

date February 22, 2006

to Coconut Grove Waterfront Master Plan Project Team

cc Mark Dawson

from Lynn Hoffman

project name Coconut Grove Waterfront Master Plan

project # 44394.00

subject Summary of Meeting with Coconut Grove Community

FEBRUARY 16, 2006 – 6 PM

Issues

- Meeting for the West Side community needs to be tied into an existing meeting of the Village West Home Owners Association, which meet the 4th Monday of each month
- Bike riding in Miami is extremely dangerous, especially along Bayshore
- It is too expensive to use Peacock Park for events (\$5000 per night plus insurance)
- Need to put as much time and effort with the community into phase 2 and 3 as you have in phase 1
- Do not plan major community input sessions for the Master Plan during July and August because you will not get a good turnout
- Until all other Miami parks are self-sustaining, this park should not have to be either
- New retail will mean more competition; need to be aware of what is happening elsewhere
- Culture is already happening on the waterfront and in the Grove, just need to enhance it
- 27th Avenue is a highrise canyon, need to make sure the area keeps its village feel
- There haven't been any meetings in the North Grove
- The north grove doesn't have any parks so they use Kennedy Park and Peacock Park
- Oppose having to have parks be economically viable; elsewhere in Miami, the City is pushing to have a tennis center but the people don't want it
- Need to enforce the laws regarding vagrancy and littering
- The Cloisters Development took out the mangroves and built into the water, why can't we?
- Coral Reef Yacht Club uses the islands every weekend but there is nothing to do there

Goals

- Natural amphitheater for Shakespeare in the Park-type productions, free, could hold 450-800 people for shows; see Detroit theater, American Stage in St. Petersburg, Palm Beach for examples
- Need synergy between Center Grove and Waterfront, connect behind St. Stephens, put stage near St. Stephens in Peacock Park

- Plan for Commodore Trail completion in 2011 needs to be moved up; need coordination with Waterfront Plan and Miami 21 Parks Plan
- Need friendly identified ways to get to the waterfront
 - Historic Charles Avenue on the south side
 - 37th Avenue on north side
 - 32nd/Macdonald
- Amphitheater should be the only construction that takes place in Peacock Park
- Tear down the Expo Center and make it a park
- Make the waterfront very family oriented, consider the youth, want to be able to walk along the bay, ride bikes
- As part of Commodore Trail, make Bayshore one lane in each direction with the bike path
- More parking for people using the parks
- Need more dockage, should not designate and hold for transients only
- Take down the mangroves at Peacock Park, all they do is collect trash
- Should implement proposal from Shake-A-Leg for the Spoil Islands
- Want land access (land bridge) out to the Spoil Island closest to shore near the Sailing Club
- Boating center and command center for both inside and outside the Spoil Islands
- Need activities for people who don't have boats
- Stiltsville Trust wants a northern presence for the Biscayne National Park to educate people about the park; a water taxi would be a way to get the metropolitan people out to the national park
- Don't want a land bridge, want a beach
- Want to be able to rent kayaks and row boats
- Build a site tower on the island near the end of the marina for security and law enforcement, to watch over the moorings and the islands
- Park needs to be accessible to ALL people, don't want people to have to pay to use it
- Want concessions where you can rent canoes, kayaks, get an ice cream, etc.
- Want the mangroves gone, at Matteson Hammock the mangroves are not on the windward side so they do not collect trash
- Take out the mangroves and replace them on the Spoil Islands
- Want mangroves gone, they are a nesting site for mosquitoes
- Want Coconut Grove residents to get a discounted rate or free for uses at the waterfront, so the City has not sold them out completely
- Protect the mangroves
- Want a beach like at Matteson Hammock
- Want a natural look, wooden walks through the trees like at Long Key Park, wood huts for overnight sleeping
- Gate off entrances to Coconut Grove and charge \$1 to enter (most people disagreed with this statement and believe it should be open to the public)
- Open to the public similar to beaches on Lake Michigan in Chicago

Facts

- Commodore Trail is officially designated as a multi-use trail with a 2003 bond issue for improvements
- West Village uses Peacock Park and Kennedy Park; Goombay Festival used Peacock Park because Grand Avenue was under construction
- Planning is underway for the resurfacing of Bayshore

- Women's Club meets the first Thursday of every month at 11:30 am, Arva Parks is the next speaker, contact Charity or Maggie at 305.774.1577
- Boca Chita has facilities for cooking, picnics, wilderness camping
- Youth sailing at the Coral Reef Yacht Club is open to anyone

Actions

- In process of getting Peacock Park Charrette information from Thorne Grafton
- Find a copy of the Waterfront Plan posted on Dinnerkey.com (we have not been able to find it posted, please forward to us via the City)
- Meet with the Women's Club of Coconut Grove
- Look into removing mangroves if mitigation is used – Robert Weinreb