



**APPROVED
 BEACH REDEVELOPMENT BOARD (BRB)
 100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
 8th FLOOR CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM
 FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
 Monday, June 17, 2019, 2:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS	FEB 2019/JAN 2020				
	REGULAR MTGS		SPECIAL MTGS		
		Present	Absent	Present	Absent
Thomas B. McManus, Chair	P	5	0	1	0
Art Bengochea, Vice Chair	P	5	0	1	0
Vincent Ang	P	4	1	1	0
Jason Crush	A	2	1	1	0
Jason Hughes	P	5	0	1	0
Monty Lalwani	P	4	1	0	1
Christian Luz	P	3	2	1	0
Kristen Maus	A	3	2	0	1
Shirley Smith	P	5	0	1	0
Aiton Yaari	P	3	2	1	0

Staff

Don Morris, Beach CRA Manager
 Cija Omengabar, CRA Planner
 Tania Bailey-Watson, CRA Accounting Clerk
 Pratima Ramdeo, CRA Administrative Aide
 Karen Warfel, Program Manager, Transportation & Mobility
 Tatiana Guerrier, Prototype, Inc.

Guests

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum – Thomas McManus, Chair

Chair McManus called the meeting to order at 2:41 p.m. It was determined that a quorum was present.

II. Approval of BRB Meeting Minutes – Thomas McManus, Chair

- **May 20, 2019**
- **May 20, 2019 (Joint BRB & PRBAB)**

Motion made by Mr. Yaari, seconded by Mr. Ang, to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2019, BRB meeting, and the May 20, 2019, Joint BRB and PRBAB meeting as presented. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (8-0).

III. Sun Trolley Beach and Las Olas Link Funding Request - \$193,868.00 – Robyn Chiarelli and Renee Cross, AICP, Downtown Fort Lauderdale Transportation Management Association

Ms. Chiarelli gave a PowerPoint presentation on the request. [Attached]

Mr. Morris stated that staff budgeted for the project and that the project meets the CRA Plan goal of providing for a mix of land uses that will foster family activity and recreation in the Central Beach area, and provide opportunities for the expansion of tourist-related facilities and activities. It also meets the Plan objective to improve the transportation and mobility options within and through the Central Beach area to include bicycles, pedestrians, transit, micro-transit, water-taxi, automobiles, and other alternatives.

Ms. Cross reported that Broward County Transit recently put out a call for additional funding with the new surtax, and they submitted applications for the Beach and the Las Olas links. They requested service that would restore the routes to where they were before cuts were made. The hours for the Las Olas route are now 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

In response to a question by Mr. Luz, Ms. Chiarelli mentioned that their marketing efforts focus primarily on social media. Last year they also did a direct mail piece to residents, which was successful, and hope to repeat it this year. Success with advertising campaigns are measured via surveys and ridership performance. Many people also find out about the trolleys because they see them.

In addition, the Transportation Management Association maintains strong relationships with the hotel concierges,

Regarding the effect of scooter use, Ms. Chiarelli advised that the trolley has a higher age demographic. Also, scooters take shorter trips – riders on the trolley are usually on it for 15-20 minutes. The goal is for all modes of transportation to work together.

From time to time during the route, the trolleys are staged at Broward General Hospital and at the Galleria at Fort Lauderdale behind the mall.

The Las Olas link currently runs Friday through Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The hours will be expanded, and Monday operation will be added if the County grant is received. If not, the Broward County Surtax funding will hopefully support the trolley operations; if not, routes may have to be cut.

If the BRB funds an amount lower than the request, Ms. Cross advised they would have to shift things around to accommodate the lesser amount.

Adding the Monday operation to the Las Olas link was meant to provide service to people who travel out on Tuesday; Mr. Ang, however, noted that lots of people come in on

Thursday instead of Friday. Mr. Lalwani noted that Thursday would probably be a bigger day for locals, while Monday is better for tourists. Ms. Chiarelli said they would look into data for Thursdays, since ridership on Mondays has been proven.

Ms. Chiarelli stated that the total cost for both routes will be \$780,000. The CRA's contribution is equal to approximately one quarter of the cost.

Discussion ensued on how much the CRA should contribute, with a suggestion made by Mr. Lalwani to make it a percentage of the total. Ms. Cross said the cost is based on mileage, and the cost for the Northwest CRA was calculated in the same way. Mr. Morris advised that the contribution will be for the next fiscal year, beginning October 1, 2019.

Chair McManus stated that he thought the plan was an "amazing plan on paper," but execution might be different. He commented that he does not ride the trolley because of the lack of consistency and reliability.

Chair McManus asked for clarification on how the \$4.5 million in Federal grant dollars (from the Federal Transit Administration) will be used. Ms. Cross explained that the funds are for capital use only, and they plan to replace the whole fleet.

Ms. Chiarelli recounted the restrictions that come with various funding sources and said that they could make the trolley more frequent and reliable if they had money for that use.

Mr. Morris noted that the trams have arrived, but they are designed to go only between the garage and the new park. It may be possible at some point to have them go to other parts of the CRA. He added that the tram and the trolleys will be managed by the same department.

Ms. Chiarelli stated that there are 14 vehicles in their fleet: at any given time, a maximum of 10 are operating across different routes. Two are on the Las Olas link, and three are on the Beach link. Ms. Chiarelli stated she was optimistic about the future of the Sun Trolley.

Motion made by Mr. Yaari, seconded by Mr. Luz, to approve the request. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (8-0).

IV. Communication to City Commission

V. Old/New Business

Mr. Morris provided updates as follows:

Aquatics Center

The City Commission asked the CRA to look into the following upgrades for the Aquatics Center:

- A 27-meter high dive (would be the only one in the Western Hemisphere)
- Additional seating in the new bathroom building
 - Would require going through a new site plan approval process
- Remodel the locker room facility using General Fund dollars

Mr. Morris said the upgrades will necessitate finding some funding in the CRA, and there may be some shifting of funds. Park fund dollars may be available through the DC Alexander Project. The CRA has been asked to come up with design concepts for the Aquatics Center; Mr. Morris will report back with further direction from the City Commission.

State Road A1A

- At 100% drawings
- Now doing construction documents
- Bidding will go out in July and construction is anticipated to begin at beginning of the fiscal year
 - Will take one year to complete
- \$6.8 million from the CRA and \$1.5 million from FDOT (lights on the west side of SR A1A from Alhambra north to Sunrise Boulevard)
- Will be decorative concrete on the east side at the Hub, but do not know how far it can extend north and south, given the budget
- Still plan on traffic-rated bollards
- Had a water line conflict with the sidewalk on the west side of SR A1A, and FDOT will not let it be moved. The design will have to work around it, but the design concept will remain the same. There will be updates that he will bring back to the Board.

Olas (snowman)

- Staff was informed at a late date that they have to re-procure the snowman this year. Due to time constraints, they might not be able to get it and staff will look at alternatives. The current owner of Olas is Miami Christmas Lights.
- Due to issues last year with a contract, the Procurement Division determined the CRA could put themselves at risk by using the incumbent contractor.
- The previous cost was \$80,000 as part of a three-year contract. Now it may cost more due it being a one-year contract. The bid will go out in early July, but due to summer breaks, there will be delays.
- Mr. Morris could not guarantee that Miami Christmas Lights will be selected, even though they have Olas.

Traffic Stopping at SR A1A and Las Olas Boulevard

- FDOT will not allow the City to eliminate the crosswalk there, but they will allow shortening the time pedestrians have to cross the street
- Having an officer direct traffic on the weekend there is under consideration.

Mr. Yaari brought up the Super Bowl in 2020. Since many Super Bowl attendees come to the beach at Fort Lauderdale, he asked if the work on the sidewalk project on “our part” of the beach (Las Olas Boulevard/SR A1A to the Ritz Carlton) could be started past June 1, 2020. He wanted to stay away from the first three blocks from Las Olas Boulevard going north.

Mr. Morris said he will check with the group, but cannot commit to anything at this point. There is a limited budget, and moving around from area to area involves demobilizing and mobilizing. It needs to be confirmed that it can be done from a construction standpoint.

- **July Meeting – Member suggested agenda items**

Motion made by Mr. Yaari, seconded by Ms. Smith, to cancel the July, 2019, meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Chair McManus requested a status on the budget for the next meeting, particularly with respect to the Aquatics Center.

It was noted that many people requesting money from the CRA do not understand that the budget is very tight.

Vice Chair Bengochea asked if the 27-meter diving platform would attract enough competitions to pay for itself. Mr. Morris stated it is an up and coming sport and should be a big draw.

Mr. Lalwani predicted the Sun Trolley will be more effective taking people from Las Olas Boulevard to Second Street and downtown, and will phase out of the beach in five years. He said most tourists use Uber and Lyft, or scooters.

Vice Chair Bengochea thought that improved locker facilities or stadium seating would attract more interest than the 27-meter dive platform. To that end, Mr. Morris advised that the CRA cannot actually fund the locker rooms because the CRA cannot fund maintenance.

The City Commission has asked the CRA how it can improve the Aquatics Center and staff is looking into it. Ultimately, it will be the Commission that decides what will be done.

Vice Chair Bengochea asked if the BRB could recommend that the City use their money to improve the locker rooms and the facilities so the CRA can get back to hosting the competitions that bring in money.

Mr. Morris said the City Commission is aware of the need to redo the locker rooms. The cost of renovation is unknown at this time, and a procurement process is needed to bring someone on board to determine the extent of the needed remodeling. That cost will not

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be available for three months. The locker room has to be procured separately from the other contract, and the CRA has to do an RFQ (the CRA does not have a continuing services agreement at this point).

Motion duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

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

Attachments:

PowerPoint presentation on the Sun Trolley request – Robyn Chiarelli