



MIAMI BEACH

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

FROM: Jerry Libbin, Commissioner JL/sm

DATE: September 24, 2008

SUBJECT: Agenda item for October 7, 2008 Commission meeting

Please place on the October 7, 2008 Commission agenda a referral item to Finance to discuss the construction of the 23rd Street parking garage in the Collins Park neighborhood. See attached letter from Ray Breslin dated June 30, 2008.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Enid Rodriguez or Sandra Meyer in my office.

JL/sm

Attachments

2008 SEP 24 11:05 AM
 2008 SEP 24 12:05 PM
 2008 SEP 24 1:05 PM

Agenda Item C4B
 Date 10-7-08



June 30, 2008

To: City Manager Jorge Gonzalez and Staff
1700 Convention Center Drive
Miami Beach, FL 33139

From: Collins Park Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors

Dear Mr. Gonzalez,

On June 17th, the CPNA Board of Directors voted unanimously to send you our position on the long anticipated parking garage to be built on 23rd Street. Five years ago when the Miami City Ballet building was completed, we were told a parking garage would be built behind it, but it hasn't happened. In fact, we were informed by your office that a breakdown in negotiations has occurred between the City and Ron Bloomberg, the developer who owns half the lot where the parking garage was to be built. Our first preference is that efforts be redoubled for this project, but if it is truly at an impasse, we urge you to proceed with one of the following alternatives.

Our second choice is to revisit the plan proposed a year ago, for a garage on both sides of Liberty Avenue, on city-owned land behind the Library and the eastern half of the Ballet. Then there is no partnership, no negotiation, just design and build. If the design must close Liberty Avenue to vehicular traffic, we would support this under the following conditions:

- 1) Pedestrian and bicycle traffic would be able to get through unencumbered.
- 2) The design would include a plaza between the Ballet and the Library, fronting the park, that would be used as public space and incorporate modestly-priced restaurant service.
- 3) The garage would include storefront space utilizing CANDO guidelines to create artist studio and gallery space that could be the true launch of CANDO from dream to reality, a significant win for our cultural community.

Our third choice would be a garage in partnership with The Gansevoort Hotel on their parking lot between Liberty Avenue and Collins Avenue, north of 23rd Street.

The CPNA Board would support any of these three options, but the most important thing is that we get a garage built. This issue is severely affecting the vitality of our neighborhood! The RDA money is there, so let's move forward, NOW is already late for this project. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ray Breslin, President, for the Board

C: Mayor Bower and Commissioners