

MEETING MINUTES

Quality of Life Committee Meeting

200 S. Biscayne Blvd., Suite 2929 Miami, FL 33131
Thursday, March 2, 2017 | 9:00 A.M
DDA Conference Room

Committee Members Present:

Kim Stone – Miami DDA Board Member (Chaired Committee)

Gary Ressler – Miami DDA Board Member

Andres Althabe

Amal Kabbani

Bill Fitch

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

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 and Initiatives

Commander Fernandez could not attend today's meeting. Officer Wanda Mendez reported that additional officers would be added to Downtown NET area from the CRA area. Jennifer Rodero updated the Committee as a follow-up to last month's meeting on retirement and attrition of police officers and how it would affect the Downtown area. The City will lose over 100 officers this year, but they have enough officers in training to replace the upcoming vacancies. According to Commander Fernandez, the Downtown NET currently has 2 vacancies. NRO, Wanda Mendez will be retiring in September and has been training NRO, Jose Galvez to take her place. There are currently 17 Downtown beat officers and 21 patrol officers (including the CRA).

Officer Mendez also reported that the Ultra Music Festival Community Meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 7 at 10:00 am at the Police College.

3. City of Miami – Solid Waste Initiatives – Invited: Mario F. Nunez, Director

Mario Nunez, Solid Waste Director and Angelica Mendez, Public Relations Aide, presented on new Solid Waste Recycling Initiatives from the Solid Waste Department. *(See attached presentation / presentation also on file)*

Commercial recycling is not a choice, as it became mandatory countywide in July 1992 as per Chapter 15, Section 2.3 of the Miami-Dade County Code. They also reviewed their new blue recycling bins (that were bought through a grant) and their initiative to begin a pilot project for recycling bins next to regular trash receptacles (Twin the Bin).

Solid Waste requested that the DDA collaborate on their efforts to educate the Downtown businesses on recycling. Committee members agreed this would be a good initiative to collaborate on.

Jennifer Rodero also presented a map (see attached map) with the updated information on trash receptacles; their locations and how many there are in Downtown. As of today, there are 254 trash receptacles in the Downtown Miami District. This is an increase from last year (225).

Jennifer Rodero will follow-up and meet with the recycling coordinator, Katie Wayar, to see how the DDA can collaborate. Jennifer will also work with Solid Waste to identify locations for sidewalk recycling bins in the Downtown Miami District.

4. Flagler Street – Sidewalk Café Ordinance

Jennifer Rodero updated the Committee that a resolution had been passed by the Miami DDA Board of Directors in February requesting that the City put a moratorium and waive fees for sidewalk cafés for the areas affected by the Flagler Street Construction Project (Flagler Street, NE 1 ST and SE 1 ST). This item will be heard at City Commission on March 23rd.

5. District 2 Lighting

Jennifer Rodero provided an update on the City of Miami initiatives that were appropriated during the City Commission Budget Hearing back in September. Two hundred thousand dollars (200K) were appropriated for lighting improvements within the D2 District. Staff clarified that the funds were not yet allocated to Downtown.

Jennifer will follow up and meet with the City of Miami CIP department to inquire about the plan for implementation, scope and boundaries. DDA staff will invite a representative from CIP to an upcoming Committee meeting.

6. Biscayne Boulevard Beautification

DNA member Cristina Palomo presented issues along Biscayne Boulevard that she would like assistance with to help improve the corridor. Pictures of the issues were shown to the Committee. The issues included pavers/sidewalks that have excessive spray paint (utility markings) on them, a hotel that has graffiti on the side of the building, and planters that need to be maintained on NE 7 ST. Additionally the Committee commented on the FPL and other utility company markings all over the sidewalks of Downtown.

The Committee requested that Elena Bondarenko, Government Relations, follow up on this issue with the City of Miami and with the State.

Jennifer will follow up and set up a Biscayne Boulevard walk through with Ms. Palomo to identify the issues in the area and report them to appropriate entities.

7. Follow-up Securing and Storage of Commercial Dumpsters

Brian Harris, Solid Waste Inspector reported that he received a list of dumpsters from DDA staff and has been able to address most of the issues on the list. He is working with the local businesses on addressing all the dumpsters in question and having them in compliance.

Richard Sargent will follow up with Mr. Harris on these issues/complaints.

Program Updates

- a. Enhanced Services – report distributed to Committee members

Jennifer Rodero reported that the Ambassadors have begun their ride-along/walk-along with MPD. The collaboration has proven to be successful for both entities.

b. Pit Stop

Jennifer Rodero reported that the usage for the Pit Stop Program (one trailer and the permanent restrooms at Bayfront Park) is currently **22,571**. (as of Feb 28th) Last year at this time, the restrooms had been used **7,166** times.

Jennifer Rodero met with Carlos Lozano from the Capital Improvements Department to see the exact location of the permanent restroom. Installation (breaking ground for the restroom) is tentatively scheduled for April; depending on the timeliness of permit approvals.

c. Business Concierge - report distributed to Committee members

Antoine Williams reported that the Property Improvement Grant Program is underway. He received an application that will be reviewed at the April Committee meeting. Seven new businesses have opened in Downtown Miami. He is working with businesses that are still experiencing delays from both DERM and City departments on their permits.

New Business:

Will Plasencia reported that he will be covering the Edgewater NET office, while Sharie Blanton is on leave. Calls for issues in Downtown Miami can be made to 311, but he encourages stakeholders to call the Downtown NET office at 305-960-5135. Mr. Plasencia will be working on a putting together a clean-up on the Miami River and would like the collaboration of the DET Team. He will coordinate with Jennifer from the DDA to organize the clean-up event. He invited Committee members to attend the March 9th City Commission meeting, to support the item for the leasing of the Downtown NET office.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: April 6, 2017 at 9:00AM