
MEETING MINUTES

Quality of Life Committee Meeting

200 S. Biscayne Blvd., Suite 2929 Miami, FL 33131

Thursday, November 3rd, 2016 | 9:00 A.M

DDA Conference Room

Board Members Present:

Jose Goyanes, Chairman

Kim Stone

DDA Staff & Members of the Public (see sign-in sheet for additional attendees):

Alyce Robertson

Sonja Bogensperger

Jennifer Rodero

Karry Maravilla

Christina Crespi

Antoine Williams

1. Welcome & Introductions

The Committee Chair welcomed all the guests and asked them to introduce themselves.

2. MPD/NET Brickell & Downtown Service Areas

a. New Downtown NET Commander – Invited: Commander Jose L. Fernandez

Commander Jose L. Fernandez introduced himself to the committee. He has been assigned as the new Commander for the Downtown NET area. He spoke about the challenges in the CBD and is looking forward to working with the DDA, the City, and the residents to improve the quality of life for the community. He stated that at his first meeting with Chief Llanes he requested an increase in resources/officers as currently there is a shortage in the Downtown NET area. Five officers will be added within the next two months to the Downtown area, filling the current vacancies. Interviews are taking place in the next two weeks. Additionally, Commander mentioned that he will be increasing bike patrol within the CBD. Committee Chair Jose Goyanes suggested that the new Commander meet with the Ambassadors to continue the collaboration between the two groups. Commander Fernandez mentioned that DDA staff, Jennifer Rodero, has set up a meeting with the Ambassadors for next Wednesday.

3. Biscayne Green – Presentation (*presentation on file*)

Eric Riel & Fabian De La Espriella, Planning, Design + Transportation

Fabian De La Espriella provided a presentation on Biscayne Green - A demonstration project showcasing a reimagined Biscayne Boulevard. The demonstration was made possible by a \$145k grant, that was awarded by the Knight Foundation and additional support provided by the Miami Foundation. This project is meant to build on Miami DDA's long term vision to redesign and repurpose Biscayne Boulevard to include a pedestrian promenade, with dedicated transit (bus/trolley) lanes, a dedicated bike lane, among other elements. This temporary installation would be the first attempt to showcase possible improvements along this corridor. Key Concepts of this project include activating the Bayfront Park Metromover station as well as the two parking pods north of the station for the month of January, from the 6th to the 26th, creating a passive space for Downtown Residents to experience as well as plaza space, including a

dynamic/interactive park and social outdoor room with music, food and fun. Additionally on the southern lanes of Biscayne Blvd from NE 1 St to SE 2 St, there will be an on street demonstration with a dedicated bus lane, on-street parking, and pedestrian crossings.

4. Property Improvement Grant Program – Update

Invited: Joseph Ruiz, Assistant City Attorney

Assistant City Attorney Joseph Ruiz reported that he has been working with DDA staff, Antoine Williams and Sonja Bogensperger, on revising the Property Improvement Grant Program. Revisions are being made to the policies and procedures, funding criteria and to the Professional Services Agreement. DDA staff (AW) will review the changes and present a draft resolution at the next committee meeting. DDA staff (AW) will be managing the program in-house once the program changes are approved.

Committee Chair (JG) recommended that Mr. Williams contact Josie Correa, as she has managed the program for many years and has extensive knowledge on the Program.

5. Historical Markers – Presentation- (*presentation on file*)

Invited: Alexander Adams, Principal, ALPHA Plan LLC

The DDA received a proposal from ALPHA Plan-Preservation Urban Design on placing State of Florida Historical Markers throughout the Downtown/Brickell area; similar to the ones being installed in the Coconut Grove area by the BID and Coconut Grove Civic Club. Alexander Adams was invited to present on the historical markers. During the presentation, he explained that the cost of the markers would be approximately \$3,000 each (including the consultant fee). DDA Staff (JR) asked Mr. Adams if he was familiar with the Orange Blossom Trail Historical Markers project that was in place at the City of Miami with Public Works. Mr. Adams responded that he was familiar with the historical markers as he used to be the Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Miami. **The Committee suggested that the two groups attend a Flagler Street Task Force meeting, if these are some of the areas that the historical markers are intended to go.** Gary Ressler added that the Flagler Task Force has been working on limiting the amount of signage. Mr. Adams suggested that not all signs should be done at once due to construction in this area. Terrell Fritz mentioned that he was very familiar with the State historical markers, as he assisted in developing a tour for MCAD. He suggested that the historical markers should have a consistent narrative in the district and integrate with the future design of the street.

6. City of Miami Initiatives

a. Lighting

DDA staff, (JR), provided an update on the City of Miami initiatives that were appropriated during the City Commission Budget Hearing. Two hundred thousand dollars (200K) was appropriated for lighting improvements within the D2 District. DDA staff (JR) clarified that the funds were not yet allocated to Downtown. **DDA staff (JR) will follow up with the City of Miami CIP department to inquire about the plan for implementation. DDA staff will invite a representative from CIP to an upcoming Committee meeting.**

Gary Ressler mentioned that he submitted a public records request for the FPL and City of Miami maintenance agreement, because he's concerned about the maintenance of lighting poles with exposed wiring in Downtown. There has been a major delay in repairing or replacing the covers that are stolen/removed, which pose a safety concern for the District. **DDA staff (JR) will follow up with FPL/Public Works and invite a representative to an upcoming committee meeting.**

7. DWNTWN Enhancement Team

DDA staff (JR) reported that she is working with the City Attorney's office on renewing the sole source contract for the DWNTWN Enhancement Team (DET). This item will be discussed at the upcoming December Committee meeting. The DET contract has 400K allocated in the FY 16-17 Budget. It was also mentioned that Shed Boren is no longer with Camillus House.

8. Update on August 2016 Homeless Census Results

A handout was distributed to committee members for their review. James Bernat provided an overview of the August 2016 Homeless Census Results. The committee commented that there is a growing presence of homeless in the CBD. Ambassador, Yvesley Francois, mentioned that not only is there an increase, but they are now becoming more aggressive. His team has seen and reported an increase in aggressive behavior and aggressive pan handling within the core of the CBD. Commander Fernandez also commented that he is learning about the homeless and the Pottinger rules and will be assisting Bernat with his efforts.

The committee mentioned Kevin Farrell (aka Toothpick) who creates a disturbance in Downtown almost on a daily basis. Committee Chair Jose Goyanes recommended that Downtown residents be more involved in the issues that affect Downtown and become more active at the Homeless Trust meetings. Amal Kabbani, a member of the public, mentioned that residents don't know how the funds from the 1% collection of taxes are being spent to address homelessness. Ms. Kabbani added that the Downtown Neighbors Alliance (DNA), which she represents, would reach out the Miami Herald to write a column about this homeless issue in the Downtown area.

Committee Chair Jose Goyanes said that he would like to have the Homeless Task Force come together and appoint the new Chair/members as soon as possible to begin addressing some of the homeless issues. He said that one of their first tasks should be to address the issue of Street Feeding as it causes havoc on the streets of Downtown.

9. Goals for Quality of Life Committee

Item was deferred to December Committee meeting by Committee Chair Jose Goyanes. **DDA staff (JR) will email committee members to ask for ideas and/or recommendations on setting the Goals for QOL Committee.**

10. Program Updates

a. Enhanced Services

DDA staff (JR) reported that the DET/NEAT Team have been working on neglected corners/Get It Done Project over the past few weeks. 91 issues were reported and 41 have been resolved to date.

b. Downtown Special Vending District – see Enhanced Services Report

c. Pit Stop

DDA staff (JR) presented the final report for the Pit Stop Program.

October 15th marked 1 year of running the Pilot Program

The Pit Stop program has been an enormous success and has proven that public bathrooms are a necessity to create a safer, cleaner and more livable urban core.

Over the 1 year period restrooms were used 21,808 times

The program operated at 2 locations, 7 days a week from 2 pm to 9 pm, with DDA's DET Team manning and cleaning the facilities.

This program not only provided an alternative to using our streets and sidewalks as a toilet, but it also created jobs – 6 part-time DET positions, 1 part-time DET supervisor, and 2 full-time positions at AES Portables, Inc.= 9 jobs total

The Program was well received by local businesses and used without any major maintenance or security concerns for the duration of the Pilot Project.

Modeled on the Pit Stop Pilot Program, the first permanent free-standing restroom will be located at the NE corner at the intersection of the Metrorail and W. Flagler Street.

Additionally, existing public bathroom locations with DET staff manning the restrooms will be included in the next phase of the Program – Pit Stop 2.0.

d. Business Concierge

Antoine Williams distributed the September 2016 – Business Concierge Report and updated committee members on his progress.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: December 1st, 2016