

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 273-2004



To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: October 19, 2004

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jorge M. Gonzalez".

Subject: STATUS REPORT ON THE INDIAN CREEK GREENWAY PROJECT

The Indian Creek Greenway project was initiated in 1998 by interested residents and the City Commission. A multi year planning process was undertaken that culminated in a concept plan for the Greenway in mid 2001. The project was for a 2.5 mile greenway, or linear park, along the eastern shore of Indian Creek, from 21st Street to 53rd Street.

The Greenway project was intended to provide for a corridor that would develop the natural aesthetic assets of the Indian Creek shoreline as well as to provide opportunities for recreation, environmental education and pedestrian/non-motorized transportation. The concept plan calls for three gateways to the corridor located at the southern entry point at 21st Street, at a midpoint at 41st Street and at the northern entry point at 53rd Street. The gateways are intended to serve as highlighted activity areas. The concept also anticipates the development of five nodes or focal points/points of special interest that would also receive extra attention. The nodes are located at Lake Pancoast (24th Street to 26th Street), Seville Plaza (29th Street), Mangrove Point (35th Street), Pine tree Park overlook, and Indian Beach Park (46th Street).

The Greenway is intended to serve as an integral part of an overall development plan that links the North Beach Recreational Corridor (53rd Street to 87th Street) and the Collins Canal Greenway (a one mile corridor from the Collins Park area to the bay adjacent to the Collins Canal). While progress on the North Beach Recreational Corridor and the Collins Canal is being made and funding provided, the lack of funding for the Greenway has hampered progress.

In order to help advance the Greenway project, a pilot project was defined as Phase 1, from 24th Street to the 29th Street pedestrian bridge.

On July 7, 2004 the City Commission adopted Resolution Number 2004-25602, approving Amendment Number 1 to the contract with EDAW for the Oceanfront Neighborhood, which provides additional services for Phase I of the Indian Creek Greenway project.

This initial phase of the project consists of a feasibility study and conceptual design of the Indian Creek Greenway, from approximately 24th Street to the 29th Street pedestrian bridge. The completion date for this phase of the project is September 1, 2005.

As part of the scope, the consultant will meet with numerous regulatory agencies, including the Florida Department of Transportation, the South Florida Water Management District,

the Department of Environmental Protection and others, to determine the impact of these agencies' requirements on the proposed Indian Creek Greenway. Other portions of the scope include a survey of the project area above and below the water line, a study of existing marine life which may impact permit requirements, and the development of conceptual but feasible design options. This level of study and analysis is necessary to support the project because the amount of existing land in numerous places is too narrow to physically construct the Greenway. To implement the vision for this project, it will be necessary to build certain portions into the Indian Creek Waterway.

The City issued a partial Notice to Proceed to the consultant on August 12, 2004 for the hydrographic and marine surveys. The partial notice to proceed was issued in advance of the rest of the scope to ensure that marine surveys would be performed within the growing season for certain aquatic plants. As of the date of this memo, the field work for both surveys has been completed, and the consultant is preparing survey deliverables.

On October 15, 2004 the City issued a full notice to proceed for the entire scope of the feasibility study. Upcoming tasks include a topographic survey of the area, production of a base map, geotechnical tests, and a thorough review of codes and regulations applicable to the design. Once these tasks are complete, the consultant will schedule meetings with each regulatory agency to discuss the project in detail.

A key to completing this and future sections of the Greenway is the acquisition of rights-of-way in the corridor. Most of the necessary rights-of-way are held by private parties or other government agencies, most notably the Florida Department of Transportation. A resident involved in the initial planning and development of the concept plan has offered to assist the City in obtaining necessary right-of-way for the Greenway project. Mr. Leonard Wien has volunteered to lead the right-of-way acquisition process. Using residents as the first point of contact for the right-of-way acquisition process should be well received within the community.

Mr. Wien may draw upon other citizens to assist in the right-of-way process and will be assisted by an Administration representative and the City legal Department. After an initial citizen contact is made and information provided to the property owner, the actual property transfer (easement or quit claim deed) will be negotiated and executed by the administrative and legal representatives.

The right-of-way acquisition process is set to commence on a parallel track with the design for Phase 1.

JMG/ROM/TH/mb

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c: Leonard Wien

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