

# **THE 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET CORRIDOR REVITALIZATION WORKSHOP IV “ENVIRONMENT, PARKS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION,”**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2002

South Pointe Elementary School  
1050 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Miami Beach, Florida

## **Report of Proceedings**

### **WELCOME**

The meeting was opened by Elyse Sitomer, Business Liaison, City of Miami Beach, who thanked everyone for coming and thanked South Pointe Elementary for once again donating the use of their facility for the evening. Ms. Sitomer reminded everyone that this was the fourth in a series of five meetings all designed to gain public input on several topics. The input gained will provide the basis for the City's developing a meaningful and effective revitalization plan for the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor.

The meeting was then turned over to the Facilitator, Janice M. Fleischer of the South Florida Regional Planning Council Institute for Community Collaboration.

Participants at the meeting:

Ted Crandall  
Charles and Fryda Ossizs  
Ruth Vlotkofsky  
Tien Kolitz  
Frank Del Vecchio  
Jeanne Carpenter  
Michael Cox  
Barry Zaid  
Bernard Adell  
Michael Plotkin  
Joseph Villari  
Ingrid Zuelhlke  
Peter Marinello  
Alex Bichel  
Shaari and Marty Ergas  
Liz Fernandez  
Patty Henefeld  
Ivette Borrello

### **AGENDA REVIEW, DISCUSSION GUIDELINES**

Ms. Fleischer welcomed everyone and explained the role of the South Florida Regional Planning Council as neutral facilitator for these meetings. She reviewed the meeting Objectives and Agenda for the evening. The Objectives were:

- To demonstrate City of Miami Beach Commitment to the process
- To hear about the current state of environment, parks, infrastructure and transportation.
- To identify issues relating to the four subject areas
- To identify goals for each subject area

A copy of the Objectives and Agenda are attached as Exhibit A.

She directed the participants to their packets that included a map describing the project boundaries (Exhibit B). She explained that each meeting has focused on different elements of the revitalization. This evening the topics would be: Environment, Parks, Infrastructure and Transportation. She noted that at the last meeting several participants attended who had not had the opportunity to attend all the prior meetings and wanted to discuss topics other than what was designated for that night. She explained that meeting time was limited and that any comments relating to subjects other than the four topics to be focused on this evening, could be written down on comment cards or the Idea Parking Lot and would be included in the Report of Proceedings to ensure staff would be considering those comments when designing the final revitalization plan.

The Facilitator outlined the meeting Discussion Guidelines (Exhibit C) and facilitator responsibilities (Exhibit D). She explained that public input would be solicited in a variety of ways. Comment cards which could be turned in at the end of each meeting were made available to everyone; the fax number and email address of the Miami Beach Business Liaison, Elyse Sitomer, were provided; an “Idea Parking Lot” (large flipchart sheets left blank for anyone to write on) was placed in a prominent place for anyone to write down any thoughts they had about the meeting or the process in general. Ms. Fleischer explained that all written comments received, whether a Comment Card, by email, fax or on the Idea Parking Lot would be incorporated into a Report of Proceedings which would be prepared after each meeting and distributed to all attendees as well as being posted on the Council’s Website located at [www.sfrpc.com](http://www.sfrpc.com), (then go to “The Institute”, then “Projects”, then “Miami Beach 5<sup>th</sup> Street Revitalization”). Comments received can be found at the end of this Report.

## **OVERVIEW OF CURRENT STATE OF ENVIRONMENT, PARKS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION**

Ms. Sitomer introduced the next speakers. Kevin Smith, Department of Parks and Recreation, spoke about current and future plans regarding parks; Donald Shockey, Senior Planner, Capital Improvements Program Department, spoke about plans for improving the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Street Redevelopment Area District (Exhibit E); Delfin Molins, FDOT, Community Awareness Program Coordinator, spoke regarding transportation issues (Exhibit F) and Captain Lynda Veski, Miami Beach Police Department, spoke regarding the department’s commitment to the neighborhood. Participants were encouraged to ask questions of all the speakers.

## **DEFINITION AND IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES**

Ms. Fleischer gave participants instructions for an exercise to help them identify the issues they associate with the topics of the evening. She directed them to their packets for definitions of an Issue, a Goal and an Objective (Exhibit G). Each participant was given several sheets of blank notepaper and asked to write one issue per sheet. They were asked to work independently and generate as many issues as they wanted on each topic. As they wrote an issue on a piece of paper, they were told to indicate which topic it related to by placing an “E” (Environment), a “P” (Parks), an “I” (Infrastructure) or a “T” (Transportation) in the top corner of each sheet of paper. The Facilitator and staff collected the sheets and posted them for all to see. The following table indicates the issues generated. (Facilitator’s note: Some items may be action steps rather than Issues; however the

purpose of the meeting is to gain public input, not to worry about the exact following of instructions. City staff will ultimately incorporate action step suggestions in the revitalization plan as appropriate.)

#### ENVIRONMENT

- Police need to enforce noise ordinances, including cars with loud radios at night (Clubs close at 5 a.m.)
- Need to reduce street noise
- Citywide or corridor recycling plan
- Street lights on Meridian Avenue
- More visible “pooper scooping” requirements
- Dog enforcement (poop receptacles)-Corridor and West Avenue
- Homeless in the corridor

#### PARKS

- Lighting for parks-Flamingo and Soccer fields
- South Pointe Park Concert Band Shell and sitting facilities and parking
- Bring back music-Friday Night in the Park at South Pointe
- Beautification helps improve neighborhood pride
- Tree trimming on Jefferson (6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Streets)

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

- Supermarket needed on 5<sup>th</sup> Street
- Shorten crosswalks between streets (too long)
- Water and sewer improvement and drainage
- Narrowing a road is a no-no

#### TRANSPORTATION

- Possible “angled” parking
- One way streets on side roads
- Change design of stop signs so they can be seen from above, cars parked on corners obstruct the view causing a hazard
- Encourage people to ride bikes, do a “Bike Campaign”
- Build bike racks in strategic areas
- Flamingo neighborhood should be reconfigured to discourage through traffic; late night traffic (4am) is making living on streets like Meridian very difficult, cars with booming radios stop at traffic lights and wake up residents
- Flamingo Park streets should not be used for through traffic
- Strictly enforce speed traps after Club hours going west on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and McArthur Causeway
- I put a flyer for Light Rail in my condo lobby, several people stopped me to ask if I was kidding
- 5<sup>th</sup> Street North safety and alley enforce for garbage pick up
- 5<sup>th</sup> Street is difficult for pedestrians to cross (it takes 2 lights)
- More efficient running electric car system
- What is the City going to do when all these apartments come on line and everyone has a car, it will be the mother of all gridlock
- I like MBA option “A” last time about 10 years ago it was voted down

## OTHER

- Stop signs are inconsistent throughout Flamingo Neighborhood
- Raising the height limitation on 5<sup>th</sup> Street is a big no-no

At this point in the meeting, participants took a break and looked over the issues written by others.

## IDENTIFICATION OF GOALS AND PRIORITIZATION

After the break, Participants were asked to “brainstorm” a list of Goals for each area. The Facilitator again displayed the definition of a goal:

*The long-term end toward which programs or activities are directed.*

Potential goals suggested:

### ENVIRONMENT:

1. Eliminate undesirable vagrants
2. Better code enforcement
3. Code enforcement re: noise and radios
4. Under every parking sign place a sign to clean up after pets
5. Noise reduction ordinance between 11pm and 4am, Monday through Friday
6. More police patrol in the alleys
7. Enforcement of parking (residential sticker zones)
8. Building owners maintain facades/ i.e. graffiti and proper signage

### PARKS

1. Public relations and marketing campaign to announce the opening of Flamingo Park
2. Revitalize South Pointe Park and bring back social activities (fireworks/music)

### INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Improve sidewalks and sewage
2. Supermarket needed in the area
3. Tree pruning on Meridian would improve lighting

### TRANSPORTATION

1. Stop signs on every street
2. Motor bikes should not use 5<sup>th</sup> Street as a race track
3. Enforcement of parking (residential sticker zones)
4. Enforcement of alley parking, no one is ticketed now
5. Suggest rapid rail terminus on 5<sup>th</sup> Street/McArthur/Alton Intersection rather than bringing light rail tracks onto city streets
6. Parking in yellow area where stop signs are blocks the view, need better visibility of paint and better enforcement/ make the no parking area longer
7. There is no resident parking between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and Meridian. At this time there is no residential sticker zone there, would like to establish that.
8. Don't allow changes in residential parking to affect commercial zoning
9. Redesign stop signs and add more (can't see stop signs over vans and trees)
10. Need 4 stops between Michigan and 6<sup>th</sup>
11. Authorize residential parking stickers for the CPS-2 zone, excepting 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Washington Avenue, Collins Avenue and Alton Road.

OTHER

1. No satellite dishes on historic buildings / affect on aesthetics
2. Storefront windows shouldn't show the backs of signs/machines, etc.

At the conclusion of this exercise, the meeting was adjourned.

**COMMENTS AND OTHER SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED**

*Alexander Bichel, 5 Farrey Lane:*

West Avenue needs to be included in Parking Zone 2. There are not enough spots on West Avenue for West Avenue residents.

*Anonymous*

There should be more vigorous code enforcement to ensure that trash, peeling paint, and other unsightly features be eliminated. The appearance of this city needs to be improved (more sidewalk cleaning also).