

THE 5TH STREET CORRIDOR REVITALIZATION WORKSHOP I “PUBLIC SAFETY AND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION”

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2001

Monty's Seafood House
Miami Beach, Florida
8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Report of Proceedings

WELCOME

The meeting was opened by Kevin Crowder, Economic Development Division Director, who thanked everyone for coming as well as thanking Monty's Seafood House for donating the use of their Ballroom for the meeting. Mr. Crowder explained that there would be 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 introduced Miami Beach staff and turned the meeting over to Christina M. Cuervo, Assistant City Manager, who added her thanks and 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. Ms. Cuervo then turned the meeting over to the Facilitator, Janice M. Fleischer, of the South Florida Regional Planning Council Institute for Community Collaboration.

Participants at the meeting:

Dominique Bailler
Jeff Bechdel
Erika Brigham
Frank Del Vecchio
Veronica Duchange
Susan Everhard
Celia Hunt
Laura Jamieson
David Johnson
Dimitrios Koutsodadres

Sandy Moise
Michael O'Hara
Adrain Palma
Jorge Palma
Jennifer Panten
Graham C. Penn
Randall Robinson
David Sacks
Larry Shoeman
Morris Sunshine

Observers at the meeting:

Alejandro Bello
Reuben Caldwell
William Cary
Katia Hirsh
Stacy Kilroy
Tony Martin

Joyce Meyers
George Navarro
Carlos Noriega
Alexandra Rolandelli
Ronnie Singer

AGENDA REVIEW, DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

Ms. Fleischer introduced South Florida Regional Planning Council staff David Dahlstrom and Carlos Gonzalez. She 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 Public Safety and Economic Revitalization. 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 begin to explore how citizens can be kept involved
- To hear about the current state of economic development
- To hear about the current state of public safety
- To identify and categorize issues relating to Economic Revitalization and Public Safety
- To identify the top five Values for each of the two subject areas
- To develop and prioritize goals for each subject area
- To develop an action plan 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 Grant Administrator, Elyse Sitomer, Business Liaison, 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 before adjourning the meeting for public comment. She explained that all written comments received, whether on 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 are attached as Exhibit F.

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH COMMITMENT

Ms. Cuervo introduced Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager, who 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 G). Participants were asked to generate ideas on how to keep citizens involved during this public participation period ("N" for "now") and after the revitalization plan is complete ("L" for "later"). Each table worked independently and posted the results on the back wall. The following ideas were posted:

IDEA	N/L
Public visitor and parking	N/L
Approach utility providers to include meeting notices on bottom of bills	N/L
Provide local businesses, houses of worship, schools with notices of meetings	N/L
Meetings in evenings to encourage resident participation	N/L
Meetings in conjunction with other events	L
Information booth at City events	L
Provide meeting notices, information, surveys at local events and functions	L
Increase lead-time before meeting	N/L
Provide agenda to participants or potential participants before meeting	N/L
Have a final meeting to recap entire process	L
Evenings and weekends are better (6-8pm evenings, 10am-1pm Saturday)	N
Reduce duration and number of meetings	N
More advertising, better noticing	N
Invitation should include everybody	N
Announce in SPAB and other committee meetings and networks including consultants already on board with the City	N
Televising and advertising in the printed media	N
Include condo association lists and RDA list	N
Identify groups that will impact	N
Appropriate terminology and nature of meeting topics	N
End at 11am or noon	N
Maintaining goals	L
Incentives- Grants, Waivers (non economic)	L
Citizens requesting permits	L
Include big condos and small home owners	N/L
Participation before plan is finalized so people feel a part of the plan	N
Have attendees at this meeting bring a guest to the next meeting	N

ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION PRESENTATION

The Facilitator turned the meeting over to Kevin Crowder for a presentation on Economic Revitalization and the Economic Development Department of the City.

Mr. Crowder stated that this was an opportunity for diversification in the corridor. At the conclusion of his presentation, participants were given the opportunity to ask him questions.

The questions asked were:

“How does the City work with the property owner to enable or maximize what incentives are available?”

“Is there a time limit on this plan? 5/10 years?”

FIRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

Mr. Crowder introduced Floyd Jordan, Fire Chief, who spoke about the Department. Mr. Jordan shared some statistics with the participants (Exhibit H) and responded to questions from participants. One participant asked if the project would impact negatively on the Fire Department resources to which the Chief said no.

Other questions:

“What steps have been taken to address school fire safety issues?”

PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE

Bob Middaugh, Assistant City Manager, gave a presentation on the Public Safety Task Force. Mr. Middaugh was asked if there was a rumor hotline in place and how the City is responding to the threat of anthrax and other issues.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

Donald De Lucca, Chief of Police, spoke to the participants about the police department. Several of Chief De Lucca's staff attended the meeting. In addition to updating the participants about the department, Chief De Lucca referred them to staff members for the following topics:

For long-term solutions regarding neighborhoods: Alex Bello, 305-673-7776 x5037

For advice on how to make your business place safer: Paul Lupien, 305-673-7813

Homeless Coordinator: Ed Yaro, 305-673-7933

When asked if this project would tax the current police resources, the Chief said no.

The Chief was also asked to explain the neighborhood watch program and what was being done about vandalism.

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 Public Safety and Economic Revitalization. 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 "P" (public safety) or an "E" (economic revitalization) in the top corner of each sheet of paper. The Facilitator and staff collected the sheets and posted them for all to see. After the next exercise on Values, and before breaking for lunch, participants were instructed to read all those items posted and place them in groupings. The following table indicates the issues generated and how they were grouped together. (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.)

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Group 1:

Remove flyover

Put a rotary at 5th Street

Longer dedicated right turn lane going east off the causeway

Group 2:

Pedestrian walkway under 5th Street Causeway with very good lighting

Install pedestrian crossing across Alton road and 6th Street and have school crossing guard

Alter Alton Road so that you can turn left into Miami Beach Marine's north end heading north on Alton Rd.

Add more streetlights to heavily frequented homeless areas.

Pedestrian crossing markings

Pedestrian scale lighting

Group 3:

Drug buying

Careless driving

Underage drinking

Highly efficient emergency evacuation routes, publicly advertised procedures and “hardened” safe structures on Miami Beach.

Group 4:

Homelessness

Group 5:

Lack of parking

Group 6:

Active uses on 5th Street

Traffic calming

ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

Group 1:

Building renovation

Promotion of light commercial development

Group 2:

Lack of parking

Lack of signage visibility

Group 3:

Logical “linkages” throughout the City

Total commitment to first quality preservation/restoration as well as new design throughout city

High attention to neighborhood planning, quality of life, especially safe pedestrian sideways and cross overs.

First quality attention to all city parks and beaches, especially Lummus, Flamingo, and Ocean Terrace area beaches and parks.

Constant review of where the city is going, who are its visitors and new residents and carefully planned responses to changing times.

Group 4:

5th Street landscaping

Create a boulevard

Group 5:

Lack of affordable housing creates a decrease in local workforce.

Homelessness

Group 6:

Lack of marketing

Facilitate loans and incentives for residents’ businesses

Make it easier for merchants to obtain sign permits.

Condition of buildings in 400-700 blocks.

Public works (sewage smell)

Group 7:

Offer incentives for people that work on the Beach to visit the Beach on weekends, i.e. free parking.

Adult education

Encourage diversity of cultural markets

Establish zoning restrictions around public schools to prohibit porno shops such as "Pleasure Emporium" on 5th Street to open within a block or two of public elementary and early child care centers.

Create Miami Beach volunteer program that involves local businesses.

Create website/brochure where local businesses can advertise discounts for Miami Beach employees

Done as a free service

Created by volunteers

Group 8:

Rotary at 5th Street

Remove the flyover

Group 9:

Supermarket

Office Depot

Target

Publix and other larger block commercial and parking at block between Alton Rd. and Lenox Ave. on north side of 5th Street.

Group 10:

Creation of entity similar to Lincoln Road Merchants Association

Comprehensive evaluation of appropriate locations for commercial retail, i.e. what class of commercial?

Where? Why?

Group 11:

Making 5th street more pedestrian friendly

Sidewalk enhancement

Could link(?) into Baywalk

Repave and landscape 8th and 3rd Streets between Alton Road and Collins. Very bad condition, lack of sidewalks, etc.

IDENTIFICATION OF VALUES

At the conclusion of the exercise to generate Issues, the participants were directed to an insert in their packets containing the definition of a value: "A principle, standard, or quality considered worthwhile or desirable." Participants were asked to brainstorm what values were important to them in each of the two subject areas. After listing all values suggested, the participants were given 10 dots (5 for each topic) to be placed on each of the five values they considered the most important in each topic area. The values generated and the number of dots they received are shown below:

ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION:

VALUE	DOTS
Uniqueness	7
Neighborhood market places	7
Pedestrian focus safety and access	7
Affordability	6
Effective citywide signage	4
Historic preservation	4
Stormwater drainage/updated infrastructure	3
Parks/open space	3
High quality public education	3
Mobility and parking	3
Cultural diversity	2
Tree canopy	2
Maximize the natural environment	2
Widespread beautification	1
Business to business incentives	1
Tropical landscaping	0
Mixed use	0
Community	0
Environmental awareness	0

PUBLIC SAFETY

VALUE	DOTS
Cleanliness	7
Pedestrian focus	7
Community	6
Tree canopy	6
Partnerships	6
Children's activities	5
Parking	5
Mobility	4
Safe public schools	2
Effective signage (citywide)	2
Stormwater drainage/updated infrastructure	2
Affordability	2
Evacuation routes and plans	1

Although the intent was to designate the top five values for each topic, in the area of Economic Revitalization participants chose to add a sixth rather than lose it as a value. The values selected were:

TOP VALUES IN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

- Uniqueness
- Pedestrian focus (safety and access)
- Neighborhood marketplaces
- Affordability
- Effective citywide signage
- Historical preservation

TOP VALUES IN PUBLIC SAFETY

- Cleanliness
- Pedestrian focus
- Partnerships
- Tree canopy
- Community

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

During the lunch break, the Facilitator, SFRPC and City staff discussed the next sessions of the day. Ms. Fleischer indicated that the “Values” that had been decided upon by the participants could be stated as Goals. A “Goal” is defined by the Department of Community Affairs as: “The long term end toward which programs or activities are directed”. She suggested that the separate identification of Goals as indicated in the Agenda be eliminated and that participants be allowed to return from lunch and immediately begin to develop action steps (Objectives) for each of the top Value/Goals previously identified in the two topic categories, Public Safety and Economic Revitalization. This suggestion was agreed to by City Conveners and the Agenda was modified.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTION STEPS

Upon their return from lunch, participants were given the definition of an “Objective”- “A specific, measurable, intermediate end that is achievable and marks progress toward accomplishing the Goal.” They were given instructions (Exhibit I) for the next exercise in which they would work in two small groups (one for each topic) to delineate the objectives of each Goal in a logical sequence and then report back to the group as a whole. The two small groups were given 2.5 hours to complete this task at the end of which, they shared their results with one another.

The results of the Objectives/Action Steps exercise are outlined in the tables which follow.

PUBLIC SAFETY

GOAL: CLEANLINESS

What should be done, how?	By whom?	By when?	Signs of progress
More public bathrooms	Parks & Rec.		
Cleanliness of public bathrooms	Parks & Rec.		
Clean up Alleys -garbage and unattended homeless belongings	Sanitation Contractors Code changes		
Street sweeping	City of Miami Beach		
Public bathroom attendants	Parks & Rec.		

GOAL: PEDESTRIAN FOCUS

What should be done, how?	By whom?	By when?	Signs of progress
Proper maintenance of sidewalks	Dept. of Public works, City		
Visible crosswalks for pedestrians with signs for drivers	Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)		
Safety of pedestrian areas	Miami Beach Police Dept.		
Bike lanes on major routes	FDOT		
Drop off/pick up issues at South Pointe	Metro Dade		
Bump outs/ street corners	Public works, City		
Alternate sidewalks during construction	City of Miami Beach		
Street lights	City and County		
Traffic lights with sensors	Miami Dade County		

GOAL: PARTNERSHIPS

What should be done, how?	By whom?	By when?	Signs of progress
Identify partners -Metro Dade Police -School Board -Community Action Agencies -Partnership for Public Safety -Parks and Recreation -Condominium Associations -South Pointe -Fienberg Fisher Schools -FDOT -Latin and Miami Beach Chambers of Commerce -Hospitals	City		

GOAL: TREE CANOPY (Changing the character)

What should be done, how?	By whom?	By when?	Signs of progress
"Welcome to Miami Beach" sign on 5 th Street	City		
Flower beds and palm trees down 5 th	Parks and Landscape		
Speed signs entering Beach at MacArthur Cswy	FDOT		
Awnings down 5 th	Property owners		
Meter parking down 5 th	Planning and Zoning/Parking		

GOAL: COMMUNITY

What should be done, how?	By whom?	By when?	Signs of progress
Safety	Police Dept Fire Dept. Code enforcement Public Safety Task Force		
Playground with weekend access	Parks & Rec Identify city property		
Facility gathering place	City Residents		
6 th Street Community Center	City		
Postal Center below 13 th Street	USPS		

ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

GOAL: EFFECTIVE CITYWIDE SIGNAGE

What should be done, how?	By whom?	By when?	Signs of progress
Identify sites and assets in and out of corridor	City Residents FDOT	w/in one year	You will see the signs
Identify paths of transportation	City FDOT	w/in 6 months (in conjunction with above)	You will see signage
Welcome signage	City Residents	w/in one year	You will see it
Finish and review signage study and implement	City Consultants	w/in 6 months	Meet, review and finalize plan
Incorporate 5 th Street need in the citywide plan	City	w/in one year	Review, see the plan

GOAL: HISTORIC PRESERVATION

What should be done, how?	By whom?	By when?	Signs of progress
Encourage adaptive reuse	Planners Developers City, County State tax breaks or other advantages	Now and ongoing	When buildings are rehabilitated
Incentivize preservation	City historic preservation dept. City, County, State tax breaks Clarify advantages	Now and ongoing	When buildings are restored
Parking incentives	City parking Dept. City Design review boards	Now and ongoing	Any new parking structures to be fronted with shops or other pedestrian friendly treatment
Pedestrian friendly new development	Planner City Design Review Miami Design Preservation League Residents Landscape designers FDOT	Now and ongoing	With plans being discussed
Promote and inform the historic assets			

GOAL: AFFORDABILITY

What should be done, how?	By whom?	By when?	Signs of progress
Design and Zoning Incentives Residential and commercial	City Planning Dept. County Developers Housing Authority	w/in one year	See changes in code requirements, see increase in development and /or rehabilitation
Parking requirements or change of use (residential and commercial)	City Planning Dept. Developers Residents	w/in one year	See above
Affordable housing development -rental, homeownership, scattered sites	Housing Authority City County Developers Non-Profits	w/in 3 years	See increase in stock of affordable housing- rental and homeownership
Expedited permitting and tax incentives (residential and commercial)	City County State Developers Housing advocates Residents	w/in one year	See increase in stock of affordable housing See increase in permitting See increase in commercial development

GOAL: PEDESTRIAN FOCUS (Safety and Access)

What should be done, how?	By whom?	By when?	Signs of progress
Explore pedestrian only-certain times on 6 th Street and side streets	Residents City planning	6 months	Consultation
Pedestrian crossovers, pavers, bulbouts (?), light timing for crossing	Residents City planning	3 months	
North traffic via Alton instead of Washington		3 months	
Eliminate flyover	FDOT City Planning Residents	3 years	
Shade trees	City	6 months	
Ambient pedestrian lighting	City	1 year	
Place parking on 5th Street	City parking dept.	1 year	

GOAL: UNIQUENESS/NEIGHBORHOOD MARKETPLACES

What should be done, how?	By whom?	By when?	Signs of progress
Explore traffic circles on 5 th Street	FDOT City Residents	w/in 6 months	Review, consultation, meetings, approval, denial
Redesign circulation-fast-slow lane Retail access lane Service lane concept	See above	w/in one year to run concurrent with above	See above
Sidewalk cafes	City Planning Neighborhoods Businesses Developers	Immediately	See the cafes
Cluster plan furniture (?)	Economic Development Dept.	w/in one year	Review, consultation, meetings
Activity center on Potamkin site			
Neighborhood services on side streets and 6 th Street	Small store owners	6 months	New openings

PUBLIC COMMENT

Before adjourning for the day, Mr. Crowder announced the opportunity for anyone to address the group during a public comment period. No one expressed a desire to speak.

CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT

Kevin Crowder ended the meeting with some closing thoughts and thanked everyone for attending. Ms. Fleischer reminded participants to complete their evaluations and turn them in before they left.

The meeting was then adjourned.

IDEA PARKING LOT

The 5th Street Corridor should not be viewed as a “corridor” only.