
MEETING MINUTES

Quality of Life Committee Meeting

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

Thursday, December 1st, 2016 | 9:00 A.M

DDA Conference Room

Miami DDA Board Members:

Jose Goyanes, Chairman

Kim Stone

Committee Members:

Amal Kabbani

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

Alyce Robertson

Christina Crespi

Jennifer Rodero

Karry Maravilla

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. Updates & Initiatives

Wanda Mendez reported on behalf of Commander Jose L. Fernandez who could not attend today's meeting. Officer Mendez reported that the Chief Llanes has allocated five officers for the Downtown NET area. The five officers will begin in Downtown on January 8, 2017. Chief Llanes and Commander Fernandez are also talking about adding additional police officers at a later time in 2017. The Committee asked about Santa's helpers for the Downtown area during the holiday season as it has been done in the past. Officer Mendez responded that due to number of retiring officers and the current vacancies, there won't be any Santa's helpers assigned to Downtown this year. Amal Kabbani expressed her concern about a recent incident where a baby was almost hit by a troubled man on 11/29/16 behind the 50 Biscayne Building. She mentioned that the Downtown Neighbors Association (DNA) is coordinating a meeting scheduled for January 6th, with Ron Book and the Homeless Trust to address Downtown homeless issues. The DNA is also coordinating a meeting with Deputy Mayor Benford to discuss Downtown specific issues, including the dumping of inmates in Downtown. In addition, Ms. Kabbani reported that the DNA is working with the Miami Herald writer Raul Guerrero to write articles on the safety and security in Downtown Miami. She mentioned that articles will be written and published regularly in the Miami Herald.

3. Property Improvement Grant Program

Invited: Joe Ruiz, Assistant City Attorney

A printed copy of the resolution was distributed to the committee members for their review and approval. Antoine Williams, DDA staff member, provided an overview of the program, new guidelines, and draft resolution. **Jose Goyanes, Committee Chair made the motion to present**

this item to the Miami DDA Board, Amal Kabbani seconded the motion. Item was moved to Board for approval.

4. DWNTWN Enhancement Team

Jennifer Rodero reported that the DWNTWN Enhancement Team/Camillus House contract would be reviewed at the January Quality of Life Committee meeting.

5. Goals for Quality of Life Committee

Jennifer Rodero reviewed the Quality of Life Committee work plan that was approved in July 2016. Ms. Rodero also reviewed the proposed Quality of Life goals that were put together by Committee members and staff. The proposed goals include the following: permanent restrooms, street feeding ordinance, homeless outreach, police, lighting and graffiti. The street feeding ordinance and homeless outreach goals were suggested to be moved to the Homeless Task Force goals.

6. Safety and Security Initiatives

a. 50 Biscayne Boulevard

Itai Benosh, a resident and DNA member from the 50 Biscayne Building reported on a new safety and security initiative that will take place during 2017. 50 Biscayne increased their security budget to 250K for the upcoming year. Mr. Benosh requested that DDA should reach out to all the condo associations in Downtown Miami and suggest they increase their security budget and that the City of Miami increase the police patrol in the Downtown area as well. Mr. Benosh mentioned that DDA should be doing more with their resources to address safety and homelessness. Kim Stone, DDA Board Member, mentioned that DDA has a limited budget to assist with the current homeless issues and suggested that Downtown residents should attend Homeless Trust meetings and voice their concerns about homelessness in Downtown. **Additionally, Kim Stone requested that the DDA marketing team reach out to the Downtown Condo Associations and residents to educate them about the DDA Enhanced Services program and its corresponding budget.**

Jennifer Rodero reported that the DDA had increased their Quality of Life Committee budget this year; the QOL and Enhanced Services budget is 30% of the whole DDA budget. Two additional Ambassadors have been added to the Central Business District at night; now covering the night shift, 7 days a week until 12 am.

Discussion ensued about chronic homelessness, outreach services, Pottinger and educating residents and business owners on hiring homeless people to work on their premises. Jose Goyanes, Committee Chair, requested that these topics be discussed to the Homeless Task Force. The next Homeless Task Force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14 at 2 pm.

7. Program Updates

a. Enhanced Services

Jennifer Rodero reported that Downtown Ambassadors would be distributing candy canes during the month of December.

Ms. Rodero provided a presentation about the Get it Done Project. The presentation displayed 14 examples of before and after pictures of issues reported by Richard Sargent, DDA Field Inspector. 91 issues were reported; 53 issues have been resolved to date.

b. Pit Stop

Jennifer Rodero reported that as of November 30th, 2016 the pit stop program has been used 2,391 times. In collaboration with Bayfront Park, the south end restrooms were opened after renovations were completed on November 28th. These restrooms will be monitored by the Downtown Enhancement Team, 7 days a week, from 8:30 am to 8:30 pm. Before and after pictures were displayed to show the renovations of the restrooms.

c. Business Concierge

Antoine Williams distributed the November 2016 Business Concierge Report. He reported that there were eight new business openings in Downtown Miami and he's working with NET Office staff. He received ten requests for assistance this past month.

8. Will Plasencia reported that NET had an item on the upcoming December 8th City Commission meeting for the approval of a lease at the Olympia Theater. The lease is for office space for the Downtown NET office. **Mr. Plasencia requested to be added to the January 2017 Quality of Life Committee Agenda to discuss the Downtown NET office goals and upcoming projects.**

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: January 12th, 2017