

Minutes of BHA Board of Directors Meeting February 21, 2008, The Imperial at Brickell

Directors/Alternates Present

Tory Jacobs/Brickell 25
Jose Dieguez/One Tequesta Point
Claudia Bruce/Bristol Tower
Maitte Netsch/The Imperial
Blanche Back/Brickell Biscayne
Heinz Schulz/Brickell Park
Ira Levenshon/Villa Regina
Michael Harned/Santa Maria

Mel Frankel/General Counsel
Ron Smith/Deputy General Counsel
Natalie Brown, Communications Director

Miami-Dade County

Ruben Arias/Office of Commissioner Carlos
Gimenez

Florida Dept. of Transportation (FDOT)

Joe Gomez, Carlos Francis, Omar Meitin

Meeting called to order 6:10 p.m.

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

President's Report

The Imperial. The BHA's appreciation was extended to The Imperial for their hospitality, in particular President Maitte Netsch and Property Manager Michael Santiesteban who arranged the meeting.

Miami-Dade County. Commissioner Carlos Gimenez was confirmed for the meeting but he has been held up in a County Commission meeting on the discussion of the baseball stadium.

Who's in charge of our roadways? A handout was distributed to clarify which governmental agency is in charge of various aspects of the roadways in our neighborhood.

Streetscape Plan Progress. The fountains are running, the lighting is on, some planting choices and related shrubbery concerns remain. The City has requested permits for lane closings to repair the crosswalk pavers.

Safety at 15th Road and Brickell. This intersection is a concern as enough time isn't provided for traffic flowing in all directions, especially left turns from all four corners.

A Motion was made by Mel Frankel and seconded by Blanche Back:

City of Miami

Bert Gonzalez/Office of Commissioner Marc
Sarnoff
Officer Jeff Giordano, Lt. Jose Rodriguez, Officer
Aileen Rodriguez-Robert/Police
Jose Gonzalez/Dept. of Transportation
Liza Walton/Coral Way NET
Eddie Padilla/Downtown NET

Also Present

Dolores James/Villa Regina
Victor Matos/Santa Maria
Michael Santiesteban, Lordes Figueroa, Edwin
Fabrega, Gail Zvijac, George Reeves/The
Imperial
Margaret Lee/Brickell Biscayne
Jan Jones

The Brickell Homeowners Association requests the FDOT to urgently look at the SE 15 Road and Brickell Avenue intersection and the timing of the traffic signals. In particular, left turn lead lights are desperately needed for vehicles.

The motion passed unanimously.

1900 Brickell Avenue – The Plastic Surgeon/Spa Office. The property is now for sale and appears to be out of business. The Special Exception granting the doctors office activities expires with transfer of title.

Montessory School moving from Lutheran Church to Coral Way.

South Miami Avenue issues being worked out between the City and the County. The Bike Lanes between SE 15th and 25th Road and other matters have been resolved and the project resuming.

Marathon Street Closures. Salute to the police for effectively controlling traffic during ING marathon.

NET Office

Coral Way NET new office opening. Will have an open house in 6 weeks or so.

- Bimonthly walkabouts on Brickell continue.

Downtown NET (15th Road north to NE 17th Terrace)

- Noise waivers are not being given for construction. Crane activity involving safety is the only circumstance for which a waiver is granted.

Miami Police Report

- It's been a quiet crime month, only a couple of robberies.
- Speed Trailer needs to be repaired. Michael Harned at Santa Maria is helping to replace the parts.
- Just completed a major clean up of Bay shoreline
- Feb. 29 Event - SE 8th Street between Brickell and South Miami Avenue will be closed, 3 pm to midnight for special event. Eddie will send more information. Drivers will be able to go north and south on Brickell but not on SE 8th Street from Brickell west. Plus *Viernes Culturales*, will be going on that evening in the same area.

FDOT Report on Brickell Avenue Pedestrian Safety Study

Traffic data, pedestrian counts, gaps in traffic, crash histories for 6 years were looked at for the study to perform analyses and formulate recommendations. Some of the recommended improvements are included in Brickell rehab project; some are being done sooner. Improvements will take a combination of education, enforcement and engineering.

What was found:

- 14 crashes 6 years back from 2006; they pulled the police report on each.
- Split evenly between north of 15th and south of 15th. Most (7) in 12th to 14th Street area of Brickell.
- 10 crashes with pedestrians on sidewalks (driveways), 4 were people trying to cross. 5 were bike related.

Recommendations being enacted:

- Crosswalk across the north leg of Coral Way will get a signal countdown for pedestrians, and a "pedestrian phase" where all traffic stops and pedestrians can cross, such as during mid-day. Working with the County on that since it's the County that operates the traffic signals.
- Pedestrian fencing going in medians to encourage walkers to cross at the crosswalks instead of mid-block through the medians where the shrubbery hides pedestrians.
- Improvements with signal countdowns going in at 10th, and at 14th Streets.

- For many of the buildings' driveways along Brickell, there's limited sight visibility for exiting drivers to see pedestrians on the sidewalk or along the roadway. These situations have very few possible engineering improvements, aside from mirrors to improve visibility for exiting cars which some buildings have. Education is going to be key in these situations, such as reminding pedestrians to try to make eye contact with drivers.
- Recommending a Community Traffic Program that FDOT wants to put together for Brickell with reps from all the various departments involved to try to effect change.
- The 1809 Brickell unsignalized crosswalk: FDOT conducted an extensive pedestrian count study and taped 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. during a typical week. They found not enough activity to warrant a traffic signal with 30 to 100 ped/day, however they are going to install pedestrian activated flashing beacons.
- Signs warning drivers of pedestrians are going to be put along the side street intersections of Brickell totaling 32 new signs.
- Question about tubular delineators—random ones have cropped up between 15th and 25th but neither FDOT, City nor County could say where they came from or why they are misplaced in medians.
- Comment from Board Rep Blanche Back: These officials need to know that we've been bringing up these issues, and they've been saying that they are addressing them, for a very long time. We really need some action.

**City Commissioner Marc Sarnoff Rep, Bert Gonzalez
County Commissioner Carlos Gimenez Rep Ruben Arias**

- City will be addressing 15th Road problem with left turn lead light. Looking at flooding issues with Public Works. One building had an old drainpipe that was leading to a problem. Fixing leaning signs, parking signs mounted in the wrong places along Brickell Bay Drive.
- South Miami Avenue improvements, bike paths and sod finally being laid. City and County met and worked out who's doing what and dealing with the cost overruns. The fountain is a separate issue.
- One Broadway building addressing an issue with the signage up top...seems to be too bright.
- Comment from BHA Attorney Mel Frankel for Commissioner Sarnoff. We find the City Attorney situation to be repugnant, and the employment contract with him was outrageous. The entire legal department needs to be cleaned up, as the commissioner said at our last meeting. We commend his efforts.

Election of Officers

Motion from Nominating Committee that the current slate continue:

President: T. Sinclair (Tory) Jacobs

1st Vice President: Claudia Bruce

Treasurer: Ernesto Cuesta

Secretary: Gloria Konsler

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 7:10 p.m.