



MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: City Manager Jorge M. Gonzalez

DATE: January 28, 2009 *for JMG*

SUBJECT: **REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND CITYWIDE PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2009.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Presentation of conceptual designs for the Wing at the east end of Lincoln Road.**

ACTION

Commissioner Deede Weithorn made the motion to create a new design for the area and spend roughly around fifty thousand dollars.

Ms. Cox presented the item.

Commissioner Victor Diaz asked if he could have a brief background on the issue. Chairman Saul Gross went on to explain that this item was presented to the Finance and Citywide Projects Committee on November 18, 2008, at that time various designs were considered and Ms. Cox was asked to come back and provide the pricing for the designs presented.

Ms. Cox went on to explain her original design which included landscaping improvements for the Wing and provided a brief background on the preexisting Morris Lapidus design. The first proposal focused on minor modifications making the vegetation more robust, removing the glass pieces for transparency and turning the fountain into a lily pond. The second proposal included a more programmed space that incorporated a seat wall next to the lily pond with larger plants. The third proposal added a green vegetated wall. The final proposal included the green vegetated wall, painted the shade canopy in white, and added two big shade trees.

Commissioner Victor Diaz stated he was a long term critic of the Wing but it should be noted that the structure had an original cost of \$250,000 and that that the cost should be taken into consideration.

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Chairman Saul Gross commented on the green wall and advised that he would like to see that feature as part of the new design.

David Kelsey from the South Beach Hotel and Restaurant Association spoke and commented that he believed the design was interesting but thought it would end up being used by the homeless for shelter. He believes we should demolish the structure and create a visitors center.

Neisen Kasdin commented on the fact that he thought the Wing was a failure and the Committee should reconsider the original design by Morris Lapidus.

Commissioner Victor Diaz concurred and stated that he would like to see the original Lapidus design.

Conversation ensued and Chairman Saul Gross suggested that in the interim the Committee should give staff guidance.

Commissioner Deede Weithorn made the motion to create a new design for the area and spend roughly around fifty thousand dollars in the interim.

2. Discussion Regarding Towing Permit Renewal Options.

ACTION

The Committee recommended renewing the contract on a month to month basis up to six months. They also had a list of six suggestions to be implemented as soon as possible.

They recommended that posted on the tow vehicles:

- **That the drop fees may be waived as long as the person can prove that they are the registered owner of the vehicle ;**
- **That there is a citizen bill of rights which is available from the driver as well as at the storage location, in both English and Spanish, and**
- **“How is my driving” bumper stickers.**

They recommended that at the storage facility:

- **No PA systems be used and other noise mitigation improvements be implemented ;**
- **Require off-duty police officers on Friday and Saturday and all major events, and**
- **A Traffic mitigation program be put in place to be approved by the City Manager or his designee.**

Parking Director Saul Frances presented the Towing Permit Renewal Options and gave a brief summary.

City Manager Jorge Gonzalez stated that the main issue is that the contract expires in February 28, 2009. He also stated that he has spoken to both of the towing companies and had asked them for comments as it relates to storing cars off City limits. The Manager advised that while one towing company felt more comfortable towing off the beach the other towing company did not.

Jorge Rodriguez from Beach Towing says that logistically it is better to leave the Miami Beach storage in place.

Conversation ensued and various citizens spoke about the noise generated by moving the cars with forklifts within the yard.

Ralph Andrade from Beach Towing says that at times it is more practical to move cars within the lot with a forklift.

Various residents voiced their complaints about the noise generated from car alarms within the yard where the cars are being stored. They also complained about the PA system within the yard and the fact that it could be heard in their apartments. The towing company advised that it would take measures to remove the PA system and try to mitigate the noise.

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- 3. The Issue Of Late Payments To the City for Water, Sewer And Storm water Bills As A Result Of Mortgage Foreclosures, for A Study And Development Of Acceptable Payment Plans To Assist Condo Associations Adversely Affected.**

ACTION

Item deferred at the request of Commissioner Jerry Libbin.

JMG/PDW/rs/ns