

## Minutes of BHA Board of Directors Meeting Nov. 19, 2008, Brickell on the River

### Directors/Alternates Present

Tory Jacobs/Brickell 25  
Claudia Bruce/Bristol Tower  
David Payne/Four Seasons  
Michael Harned/Santa Maria  
Bruce Colan/Two Tequesta  
Lorraine Sieber/Brickell Harbour  
Marguerite Beatty/The Palace  
Blanche Back/Brickell Biscayne  
Eddy del Rio/Brickell Townhouse  
Dorothy James/Villa Regina

Mel Frankel/General Counsel  
Natalie Brown, Communications Director

### City of Miami

Commissioner Marc Sarnoff, Bert Gonzalez/Office  
of Commissioner Marc Sarnoff  
Deputy Chief Frank Fernandez, Commander  
Lorenzo Whitehead, Officer Jeff Giordano, Sgt.  
Cruz, Officer Burt Finale/Miami Police

Suzanna Valdez/Office of the Mayor  
Liza Walton/Coral Way NET  
Eddie Padilla/Downtown NET  
Bobby Starke, Gia Smith/Special Events Director of  
the Parks Dept.  
David Hernandez/ Public Works Dept.  
David Mendez/Capital Improvement Projects

### Also Present

Astrid Mota/Brickell Key II  
Maritza Gonzalez, William Fitch, Alex  
Talavera/Brickell on the River  
Ralph & Roberta Slonim/Villa Regina  
Victor Matos/Santa Maria  
Norbert Sieber, Art Sweeney/Brickell Harbour  
Lawrence Imber, Deirdre Ashe/The Palace  
Tony Lopez-Souto/Brickell Biscayne  
Sandra Novas Garcia/Siinc  
Carolina Monteiore, landscape architect

Meeting called to order 6:10 p.m.

Blanche Back moved and Dr. Slonim seconded a motion to waive the reading of the Sept. meeting minutes and to accept them as published. The motion passed unanimously.

### Commissioner Marc Sarnoff

The Commissioner announced the opening of a 4-1/2 acre park ...at the site of where Villa Magna is slated but hasn't broken ground. To be called Hollo Park, in honor of the developer donating the use of the land, Mr. Tibor Hollo. The Commissioner's plan is to convert open, vacant land, working with developers, to use the land as greenspace. In this case there's at least a 2 to 3 year guarantee...until the market turns and the developer(s) is ready to build. This property next to The Jade will include a children's play area. The City will do most of the infrastructure. Mr. Hollo will be doing the path and park benches.

"Rather than sit and do nothing with their land, hopefully many people will do the same."

"We are completing the bay walk all the way down, and looking to fill in at the 1001 Brickell building to make it continuous."

The Commissioner stated his strong belief that impact fees should be used around Brickell where the impacts have been felt with little money coming back for improvements. He said he has been trying to get a District 2 impact fees disclosure from the City. "It is my contention that impact fees are not supposed to be transported away--they are supposed to mitigate the impact you went through or may be continuing to go through. I told the City Manager I would delay filing lawsuit against City as long as we continue to find park space."

Question about flooding on Brickell streets. A solution is being tried by Margaret Pace Park...north Bayshore Drive....a "deep injection well" starting around March 2009. It will be similar to what will fix Brickell.

## **Police Report**

It's time for the Christmas Toy Drive for Southside Elementary School. Officer Giordano thanked BHA for its \$500 donation.

- At 951 Brickell there have been 2 break ins
- Robberies down 9%
- Commander Whitehead – Cell number is 305-216-1116-call him if any problems.

## **Events on Brickell Avenue**

Bruce Colan presented this concern. He said he has lived on Brickell Key for 18 years and that the City has a history of races using Brickell Avenue. "There's a major disruption whenever this happens. There were 6,000 units in 1990 in our area south of the Miami River, north of 26<sup>th</sup> Road, and from Miami Avenue east to Biscayne Bay; now we have at least 17,000 units. It's time because of the congestion here and the configuration of streets to shift more events to Miami Avenue which will be less disruptive as homeowners would still be able to get in and out. To shut Brickell Avenue down on a Saturday doesn't make sense any more. The way it is now you get trapped.

A motion was made by Bruce Colon and seconded by Claudia Bruce that BHA request the City of Miami to shift races and events from Brickell Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

Deputy Chief Frank Fernandez explained, "It's really an administrative policy for the City. The police will police it wherever it happens. For the most part in these walks/runs, we do have intermediate traffic control, but you may end up waiting an hour."

He will relay BHA concerns to the City Manager, and will come back to report what the City administration's response for these events will be.

Bobby Stark, whose office receives the requests: "We've started to look at the impact in the Brickell Area. We're working on getting organizers to look at other routes instead of closing Brickell."

Eddie Padilla says this is beginning to happen as evidenced by Bike Miami, a recent event which originally was going to go down Brickell, but the committee moved it to South Miami Ave.

## **Other Police/Traffic/Safety Issues**

- 26<sup>th</sup> Road weekend congestion. The Police have an officer at intersections so that people don't block so we have flow, and if things get too backed up, they have the Rickenbacker toll temporarily lifted.
- Blanche Back: The problem with the left turns from 26<sup>th</sup> Road going north onto Brickell Avenue from the second lane, which is not a turn lane...a fatality is going to happen there. Can't better markings and signage be added? Frank Fernandez said they would look at it again.
- Handicapped Parking Space abuse by tenants. Mel Frankel proposed that associations make lists of their residents who are authorized to use the Handicap permits, these be gathered and shared with Miami Police for enforcement. It will require the cooperation of the association managers and officers.

Injured Officers Fund – Claudia Bruce moved and Blanche Back seconded making a contribution by BHA of \$100 toward the fundraiser at Finnegan's for the Injured Officers Fund as requested by Officer Giordano. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Simpson Park Revitalization Plan**

Suzanna Valdez announced the new entrance construction at Simpson Park at Broadway and South Miami Avenue is moving forward with a ground breaking on Dec. 3 at 9:30 a.m. to which all are invited.

## **NET Report**

- Liza announced a new City Foreclosure Prevention Program for those with \$300,000 market value max.
- Eddie announced that the homeless encampments on SE 8<sup>th</sup> Street have been removed.  
“We have cleaned them up and have asked the owners to start cleaning them up. When they get overgrown, the homeless find places to hide there.”
- DDA is working with Public Works Dept. to address public rights of way that haven't been maintained.
- Citizens Investigative Panel is looking for new members.

## **Brickell Streetscape Fixes**

David Hernandez, City of Miami Public Works; and David Mendez, from the City's Capital Improvement Projects explained that the Brickell Streetscape is “a Capital Improvement Project of the City. CIP builds it; Public Works maintain its after CIP releases the contractors.”

### **A. Landscaping around fountains changed out**

- Faucets of the fountains have gotten their covers
- The “Hatrack electric work hardware, meters, etc. have to be a certain distance from the ground. Podocarpus have died. They weren't dense enough, dying, leaning over. We're pushing the contractor to replace them.
- Light poles – we have a purchase order to have them removed...the ones on South Miami Avenue to be removed first. We're in the payment process to FPL. We could see something happening there in the next 45 to 60 days.
- Bases of light poles with peeling paint. Manufacturer said there was a problem with the bases painting...they are going to take them back to the factory to recoat them. QC issue in the manufacturing.
- Replacement of light pole at 25<sup>th</sup> and Brickell. We have a P.O. in order for it so that Miami-Dade County will replace.
- I assure you that David and myself are on it, then we turn over maintenance of the poles to Miami-Dade.
- Crosswalk pavers – FDOT has a 2010 repaving project...the crosswalks are not going to be addressed until then. There's no brick paver that works well with that kind of traffic, however, in Downtown they are preparing to test an epoxy product that looks like brick pavers but holds up better. Demo project going into downtown in a block. If it works, may apply on Brickell.
- What about the flashing lights at 1800 block for pedestrian crossing? The two Davids didn't know about that.
- “I'm really sorry for all the delays with this project. When it's FDOT and City of Miami it's very difficult. Sorry for the inconvenience we are definitely committed to the project.” - Hernandez

BHA to furnish a copy of April 22<sup>nd</sup> Punch List agreed to in Commissioner Sarnoff's office.

Next meeting: Weds., Jan. 21, 2009, The Palace

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.