4	2	1	2
Kristen Maus	P	3	0	1	0
Tim Schiavone	P	5	1	3	0
Shirley Smith	P	6	0	3	0
Aiton Yaari	P	3	3	2	1

PRBAB MEMBERS PRESENT

Debby Eisinger, Chair
 Karen Polivka, Vice Chair
 Bruce Quailey
 Marianna Seiler (arr. 11:10 a.m.)
 Jo Ann Smith (arr. 11:28 a.m.)
 Martha Gutierrez Steinkamp

STAFF

Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Director
 Don Morris, Beach CRA Manager
 Chijioke Ezekwe, CRQA
 Lee Feldman, City Manager
 Thomas Green, Beach CRA
 Jamie Opperlee, Prototype, Inc.
 Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director
 Leona Osamor, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant I

GUESTS

Mayor Dean Trantalis

I. Call to Order and Roll Call Quorum

Ina Lee, BRB Chair, and Debby Eisinger, PRBAB Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. A quorum of both boards was present.

II. DC Alexander Park Presentation - Lee Feldman, City Manager

Mr. Feldman reported he has been working with Keith & Associates to come up with some ideas for a passive park. He had wanted to redo the children's playground area at the South Beach parking lot, but that is prohibited by the Coastal Construction Control line, turtle regulations, etc.

Mr. Feldman suggested relocating the playground to DC Alexander Park with the addition of something iconic, not "off the shelf." Since it is the location of the original fort for Fort Lauderdale, he thought of building something in the architectural style of forts of the 1840s. Artifacts that have been in storage could be used in the building. It could be a place for children as well as adults.

Mr. Feldman said that before they get too far in the planning process, he wanted feedback from the two boards.

Chair Lee (BRB) spoke in favor of the idea, noting it would be a place that children could go and play.

[Marianna Seiler arrived at 11:10 a.m.]

[Mayor Trantalis stepped in at 11:10 a.m.]

Mr. Feldman described the various ideas he went through before settling on the wood structure.

Chair Eisinger expressed her excitement about the concept. She added it would be a safe and enclosed location for families that do not want to go on the beach.

Mr. Yaari also liked the idea, noting every day is not a beach day, and this would provide an alternative destination. He also commented on the connectivity between the Oasis Café, the hotels, DC Park, and the Aquatic Center.

Mr. Hughes asked what activities would be there for adults without children. Mr. Feldman said they do not have all the details in mind yet. Some other parks do have fitness stations, so that is a possibility. Parking will probably be on both sides of SE 5 Street, but that is in the design stage.

Regarding the use of artifacts, Ms. Steinkamp said that those would require extra care and advised careful planning for them. Mr. Feldman said they are the property of the

City and are being housed by the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society. The building will not be air-conditioned.

Mr. Lalwani wanted to see some activation for older adults, and Mr. Bengochea wished to see an active, rather than passive, park. With the two hotels on either side, he hoped they would have street-level access for coffee or another beverage. He also believed a park would be a great benefit to the Aquatic Center.

Ms. Seiler said that most people on the PRBAB want more to experience in the parks and a way to bring in the history of the City.

Mr. Schiavone also commented positively on the fort idea, and said activities are a must for everybody.

Ms. Polivka wanted to see bathrooms and water filling stations and liked the idea of bringing in history of the American Indians.

Ms. Polivka suggested using the fort at Disney World as a source of ideas, although she cautioned against the use of wood because it might deteriorate. Mr. Feldman said they discussed materials and said wood does hold up better than some other materials.

Ms. Maus confirmed that parking would be on NE 5 Street, at the Aquatic Center, or at the big parking lot. Mr. Yaari said both of the new hotels will also have public parking. Ms. Maus was opposed to concrete structures (hotels) and wanted to keep the playground on the beach. She proposed keeping the parking that is there and carrying over the fitness elements from the beach along with picnic tables. Ms. Maus also said that at the public workshops, most people said they wanted to keep the green space.

Ms. Smith wanted to have craft fairs at the park on the weekends, and she did not want to see a big building. She suggested benches and fountains.

Chair Lee said the park at A1A and Las Olas Boulevard will be a very passive park that can be used for fairs. She encouraged everyone to visit Hardy Park for design ideas.

[Joann Smith arrived at 11:28 a.m.]

The history of the fort was discussed, noting it was protective, not used for warfare.

Chair Lee (BRB) reviewed that most people on the board want sufficient open space and like the fort concept.

Chair Eisinger (PRBAB) echoed the need for green space. She said that people on the beach can see the Aquatic Center, so she did not want to see a building blocking that

view. Mr. Feldman interjected that the fort might be a “deteriorating” fort, where kids could explore. Ms. Eisinger did not want to see more parking onsite – people could walk the short distance from the beach and keep the traffic flowing.

Mr. Morris commented that the Las Olas project will bring five acres of parkland that was not there before, most of that for passive use. He said they have approximately \$4.5 million budgeted for DC Alexander Park.

Regarding the fort itself, Mr. Feldman said the concept is not set at this point, but the basic concept would be that it would look like it’s weathered 110 years. It will not be a full, enclosed, fortified fort. There would be things in the fort that would be fort-related. The artifacts could be housed in exhibits in the play area, where they would be preserved. The fort could be a jumping-off point for learning more about the history of the area.

Mr. Hughes thought there would be more than enough parking in the area.

Regarding the South Beach Parking lot, Mr. Feldman said he heard many people say they do not want to park there, because there is “nothing to do” as they are walking north to Las Olas Boulevard. He thought if they had activity in that area, people would use it more.

Mr. Hughes suggested not using the word “artifacts” and use the word “history” instead, because metals and other artifact materials corrode or disintegrate.

Ms. Steinkamp spoke about the importance of public input, suggested sending out information via the water bill, the local government channel, etc.

Mr. Lalwani pointed out that Uber and Lyft are changing the parking scene so he was not concerned about that; he was, however, concerned that more public outreach is needed.

Mr. Bengochea said he favors a more active park; Ms. Seiler said it could be both.

Mr. Schiavone agreed with the general vision of a family-oriented active park. Ms. Polivka echoed his comments, stating they can have the fort on the southern side and the passive part.

Mr. Quailey asked if they could free up some of the parking on the side of the lot for green space. Mr. Feldman said their intent is to make the road two-way, with the parking acting as a buffer, perhaps with parallel parking. They want to make the park open and inviting, but the concern at this meeting is to determine whether the boards prefer a passive or active use. They need to give the designer a direction.

Mr. Quaily then said he wanted to see the whole strip down the side incorporated into open space.

Mr. Feldman thought they should channel more money into the landscaping, rather than concentrating on colored street paving (per previous concepts).

Ms. Maus suggested a splash pad, and Mr. Feldman pointed out they will have one at Oceanside lot. She also said that hotel parking at \$25 a day is not really affordable public parking.

Discussion ensued on the parking issue and the outlook for transportation in the area, with Chair Lee (BRB) pointed out trams will be coming into service. She explained other parking and parks in the area, noting that what has been missing is something for children.

In response to a question by Ms. Maus, Mr. Feldman said that traffic engineers are considering the Uber/Lyft effect and might change trip generation counts by the 2020 manual.

Ms. Smith liked green space, wanted to see benches, and did not mind losing parking.

Motion made by Mr. Bengochea, seconded by Ms. Seiler, to endorse an active, family-oriented park that incorporates green space and activities for adults (“womb to tomb”). Once there are preliminaries, the matter will go to the public for their feedback. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Lee (BRB) asked for a timeline on the project. Mr. Morris said they will give direction to the designers, and come back with some concepts to another joint meeting in about two months. Once the boards are comfortable with a concept, public outreach will begin (in the Spring), perhaps at the Aquatic Center. After that, they would have another joint meeting to review some final drawings.

Mr. Morris confirmed that the whole project could be done within the life of the CRA.

III. Communication to City Commission – None

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.