

THE 5TH STREET CORRIDOR REVITALIZATION WORKSHOP II “SCHOOLS, JOB TRAINING, SENIOR/YOUTH SERVICES”

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2001

Miami Beach Convention Center
1901 Convention Center Drive
Miami Beach, Florida

Report of Proceedings

WELCOME

The meeting was opened by, Kevin Crowder, Economic Development Division Director, who thanked everyone for coming. Mr. Crowder explained that this was the second in a series of five meetings all designed to gain public input on several topics. This input would provide the basis for the City's developing a meaningful and effective revitalization plan for the 5th Street Corridor.

Mr. Crowder spoke about the importance of this revitalization project and how excited the City was to be receiving suggestions and direction from its citizens on the development of the project. 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:

Michelle V. Rodriguez
Olga M. Figueras
Robert P. Horton
Ada de Varona
Tien Kolitz
Leslie Coller
Marie Towers
Barbara Holtzman
Waleska Conde
Ivette Borrello
Sal Dominguez
Manny M. Verona
Erika Brigham
Howard Weiner
Alba Garcia
Frank Del Vecchio

AGENDA REVIEW, DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

Ms. Fleischer introduced South Florida Regional Planning Council staff David Dahlstrom, Carlos Gonzalez, and Susan Merritt. Additionally, she introduced Elyse Sitomer, Business Liaison, City of Miami Beach, who has been instrumental in organizing these meetings. The Facilitator explained that the results of each meeting will be considered when the City is finalizing the 5th Street Corridor Plan. She went over the contents of the Participant's packets briefly, which included a map describing the project boundaries (Exhibit A). Each meeting will focus on different elements of the revitalization. This day's topics were Schools, Job Training and Senior/Youth Services. Participants were directed to their packets for a list of the dates and topics for future meetings (Exhibit B).

She then reviewed the meeting Objectives and Agenda for the day. The Objectives were:

- To demonstrate City of Miami Beach Commitment to the process
- To continue to explore how citizens can be kept involved
- To hear about the current state of schools, job training and senior/youth services
- To identify and categorize issues relating to the three subject areas
- To develop and prioritize goals for each subject area
- To develop action plans to meet the goals identified

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

The Facilitator outlined the day's discussion guidelines (Exhibit D) and facilitator responsibilities (Exhibit E). 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 day or the process in general and finally, time was set aside for public comment. 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. Comments received can be found at the end of this Report.

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH COMMITMENT

Mr. Crowder spoke about the importance of the corridor to the City of Miami Beach and the City's commitment to its revitalization and this project.

"HOW DO WE KEEP CITIZENS INVOLVED?" A PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Ms. Fleischer introduced the first exercise to the participants. She directed them to an instruction sheet in their packets entitled "Citizen Involvement Exercise" (Exhibit F). Participants were asked to review the ideas generated at the first meeting on how to keep citizens involved during this public participation period. They were asked to add to this list by stating their ideas and labeling them. The labels were to denote ideas, which were for use to encourage participation in these meetings ("N" for "now") and for use after the revitalization plan is complete ("L" for "later"). Participants received a sheet containing the ideas generated at the first meeting and the labels they had received. See Exhibit G. Each table worked independently and posted the results on the back wall. The following ideas were posted:

IDEA	N/L
Have a 3 hour workshop with all stakeholders	N
Have these be evening meetings for residents in the targeted areas (to be held in their community)	N
Prior to the meeting, the goals of the meetings need to be clearly communicated	N
Meeting notices must show relevance to participants	N
FREE visible parking	N
Notices should be bilingual	N/L
Stakeholders meetings should be held <u>only</u> in targeted area!	N

JOBS TRAINING PRESENTATION

The Facilitator turned the meeting over to Kevin Crowder who introduced the first speaker, Raymond Adrian, Director of Operations, Centro Comunitario Hispano. (1701 Normandy Drive, Miami Beach, Florida, 305-867-0051). Mr. Adrian spoke about the current state of job training in the City.

SENIOR/YOUTH SERVICES AND SCHOOLS PRESENTATION

Mr. Crowder then introduced Maria L. Ruiz, Director, City of Miami Beach Office of Children’s Affairs (305-673-7491), who spoke about Senior/Youth Services and Schools.

At this point in the meeting, the Facilitator announced a short break.

ISSUES EXERCISE

Upon returning from their break, Ms. Fleischer gave participants instructions for an exercise to help them identify the issues they associate with the topics of the day. 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 a “S” (Schools), a “J” (Job Training) or a “Y” (Senior/Youth Services) 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.)

SCHOOLS:

- More funding for schools.
- Training for jobs for seniors should be given out.
- The demographics of the schools have changed.
- Schools should let the city know what their needs are.
- Align school goals with community needs.
- Survey of community needs.
- How can schools work with the community?
- Provide full service programs that are not already implemented at all the schools or simply offer full service programs.
- Fund after school care and activities.
- Smaller classes.
- Higher rents and lack of family activities facilities may drive families with children away. This lowers the enrollment in area schools.
- Increased mobility rate makes it difficult for schools to do a good job of educating youngsters.

- Being sensitive to population needs/integrating into the community.
- Provide municipal/state services (i.e. voter registration, driver's licenses) to make the school a focal point of the community.
- Displacing families with youngsters will create vacant slots, which may be filled by students transferring from other parts of Greater Miami.
- Encourage children to continue education by allowing them to look at current situation in order to assist in their future.
- Keep affordable services and shopping opportunities for families with children. Pursue the development of a supermarket and Target type store in the 5th Street Corridor.

SENIOR/YOUTH SERVICES

- The City should build extra housing for seniors (ages 55 and older).
- Job placement for low-income seniors.
- Create more senior services and a senior center
- Create family oriented centers.
- Create more centers for young adults-teens ages 14-18.
- Neighborhood based "block party" type recreations where no transportation is needed.
- Opportunities for youth to have a safe place to hang out after school hours.
- More activities/also opportunities for youth to serve the community.
- Walk to grocery shopping.
- Sports facilities/basketball/skating/ping pong, and yes, shuffleboard.
- Safe well lit walking areas.
- Senior priority list for portable Section 8 vouchers.
- Advise landlords of program specifically for seniors.
- Affordable housing transportation.
- Develop sites to provide housing and family related services.
- Housing for middle income.
- Housing for elderly/ affordable housing for seniors.
- Access to information for the people who need it.
- Program for people in need of low-income housing especially families-program to make families more agreeable to landlords where Section 8 is involved.
- Develop activities where youths and elderly are involved and enjoy performing such activities with one another.
- Offer programs specifically focused on youths and seniors with centers.
- Provide for safe extra curricular activities for youth and seniors.
- Create a center with door-to-door transportation.
- Give more job/occupational training to seniors.
- Add more housing to alleviate displacement problems.

JOB TRAINING

- The city should inform the citizens of all these programs (job training, senior/youth services) through its magazine "Newsbriefs" and every weekend in the Neighborhood Section of the Miami Herald.
- A great, great need is to publicize this and make it easy for the people that require it to access it
- Training in hospitality field.
- More information on where to go to get training.
- Youth job placement.

- Job readiness training/self-esteem/job opportunities/skill building/non-traditional careers for families/ GED preparation and testing for high school dropouts.
- The speaker offered all the various choices for people in need of jobs. It was all encompassing. It all pertained to Miami Beach.
- Publicize those services already available.
- More and consistent funding.
- Trained counselors to assist unemployed.
- Expand course study in schools.
- Community schools.
- Advertise more!! If not, just advertise such job training or placement programs.
- Analyze pay scales which compare rental expenses and other expenses to amount of income being received.
- Involve local but countywide businesses with schools to fund training.

IDENTIFICATION OF GOALS AND PRIORITIZATION

At the conclusion of the exercise to identify issues related to the three subject areas, Participants were then asked to “brainstorm” a list of Goals for each area. The Facilitator displayed the definition of a goal:
The long-term end toward which programs or activities are directed.

After generating potential goals for each area, Participants were given 3 sets of colored dots, each set containing 5 dots (i.e. 5 red, 5 dark blue, 5 light blue). Each color was to be used to designate the 5 goals the Participant thought was most important in each subject area. Light blue dots were to be used to indicate a Participant’s choices in Senior/Youth Services; dark blue dots were to be used to indicate a Participant’s choices in Job Training; and red dots were to be used to indicate a Participant’s choices in Schools. The purpose of this exercise was to show which five goals were considered the “Priority” goals in each subject area.

The chart below shows the list of goals and the number of dots each goal received:

SENIOR/YOUTH SERVICES

GOAL	DOTS
Create more affordable housing for senior	9
Youth job training and placement	8
Create more family centers	7
Better senior services	7
Create a recreational center for youth	6
Maximize utilization of homeless trust/homeless services and facilities	5
Center to encourage interaction between youth and seniors	4
Government funded housing projects	4
Internet computer access for both youth and seniors	3
Promote volunteerism	3
Information and education for renters	3
Pedestrian friendly neighborhood	3
Homeless shelters	2
Greenspace designed for Senior and Youth	2
Family oriented businesses	2
Technology center	1
Create more open park area (South Pointe)	1
Create an acceptable environment for landlord to accept Section 8 families	0

JOB TRAINING

GOAL	DOTS
Well educated workforce	11
More government job funding	10
More business opportunities for graduating students	9
More public information	8
Create a supermarket or Target type store	8
Technology center	6
Separate funding for high school students in adult education from workforce development	6
Promote volunteerism	5
Promote in-kind services to schools from the business community	5

SCHOOLS

GOALS	DOTS
Create quality after school programs	10
Every school having a health care professional on site	9
Getting parents more involved	8
Full service schools with social/state and municipal services	7
Advertising and promoting the quality of public schools	7
Early childhood education requirements	7
Government and private enterprise partnership	6
Technology center	6
Greater community support for family literacy programs	5
Promote volunteerism	3
Expand the restricted area around schools for single serving alcoholic beverages	2

In addition to the above goals for each area, Participants indicated the following were important general goals for the entire process:

Create a clearinghouse for information on all subject areas.

Provide safe and reliable public transportation

Any proposed buildings should provide easily accessible adequate parking (rooftop) like a Planned Use Community

Participants then broke for lunch, which was provided by the City.

At the conclusion of lunch, all Participants had left due to other obligations. The meeting was adjourned and a decision was made by the Organizers to schedule the next meeting in the evening and for a shorter time period to encourage greater participation.

COMMENTS AND OTHER SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED

Include Health Services as a topic at a future workshop.

Where are the municipal/city governing stakeholders? These are the individuals that should be included in the development of the goals along with citizens.

Ada de Varona, Assistant Principal:

The Fienberg/Fisher Adult Education Center offers ESOL classes, computer education vocational programs, web design, MOUS Prep classes and PC support. We also offer nail and facial classes and EDCA courses (child care). We offer assistance (financial) for those who qualify through our SAVES Program. How can we assist in the revitalization process?

This was an excellent workshop – it was informational and promoted a high level of interaction.

Robert P. Horton:

Excellent initiative. Very much needed to provide a better community for all beach residents for safety and economic development. Better neighborhood identity. Support for education. Workforce developments.

Present less on presentation organization structure and more on addressing concrete issues. Where are the city representatives?

This workshop appears to be more of a research project than an actual initiative to improve the Miami Beach community.

The ideas were very good but I should have a summary of what the 5th Street Revitalization would encompass and how it would be presented.