

Minutes of BHA Board of Directors Meeting January 21, 2009, The Palace

Directors/Alternates Present

Tory Jacobs/Brickell 25
Claudia Bruce/Bristol Tower
Ernesto Cuesta/The Metropolitan
Gloria Konsler/One Tequesta Point
Marissa Lopez/Brickell Park
Larry Imber, Deirdre Ashe/The Palace
Lorraine Sieber/Brickell Harbour
Mac Seligman/Brickell Townhouse
Herbert Bailey/Brickell Forrest

Natalie Brown, Communications Director
Josie Gulliksen, Communications Asst.

City of Miami

Bert Gonzalez/Office of Commissioner Marc
Sarnoff's office

Liza Walton/Coral Way NET
Eddie Padilla/Downtown NET
Gianna Greico/Fire Rescue Education Coordinator

Also Present

Frank Ruiz/ING Marathon
Lois & Howard Rukeyser, Audrey Bout, Alberto
Bengowave, Errol Rainess, Elizabeth Palacio,
Pat & Taylor Larimare, William Pollack,
Marguerite Beaty/The Palace
Marilyn Goldaber/Brickell Townhouse
Arthur Sweeney, Norbert Sieber, Steve
Greenberg/Brickell Harbour
Janice Jones
Silvia Lechwaler

Meeting called to order 6:15 p.m.

President's Report

February will be the **BHA Annual Meeting** with election of officers. Anyone interested in being an officer are invited to call Tory or Natalie for details. Location to be announced. Weds., 25th of February.

Thanks to **Hosts** this evening, Larry Imber, Deirdre Ashe.

A motion was made by Mac Seligman and seconded by Ernesto Cuesta that the reading of the November minutes be waived and they be accepted as published. The motion passed unanimously.

ING Marathon – Frank Ruiz

This is the 7th year; the event has grown and economic impact has increased. Sunday, Jan. 25. Traffic inconveniences (where drivers are asked to wait while runners pass) should be just 4-5 minutes at most.

Participants from:

- 55 counties and all 50 states.
- 75% from outside of Miami.
- 150 from Brickell Avenue, including BHA Treasurer Ernesto Cuesta

NET Report – Liza Walton and Eddie Padilla

- **Noise** - NET has been getting complaints of noise issues again in the area. Noise and Police enforcement have been addressing this. Officer Giordano and Cmdr Whitehead have been addressing the club management and advising they will be shut down if they continue to violate noise ordinances.
- **Copper wiring thefts** from power boxes becoming a problem. If you hear of businesses that have had any problems with people stripping their electrical boxes or other property, contact the NET office.
- **Abandoned Structures and Lots** – New program to ensure empty real estate doesn't adversely impact neighboring properties. NET is trying to register the properties...before March 1st. If after March 1, the

owner has to pay a \$250 yearly fee. Enables Police to oversee properties and go on site if there is a problem.

- **Remark:** The lot behind Publix...looking really bad...this needs to be registered.
- **Q. Brickell Avenue Inn?** What's happening with it? A. We haven't heard anything else. A. Herb Bailey said he spoke with the attorney representing the developer. They are pulling permits to renovate the building. The attorney assures us that they are on their way. It's going to be gray with new windows. Liza says the plans are at her office.

Fire Life Safety Education - Gianna Greico

As Education Coordinator Ms. Greico came to familiarize directors with public education programs which she and the firefighters of Fire Station 4 conduct in buildings and at community events. "We can work with your staffs. We can help with evacuation planning. We'll do a fire drill in your building, which is observed by members of the fire department. We'll give you an analysis of how everyone did. Anything you learn helps us to make our job easier in the event of an emergency."

Community Emergency Response Team...CERT program on hold right now. Cut due to staffing cuts.

Defibrillator program. Grants have helped distribute them locally...almost 500 passed out to Miami-Dade County Schools.

- They've been in use for 40 to 50 years...this is not new. Now they are more affordable.
- Directors might want to purchase for their buildings. Can get for \$1,200-1,300.
- The device augments CPR...it talks to you...you don't need training. This particular brand is Cardiac Science which is a top model, but the agency isn't endorsing one over another.
- Every minute your heart goes into abnormal beating, you lose 10% of your life...they say. "This is to augment, as a first responder. The faster you use, the better your chances to convert the heart rate."
- Right now, they have about 750 in City of Miami. Putting them into not-for-profit areas. In manned City Parks, NET offices.
- Coral Gables mandated them for every building in the City. Now they are more affordable...so more are being mandated.
- Non-rechargeable battery that lasts 4-6 years.

At the fire station, you can track your blood pressure. They'll do that daily if you go there. The paramedics will do it if you come and knock on the door. Can bring your child to the station. They can also do a tour for your group.

Emergencies - If you feel iffy, don't drive yourself to the station. Call 9-1-1. Don't delay a rescue response.

Streetscape & Neighborhood Issues

- Claudia Bruce – FDOT announced a year ago they would install the pedestrian activated crossing light, which would be a flashing yellow light at Lutheran Church / UTD Tower crossing...still waiting.
- There will be a FDOT Public Meeting in April...date to be announced...on plans for Brickell Avenue
- **Q.** Another pedestrian hazard is at 15th and Brickell. Can something be done there? **A.** BHA has been telling them...FDOT has to do a study to enact any improvements...we will bring it up to them again.
- Eddie Padilla said Cmdr. Whitehead said they have been putting out patrols for enforcement of the "no turns on red" at that intersection.
- **Brickell Park** – So far, there are 2 benches only, the landscape is spartan...nothing inviting...However, The Related Group is not yet finished with landscaping and the promised signage is not in place. It should not look like the lawn of the Icon, but rather like a park open to all.
- **Bus Stops** – seats at 15th Road bus stop on east side are rusting.
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Meeting adjourned at 7:30.