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**MAYOR'S AD HOC BLUE RIBBON 41<sup>ST</sup> STREET COMMITTEE HYBRID MEETING**

Thursday, June 8, 2023 - 5:00 p.m.

First Horizon Bank 400 Arthur Godfrey Rd, Ste 210, Miami Beach, FL 33140

**Zoom Link:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88283591307?pwd=NzRHMHJtRGtLY01GOVFtWjZMko3dz09>  
Passcode: 867269

**Minutes**

**Committee Members:**

Yechiel Ciment, Chair (P)  
Bonnie Crabtree, Vice Chair (P)  
Jerri Hertzberg Bassuk (A)  
Betty Behar (P)  
Michael Burnstine (P)  
Seth Gadinsky (P)  
Eric Hankin (P)  
Robin Jacobs (P)  
Marcella Novela (P)  
Jeremy Wachtel (P)

P = Present; A = Absent, E = Excused

**Commission/City Staff/Consultants:**

Commissioner Steven Meiner  
Robert Novo, Aide to Commissioner Steven Meiner  
Diana Fontani Martinez, Redevelopment Specialist/Committee Liaison  
Herman Fung, Project Manager for Office of Capital Improvement Projects  
Gabriella Gonzalez, Neighborhood Affairs Coordinator  
Jeet Singh, Brooks + Scarpa consultant  
Mason Millner, Brooks + Scarpa consultant

**Community Attendance:**

Andres Asion  
Tanya Katzoff Bhatt  
Edgar Ganner  
Michael Goldberg  
Adrian Gonzalez

Yechiel Ciment opened the meeting at 5:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. APRIL MINUTES** - Motion to approve made by Robin Jacobs seconded by Bonnie Crabtree. Motion passes unanimously.

## **2. CITY UPDATES**

- A. 41<sup>st</sup> Street Corridor Streetscape Project - Office of Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) –** Herman Fung introduced the Brooks + Scarpa team and stated that Brooks + Scarpa have submitted thirty percent (30%) of phase design. Herman stated that they have shared the plans with other city departments such as Public Works, Transportation, Information Technology, Urban Forestry, Police and Fire. The following questions/comments were made by the Committee during the consultant’s presentation:
- 1) Concerns that the project does not include drainage work. CIP will investigate this issue with Public Works.
  - 2) Does this project include traffic synchronization? CIP will investigate this issue with Transportation.
  - 3) It was suggested that construction work be done in the late evening/early morning hours. CIP has hired a construction traffic consultant and they are looking into this possibility.
  - 4) Concerns about having the construction work done during high peak season.
  - 5) How many bus stops are there currently on 41<sup>st</sup> Street? 3 bus stops are existing, but the consultant will double check and report back.
  - 6) Ensure the consultant addresses new bus stop locations.
  - 7) In the past, the Committee has stressed the importance of trying to keep all the Royal Palm trees along 41<sup>st</sup> Street but now if necessary, ok to remove to incorporate fixed seating and enhanced enlarged sidewalk.
  - 8) Supports the colored furniture.

Herman Fung informed the Committee that the 41<sup>st</sup> Street Corridor Streetscape project will go before the Design Review Board in July. He would like for the Committee to attend the meeting. Diana Fontani to send Zoom link to the Committee.

- B. Status of 41st Street Request for Letters of Interest (RFLI) for Mixed - Use Development on City-Owned Parking Lots - Economic Development –** Diana informed the Committee that the RFLI deadline is set for June 9 at 3pm. The Committee requested to have the letters sent to them before the July meeting.

- C. Status of 41st Street Business Improvement District (BID) - Economic Development -** Diana Fontani informed the Committee that the City Clerk sent out the ballots in early June and they will be tracking the ballots. There is a website link that tracks the status of the received ballots and Diana will send the link to the Committee.

**4. CHAIR UPDATE** - Yechiel stated that he would like the Parking Department to attend the next meeting to discuss parking on 41<sup>st</sup> Street along the choke points on the side streets.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT –**

- Andres Asion recommended that the consultant locate the trash bins away from the seating area on 41<sup>st</sup> Street. He also suggested that the consultant visit Miracle Mile in Coral Gables as their crosswalks are beautifully, aesthetically finished and that the City should look into artificial

intelligence for traffic signalization on 41<sup>st</sup> Street.

- Edgar Ganner stated that he would like to see bicycle lanes on 41<sup>st</sup> Street. He is also concerned about big development on 41<sup>st</sup> Street.
- Michael Goldberg stated that 41<sup>st</sup> Street has not changed in 45 years. He states that something needs to be done to change 41<sup>st</sup> Street and that there is nothing wrong with development if it is controlled and responsible. He stated that the parking lots around 41<sup>st</sup> Street are usually vacant.
- Adrian Gonzalez stated that the construction project should be done only one time and we should learn from other projects that have been done in the past.
- Commissioner Steven Meiner stated that he strongly expressed the concern of the Committee regarding traffic impact during the construction to City Administration.
- Tanya Katzoff Bhatt stated that she encourages the consultant to investigate cement that is resilient and able to absorb water better. She also stated that she would like the project to have trash cans that are not easily accessible to the homeless.

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:10 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Thursday, July 13, 2023