

Minutes of BHA Board of Directors Meeting February 25, 2009, Epic Hotel & Residences

Directors/Alternates Present

Tory Jacobs/Brickell 25
Claudia Bruce/Bristol Tower
Ernesto Cuesta/The Metropolitan
Gloria Konsler/One Tequesta Point
Mac Seligman/Brickell Townhouse
Herbert Bailey/Brickell Forrest
David Payne/Four Seasons
Santiago Ecehemendia/Tequesta Two
Blanche Back/Brickell Biscayne
Ralph Slonim/Villa Regina
Michael Basanta, Judy Santos/Emerald at Brickell
Silvia Burgoa/Brickell Park Condo

Ron Smith, Deputy General Counsel

Natalie Brown, Communications Director
Josie Gulliksen, Communications Asst.

Associate Members Present

Oswald Betancourt/The Related Group

FDOT

Bridge Warning Project: Monica Diaz, Public Info. Specialist, Quest Corp of America; Roger Marrero, Project Designer; Alex Frias, Project Designer, Don Avery, Project Engineer
Pedestrian Crossing Arm & Signal on Brickell Ave: Alicia Gonzalez, David Reynolds, Edgar Ramirez, Judy Solaun-Gonzalez, Cesar Gomez-Ty Lin

City of Miami Police

Chief John Timoney; Deputy Chief Frank Fernandez; Ariel Saud, NET Resource Officer; Jeff Giordano, former NET Resource Officer; Commander Lorenzo Whitehead

City of Miami

Bert Gonzalez/Office of Commissioner Marc Sarnoff
Liza Walton/Coral Way NET
David Mendez/Capital Improvement Projects

Also Present

Joseph Bier, Cesar Parrales/Epic Hotel
Katia Ettus, Frederico Teran/Carbonell Condo
Teresa Encalada/The Plaza
Bill Fitch, Maritza Gonzalez/Brickell on the River North
Astrid Mota/Brickell Key II
Antonio Lopez-Souto/Brickell Biscayne
Marilyn Goldaber/Brickell Townhouse
Roberta Slonm/Villa Regina
Paul Cicurel/Bristol Tower
Casilda Clews/Brickell Park Condo
Janice Jones
Ralph James, volunteer
George Reeves, volunteer

Meeting called to order 6:15 p.m. Special thanks to Joe Bier and the Epic for the hospitality.

Bert Gonzalez – Commissioner Sarnoff's Office

- **1809 Brickell Avenue Pedestrian Crossing** signage and traffic signalization system. Prototype like what's near the Fresh Market in Coconut Grove. Took 2-1/2 years...commissioner has been working on it since the beginning of his term. Should be in place by end of March.
- David Menendez – CIP is here...
- **Villa Magna Park** – were some snags, but it is not dead. As of today should go forth. Timetable? Asap....
Q. The sidewalk in front is really in bad shape and dangerous...can anything be done? The sidewalk is public property and they tore it up. A. Probably won't be done until the park construction is undertaken.
- They are also looking at South Bayshore Drive and infrastructure needs there.

Liza Walton – NET Office

- **Vacant and Abandoned** properties/lots need to be registered with the City of Miami. Will help get no trespassing signs there. If registered by March 31, it's free to register, after that a fee and a fine
- The lights on 14th between Brickell and Brickell Bay Drive will be fixed next week.

- Thanks to Liza for responding to call about sidewalk issue by the toll booths.
- Liza will reissue Canine Courtesy letters; BHA will fund a new round of off duty enforcement. “Rampant disrespect.”

Miami Police Dept.

Jeffrey Giordano is being promoted and transferred out of Brickell – He is now a Public Information Officer. Officer Ariel Saud – has been the beat officer in the area and will be Jeff’s replacement as the Neighborhood Resource Officer. Chief John Timoney praised Jeff for his service and assured all that Miami Police are committed to maintaining safety and quality of life in the Brickell neighborhood. **Officer Ariel Saud, (305) 491-2645, ariel.saud@miami-police.org**

Officer Elections – Herb Bailey

Slate: President Claudia Bruce; Vice President Larry Imber; Secretary Gloria Konsler; Treasurer Ernesto Cuesta
Chairman: Tory Jacobs; Chairman Emeritus: Herb Bailey

Blanche Back moved and Mac Seligman seconded that the slate be accepted as announced. The motion passed unanimously.

Streetscape – David Mendez, City of Miami

- **Lightpoles in the medians on Brickell** – FPL has been requested to remove them for some time. FPL is not under City authority so we have to wait for them. When the light poles are removed, there will be irrigation fixes and landscaping fixes needed.
- **Landscape Median** – the podocarpus plants have been replaced 3 times. We are just as frustrated and have asked the contractor to bring out a horticulturalist to look at the soil. We pay for this only one time...if it takes him a hundred times to get it right....
- **Shrubs** in the median that are not part of the streetscape project –....Public Works is handling the maintenance.
- Repainting the peeling **Lightpole bases**...the county is dealing with that. They have taken them off and sent them back to the manufacturer to be redone.
- **Crosswalk pavers** will be addressed when the pavement redo is made....they will be removed and a new surface used. BHA advised they are dangerous to wait that long.

Florida Dept. of Transportation

- **April 14 – Public Meeting** – Miami Science Museum for Concrete Pavement Repair Project. 6:00 p.m.
- **Signalization Improvements** - John Bolton – Construction Engineer for FDOT for signalization job at 2451 Brickell where signals have been put in for vehicles heading southbound, and a dedicated left turn arrow. Another signal head was added for visibility and pedestrian countdown signals added.
- **Pedestrian Crossing Mast Arm** at 1809 block that BHA suggested and has been advocating for over passive signs no one sees, was supposed to have been installed by now. FDOT: “We had trouble with the utilities and finding the right location there. It should be installed and operational in a month.”
- End of March – **Advance Warning System Project** for opening of Brickell Avenue Drawbridge is to begin with solar powered, standalone units leading up to the bridge, which receive a wireless signal from the bridge tender. The signs will be at SE 15th, 13th, 10th and 8th Roads. Project starting late March/early April. Don Avery said the most disruptive part is installing 2 foot diameter poles in the ground. “Because they are solar powered, there’s not a lot of underground trenching or conduit work. 112 days for construction.” Alex is designing now.
- **Sidewalks** that need to be replaced. This would come under FDOT maintenance, and cannot wait for the repaving project.

Meeting adjourned 7:50 p.m. Next meeting April 22, 2009