

Minutes of BHA Board of Directors Meeting April 16, 2008, Bristol Tower

Directors/Alternates Present

Tory Jacobs/Brickell 25
Claudia Bruce/Bristol Tower
Gloria Konsler/One Tequesta
Darryle Lipsky/Neo Vertika
Blanche Back/Brickell Biscayne
David Payne/Four Seasons
Lorraine Sieber/Brickell Harbour
Jorge Iglesias/Brickell Mar
Bruce Higley/2000 Brickell
Ron Smith/Deputy General Counsel
Natalie Brown, Communications Director

Associate Members

Bill Thompson/The Related Group

Miami-Dade County

Commissioner Carlos Gimenez, Ruben Arias, JC
Flores /Office of Commissioner Carlos
Gimenez

City of Miami

Bert Gonzalez/Office of Commissioner Marc
Sarnoff
Suzanna Valdez/Office of Mayor Manny Diaz
Officer Jeff Giordano/Miami Police
Liza Walton/Coral Way NET
Eddie Padilla/Downtown NET

Also Present

Jorge Valls, Chris Cedeño/Neo Vertika
Sandra Novas Garcia/Siinc
Carolina Monteiore, landscape architect
Vania Giordano/ Blue Martini
Maritza Gonzalez/Brickell on the River
Antonio Lopez-Souto/Brickell Biscayne
Robert Samuel, Henry Perez, Paul Cicurel/Bristol
Tower
Dolores James/Villa Regina
Gail Feldman, Steve Feldman/Bristol Towers

Meeting called to order 6:15 p.m.

Ron Smith moved and Blanche Back seconded that the reading of the February meeting minutes be waived and that they be accepted as published. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

1451 Brickell Property, next to Four Seasons ...enclosure granted to create parking spaces for builders. There will be hedges...6 to 18 months.

Welcome to **Gloria Konsler** serving on Executive Board

Police Report

- Jeff Giordano reported purse snatching at bus bench on Brickell. Engaged her in conversation, and snatched her purse. Police officer driving by, got the guy.
- Last month, March, there was also a purse snatched at Rosinelli's late on Friday night...off-duty officer got them, caught one of the three.
- Burglaries...1395 Brickell, Conrad offices, stolen computers.
- Complaints about loud music at night from beaches along Rickenbacker Causeway. Jeff to look into enforcement; Eddie Padilla to speak to parks people about getting the parking lots locked at night when the beach is supposed to be closed.
- 305-710-5222 Jeff's cell.

NET Report

- Problem with little park next to Perricones and its cleanliness. Perricones had agreed to maintain it originally, so the NET office did a walk-thru with them to reaffirm their commitment.
- Empty lots...working with Code Enforcement on those, as well as swale areas.
- A lot on SW 1st Court having problems at night...stray dogs taking over. Call 305-525-9633, Eddie's cell, if persists.
- On south side of 15th Road, an increase in graffiti...working on keeping public rights of way free of graffiti. On private property, it's owners' responsibility to clean, but let NET know to assist with enforcement and identifying any gang tags.
- East-bound on 15th Road, the question of removing parking meters was raised. A: Can't do, due to that not being a turn lane. Need more signage about not turning on red....working on trying to fix the situation....

The Related Companies – Bill Thompson

Mr. Thompson shared the new preliminary plan for Brickell Park redesign and invited input, based on guidelines to make it a passive park.

- Some work has begun on the south side of the park.
- Moved 7-8 old huge oak trees from old Sheraton property, which survived the move and two hurricanes.
- Will have a pedestrian walkway along the baywalk.
- The Related Group is hoping to get the State Park officials (by the Miami Circle) to link up.
- Would like to get feedback in 60 days, but the park will probably not be put back in place until the end of the year.
- “The deal was we fix it up and the Icon condominium maintains it in perpetuity,” he explained when asked about maintenance.
- BHA will enlist volunteers to serve on the park plan review group.

Simpson Park

Sandra Novas Garcia with Siinc, is a PR agency which has Audi as a client, and they want to partner with the community on a project. Sandra has lived at Brickell Harbour for 10 years so she thought of the underutilized Simpson Park. Their idea is to:

- Redesign the 8-acre park, move the entrance to 15th Road, keeping the hammock and natural vegetation intact, working with natural materials.
- Create a glass house at the entrance...an entrance path in, a greenhouse with orchids
- HSBC bank is interested in donating funds
- Some suppliers are willing to donate lighting and vegetation.
- Wood deck at entrance...vegetation. Phase 1 only.
- There is space there unused which could be a playground, which is planned for a later phase.
- The other phases would include educational programs with schools and programming.
- Goal is to have the entrance done by the end of the year
- Q. Who is going to fund the maintenance? Is the City of Miami supportive? A. Audi funding the entrance and they're working on corporate fundraising. Susanna Valdez....says the city would support it and it would agree to take care of it.

Miami-Dade Commissioner Carlos Gimenez, District 7

The Commissioner spoke on a variety of topics and answered many questions posed. Highlights:

- **15th Road and South Miami Avenue Circle** – Alan Ojeda partnered with the City on getting it done after many delays.
- Working with FDOT on **I-95 noise buffers**, which will help South Miami Avenue Homeowners the most.

- **Florida Marlins** the most profitable team in baseball; he voted against the latest measure as it was a bad deal for taxpayers.
- In favor of the **Port tunnel**. Most of the tunnel money comes from the state. The City of Miami chose to take \$50 million of CRA money to fund it and will fund another \$50 million if needed. \$470 million from state; \$100 million from GOB; \$120 million bond by County; final \$120 from Port revenue. We need to maintain the competitive nature of the port and we need to get those trucks off the road. What are the options? The state would pay a large portion...what other solution would the state pay for? This would be a state project that they would manage. First public private venture in state. They contracted a French firm which built the Chunnel. In Europe they're using this to help build infrastructure. The state will operate and maintain for 30 years. Miami-Dade will not have to do it.
- Believes we have to reduce the **property taxes**. "The government needs to go on a diet. We need to tighten our belts. We're looking at another \$200 million less revenue and more costs. I'd be holding the line on not raising property taxes. Basic services...maintaining those will be my priorities."
- **People's Transportation Plan** – (1/2 penny tax that promised 8 projects with Metrorail in 2002.) The county government has taken a lot of that money and used it for current funding needs and many of the promised projects haven't happened. Miami Intermodal Center is being built that will connect to Erlington Heights. Can get to airport using the Metrorail. But the North line is not getting built; FIU line not going to get built. Money was taken for maintenance of cars. Bus routes have been reworked saving \$20 million. New cars are coming as what's there are "disgusting."

Suggestions/requests made to the Commissioner:

- Light pole that has been down for a year from a traffic accident. City and county have been arguing about whose responsibility. 25th & Brickell...southeast corner. Commissioner said they would look into it.
- PAC problems with traffic. City Police have outside; County has inside responsibility. Frank Fernandez has not been able to advance remedies since the City and County Police not getting along, so it's not being resolved. Commissioner said he would take it up with the County.
- A Suggestion was made to the Commissioner to add circulator trolleys or buses for PAC performances since now, a Brickell resident has to take a bus and change two Metrorail cars to get there--not easy or convenient.
- Who's responsible for clean up of Metromover stations? The station at 5th and Brickell is filthy.
- Brickell article last week....said we're becoming the Madison Avenue. Let's have a trolley like Coral Gables in the Brickell Area. Maybe the road impact fees can cover it. Can't add road capacity but can add public transportation.

Blue Brickell Avenue Inn

A motion was made by Blanche Back and seconded that the BHA Board extend an invitation to the owners of Brickell Avenue Inn to meet with them to discuss the loud color of blue they painted the inn. An amendment was made and accepted that BHA ask the City of Miami to appoint a board to provide architectural review of such matters if one does not already exist with jurisdiction.

The motion as amended passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.