

Minutes of BHA Board of Directors Meeting September 15, 2010, at The Metropolitan

Directors/Alternate Members Present

Ernesto Cuesta/The Metropolitan
Larry Imber/The Palace
Santiago Echemendia/Two Tequesta
Gail Feldman/Bristol Tower
Blanche P. Back/Brickell Biscayne
Charles Tavares/Emerald at Brickell
Carl Hochheiser/25 Bay Tower
Yvonne & Peter Yeomanson/Houses of Brickell
William Fitch/Brickell on the River
David C.M. Lucterhand/Atlantis on Brickell
Danette Perez/Brickell Townhouse
Grace Solares, Fermin J. Belleou/Miami Roads Neighborhood Association
Guillermo Aguilar Undiano/Brickell Park

Natalie Brown, Communications Director
Josie Gulliksen, Asst. Communications Director

Associate Members

Bridget Dadd/Hotel Urbano at Brickell
Javier Sardinas/The Continental Group

City of Miami

Liza Gallardo-Walton/NET Office

Also Present

Antonio Lopez Souto/Brickell Biscayne
Dr. Claudius C. Carnegie/The Vue
Judy Santos/Emerald at Brickell
Elisa Robbin, Manuel Marcial, Brenda Earl, Joaquin Mayoral-Parracia, Mela Martorano/The Metropolitan
Steve G. Mason, Joshua Tomey/Courvoisier Courts, CSI Management
Thomas Jelke, Miami Parking Authority
Rolando Llanes, Carlos X. Valentin/Brickell Preparatory School
Antonio L. Roca/Mater Academy
Felipe Azenha, Tony Garcia/Transit Miami
Kathryn Reid Moore/South Florida Bike Coalition
Monte Kane, Carlessa F. Williams, Bill Cole/Kane & Company
Alyce Robertson, Cesar M. Garcia-Pons /Miami-Dade Downtown Development Authority
Agustin Abalo/AV Development

President's Report

Voting Location. On behalf of residents, BHA finds it unacceptable that our voting location is at Jose Marti Park instead of in the neighborhood.

City of Miami Taxes & Fees. Residents are finding the idea of residents paying for the development and ongoing maintenance of the new park at 1814 Brickell Avenue unacceptable in light of the significant share of taxes the area contributes to City coffers.

Brickell Breakfast Series – Held monthly with experts in particular areas, all are invited to these breakfast sessions hosted by Kane & Co., usually at Perricones.

Monte Kane, Condo Association Budgeting

Presentation on budgeting considerations for condo associations with questions and answer period.

NET Report

Liza reported that there are some ongoing discussions about noise resulting from the popularity of Mary Brickell Village and surrounding amenities. Looking for a balance of residential ambiance and quality of life and having a successful Brickell entertainment district. BHA might be asked to weigh in.

Miami Parking Authority

Board member Tom Jelke explained the ballot item coming up and the Parking Authority's strong track record for management and delivering a profit to the City of Miami.

Transit Miami

This group of advocates is seeking ways to improve the livability of Brickell Avenue for the growing residential, pedestrian and cycling community. FDOT has an opportunity, and an **obligation**, with the upcoming resurfacing project, to make livability improvements when they undertake the major resurfacing project to commence in January 2011. Speed limit is a major issue, BHA agreed.

Larry Imber moved and Gail Feldman seconded that Transit Miami's letter to Gus Pego at FDOT be supported by BHA. The motion passed unanimously. The letter draft is attached as presented by

Mater Academy

Proposing a K-12 Public not-for-profit charter school at 1742-44 SW 2nd Avenue. Materacademy.com

The proposers said, "We are creating something that's good for the community and also viable. We're a school of choice if we don't do a good job, parents speak with their feet and take their kids out of school."

- High quality public free education
- 80% of students will come from Brickell area. They will set up this preference.
- So that students can walk and ride their bikes to school, they are considering a shuttle for drop off and pick up.

BHA Q: Do you have a traffic analysis we can review?

A: Yes, conducted by Richard Garcia & Associates. We will share it with BHA.

Q: What variances are you asking the city for?

A: Seeking special exception because it's zoned as a high density residential.

Q: Why so many students?

A: The cost of the land in Brickell area is so high that to be viable, a larger school with more students needs to be built. Staggered arrival and departure times will help with traffic flow. Looking at off-campus drop sites such as Vizcaya and South Miami Avenue stations with a shuttle service.

BHA neighbors in the Miami Roads and South Miami Avenue Homeowners Association are against the plan with real concerns about the density of students, traffic impact and related quality of life issues. BHA agrees those are major factors and that too many students are proposed. At the same time many families in the Brickell community are seeking educational alternatives in the neighborhood and would like to see the school built.

BHA asked for the traffic analysis and for the proposers to come back with a lower number of students and adopted the motion:

The BHA Board is opposed to the project and the number of students as presently proposed unless traffic impacts evidence by next Thursday is provided to the satisfaction to the full board."

South Miami Avenue Improvement Plan

DDA official presented their plans for improving South Miami Avenue. BHA representatives have participated in the DDA's community meetings and were favorable to the plans. It's a \$4 million unfunded project at this time which the DDA is trying to get prioritized in the County's budget.

BHA decided to formally support the DDA's plan and will send letters of support to Commissioners Gimenez and Barreiro.

Meeting adjourned: 9:50 p.m.

Gus.Pego@DOT.STATE.FL.US

September 20, 2010

Dear Gus Pego,

As people who live, work and play in the Brickell Corridor of the City of Miami, we are passionate about this place and we would like you to consider how important the Avenue is as you consider its speed limit in the FDOT Redesign project, currently scheduled to break ground in 2011.

As you know, most residential and business streets in the State of Florida enjoy speed limits between 20-30mph. We are more than 29,000 people - families and professionals who live along Brickell – and we walk to Mary Brickell Village, Simpson Park, our waterfront and Downtown from our homes along streets with traffic moving well over a posted speed of 40mph.

Interstate 95 serves those (including ourselves, when we need it) who wish to get through our neighborhood quickly. The speed limit on Brickell Avenue should be no more than 25mph.

We hope you will agree that we deserve safer streets because you can make this happen. We deserve more crosswalks, a residential/business area speed limit and consistent law enforcement practices that make walking an inviting activity rather than an extreme sport.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing how FDOT will help our community be a safer place to live, work and visit.

Sincerely,