
Urban Placemaking Committee Meeting*

Meeting Minutes

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

Thursday, February 2nd, 2017 | 4:00 P.M

DDA Conference Room

Committee Members Present:

Jerome Hollo, Chair and Miami DDA Board Member

Greg West, Miami DDA Board Member

Julie Grimes (via phone)

Carmen Rivero

Arva Parks

1. Welcome & Introductions:

The Committee Chair Jerome Hollo welcomed all the new committee members and guests and asked them to introduce themselves.

2. Presentations:

a. Sunshine Law – Xavier Alban, Assistant City Attorney

Mr. Xavier Alban provided an overview the Sunshine Law to all the committee members including regulations regarding meetings, gifts, financial disclosures and email communications. Mr. Alban provided his business cards to the committee members present and asked them to reach out to him if they had any questions regarding the sunshine law.

b. Biscayne Green Wrap Up – Take aways and next steps

DDA staff member Fabian de la Espriella provided a re-cap presentation about the Biscayne Green Project. Fabian's final snapshot of the project included: 101 parking spaces repurposed 75,000 feet of public space; 35 events in 20 days; 20,000 visitors to the park; 20+ articles and press coverage (radio/tv/print/web); 15,000 visits to Biscayne Green website; and Biscayne Green content reached almost 4 million people worldwide. Committee Chair Jerome Hollo asked staff to reach out to the Arts, Culture & Entertainment Committee to consider activating other areas in downtown with similar programming such as the Baywalk. Mr. Hollo also requested that the resolution passed by the DDA Board asking for the modification of Biscayne Boulevard parking spaces for Biscayne Green be sent to the new committee members. Christina Crespi added that the next steps for this project include pursuing national/international recognition.

c. Omni Park – Brad Knoefler

Mr. Brad Knoefler showed renderings of the Omni Park project. This project will revitalize and activate vacant and abandoned land to create a thirty-acre permanent public greenspace. The park will provide seven acres of public space to Downtown Miami residents including community programming for the duration of the project. Mr. Knoefler added that Commissioner Ken Russell has included a resolution on the February City Commission agenda to allocate funds for programming concerts to activate the park. There will be several permanent features on the park that will be open and available to the public year-round. Omni CRA is funding this project and engaging a PR company to help promote and market this project. www.OmniParkMiami.com website to launch next week.

3. Committee Discussion/Action Items: None

4. Project Updates:

a. Waterfront Transient Dockage – Floridian Partners

Tim Gomez of Floridian Partners provided an overview of the issue of transient dockage. He said that there is an existing capacity to activate dockage areas. A resolution for dockage will be presented at County Commission this month and asked members of the committee to participate to show support for this issue. DDA staff member Neal Schafers is working on a Waterfront Exploration tour of Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, to tour and meet with those agencies responsible for the waterfront development, water taxi operations, transient dockage and marine industries. Relevant and pertinent Elected officials, Committee members and stakeholders will be invited to participate. FIND Commissioner Spencer Crawley added that the committee should consider a request to review the Manatee protection plan that is 20 years old and was revised in 1996. This plan is supposed to be updated every 5 years.

b. Flagler Street Streetscape Construction Improvements

Mr. Schafers reported that phase 2 of the Flagler beautification & reconstruction project could be completed by Monday and would be open to pedestrian circulation. Phase 3 (the intersection at NW Miami Ct.) could be completed by the end of February. DDA Executive Director Alyce Robertson added that DDA will be taking over the Public Information Office (PIO) function of this project and DDA staff is working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Miami's Capital Improvements Program & Transportation (CIPT) so that the DDA will take on a more active and official role with the project. Assistant City Manager Alberto Parjus will be attending the next DDA Board Meeting to give a project update. Mr. Hollo suggested that if the contractor is terminated from this project, this should be done before entering phase 5. Carmen Rivero commented that Mana is working with a designer to enhance the historic nature of Flagler Street.

c. Downtown Development of Regional Impact

Alyce Robertson reported that DDRI item was deferred at City Commission meeting. Jerome Hollo requested that DDRI Committee meet with Francisco Garcia to discuss the impact fee issue and asked that Greg West and Carmen Rivero be added to the committee invite to participate and DDRI background information be sent to them.

Meeting Adjourned.

*WaterFront Task Force is now combined with the Urban Placemaking Committee Meeting