

# Minutes of BHA Board of Directors Meeting September 16, 2009—The Metropolitan

## Directors/Alternates Present

Tory Jacobs/Brickell 25  
Ernesto Cuesta/The Metropolitan  
Lawrence Imber/The Palace  
Diane S. Sepler/Villa Regina  
Blanche P. Back/Brickell Biscayne  
Gail & Steve Feldman/Bristol Tower  
Michael Basanta/Emerald at Brickell

Ron Smith, General Counsel  
Mel Frankel, Assistant General Counsel  
Natalie Brown, Communications Director  
Josie Gulliksen, Assistant Communications  
Director

## City of Miami

Liza Walton/Coral Way NET  
Eddie Padilla/Downtown NET  
Lt. Freddie Cruz/Miami Police Dept.

## Also Present

Bill Fitch, Maritza Gonzalez/Brickell on the  
River  
Dr. Claudius A. Carnegie/Vue at Brickell  
Michel Colamarino, Joaquin Mayoral  
Parracia, Manuel Marcial, Elisa Robbin,  
David Rothenstein, Dr. and Mrs. R.  
Narwani, Laurent Fraysse, Alejandro  
Sobalvarro, and Jeannie Andino/The  
Metropolitan

Meeting called to order 6:15 p.m.

Blanche Back moved and Larry Imber seconded that the reading of the April Board meeting minutes be waived and the minutes accepted as published. The motion passed unanimously.

## President's Report

**Claudia Bruce** has moved back to Michigan due to family matters. Directors were asked to consider running for an office in February when election of officers comes up. Anyone interested was urged to call Tory or any other officer to ask questions or discuss further. Ernesto Cuesta moved that Tory serve as Acting President until the next election.

**Parks in the Brickell area.** Commission Sarnoff is working on getting a park in the area easily accessible by Brickell residents.

**The Election of City of Miami** – Candidates Forum to be held Thursday, October 8 at Museum of Science. Mayoral, Commission Districts 3 and 4 Candidates invited.

**City of Miami Budget Crisis** — NET Offices might possibly be eliminated or cut back. BHA has found NET offices to be effective in being responsive to neighbors' concerns and issues.

Ernesto Cuesta moved that Communications Director and General Counsel draft a resolution from the BHA Board in support of retention of the NET program and express our opposition to cutting them in the budget. The motion passed unanimously. (Resolution attached.)

## NET Report-Liza Walton and Eddie Padilla

**Trolley** – Stimulus money to City of Miami to be used for Downtown, Mary Brickell Village, Brickell trolley. Coral Way leg is proposed to link MBV at Metrorail and link to Coral Gables Trolley. Going to be a great thing for our city and make points of interest a lot more accessible. Trolleys will be ADA accessible and green.

**Construction at the end of 25<sup>th</sup> Road.** Seawall repair, boat slip construction for Brickell Biscayne. Delays have been due to DERM. Liza has been out there every 2 weeks. Said they are going to be finished in 4 weeks. Brickell Biscayne says the marina will be beautiful but the bureaucracy for the permits was unbelievably difficult. The seawall had been damaged and the boat slips needed to be rebuilt. All residents were impacted by not being allowed to use the greenspace at the end but Liza reports the construction company had the required permit by the City to take over the land for storage. When the greenspace is resodded, it should be better, and trash receptacles are to be added. Trash cans...can the buildings along the street empty them? Rotate the responsibility? Lights are needed because teens come for drugging and drinking. NET office and police are aware and go out when called to the area.

Other items discussed:

- Thanks was proffered to Liza for controlling noise off Hobe Beach.
- Hotel Urbana on 25<sup>th</sup> Road is moving along...aiming for a soft opening by year's end.
- Simpson Park – second phase of opening the Broadway entrance. Audi grant enabled the entrance to be built and the grand opening will be held in Oct.
- Left turn from 26<sup>th</sup> Road to Brickell Avenue heading north. Persistent problem we've been discussing for 4 years.
- Parks and places for children to play - Which buildings have playgrounds? Santa Maria...Brickell Townhouse....The Palace has 60 children now....used to have none.
- Traffic calming going in at Brickell Bay Drive and 14<sup>th</sup> Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Street intersections.

### **Miami Police Freddie Cruz, representing Commander Whitehead**

- Increasing police presence at MBV.
- Traffic initiatives – speeding coming off Brickell Key....working on it.
- Be eyes and ears. We have increased police presence in the past year.
- Noise complaints – Big Fish – no problems from them. Bodash Club across the street is a problem for Brickell on the River. The Police said if complaints come in more than twice, then we shut them down. 786-586-5217

### **1900 Brickell Avenue Resolution -**

The matter is coming before the Code Enforcement Board on September 23. Ernesto Cuesta moved a resolution be passed giving the president and general counsel authority to act on behalf of BHA to urge the city to abide by its own covenants granted years ago to the property owner who has not upheld his obligations. The motion passed unanimously. (Resolution attached.)

### **New Business**

Diane Sephler said we have to address how to enhance the Brickell area and address concerns. President suggested a joint committee with BAA to discuss how things could be improved with a joint effort.

Foreclosure legislation affecting condos is another area to be watchful of.

7:40 p.m. adjournment.