



MEMORANDUM
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RCA

Agenda Item No. 6(A)

TO: Honorable Javier D. Souto and Members
of the Recreation and Cultural Affairs
Committee

DATE: February 11, 2008

FROM: Kay M. Sullivan
Director, Clerk of the Board, Division

SUBJECT: Approval of Commission
Committee Minutes

The Clerk of the Board Division is submitting the following Clerk's Summary of Minutes for approval by the Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee:

December 10, 2007

Attachment
KMS/jm



CLERK'S SUMMARY OF Meeting Minutes

Recreation & Cultural Affairs Committee

Javier D. Souto (10) Chair; Dennis C. Moss (9) Vice Chair; Commissioners Audrey M. Edmonson (3), Barbara J. Jordan (1), Katy Sorenson (8), and Dorrin D. Rolle (2)

Monday, December 10, 2007

2:00 PM

COMMISSION CHAMBERS

Members Present: Audrey M. Edmonson, Barbara J. Jordan, Dennis C. Moss, Dorrin Rolle, Katy Sorenson.

Members Absent: None.

Members Late: Javier D. Souto.

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent County Business: None.

1 MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Report: *Zorana Gainer, Commission Reporter*
305-375-3570

1A INVOCATION

1B PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1C ROLL CALL

Report: *The following staff members were present:*

*~Assistant County Manager Alex Munoz
~Assistant County Attorney Wilfredo Ferrer
~Assistant County Attorney Monica Rizo
~Deputy Clerks Jovel Shaw and Zorana Gainer*

Vice Chairman Moss stated that Chairman Souto would arrive late and that reports would be presented first until his arrival.

1D SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1D1

073507 Special Presentation

PRESENTATION BY MARIO M. CAMPOS OF JONES AND JONES ARCHITECTS AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, LTD. RE: METROZOO AMAZON AND BEYOND EXHIBIT (POWER POINT) (Park & Recreation Department)

Presented

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the special presentation into the record.*

Mr. Eric Stephens, Director, Metrozoo, introduced Mr. Manny Gonzalez, President/CEO, Zoological Society of Florida (ZSF). He provided a brief overview of Mr. Gonzalez' work history and accomplishments, and noted Mr. Gonzalez was a wonderful addition to the ZSF.

Commissioner Moss welcomed Mr. Gonzalez and noted that he looked forward to a very prosperous working relationship in the future.

Commissioner Sorenson commented that Metrozoo had never looked better and that the landscaping was top notch.

Mr. Mario M. Campos, Jones & Jones Architects, LTD., provided a PowerPoint Presentation on the Amazon and Beyond Exhibit at Metrozoo.

As Chairman of the Miami Metrozoo Oversight Board, Commissioner Moss asked that commissioners receive updates via e-mail regarding the progress of Metrozoo.

Hearing no other questions or comments, the Committee accepted the foregoing presentation.

1E PUBLIC HEARINGS

1E1

073195 Ordinance

Sen. Javier D. Souto

Amended

ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO CHAPTER 26 OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ENTITLED "PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS"; DELETING SECTION 26-33; CREATING ARTICLE III TO REQUIRE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL PERSONS WORKING OR VOLUNTEERING ON COUNTY PARK PROPERTY; PROHIBITING SEXUAL OFFENDERS, SEXUAL PREDATORS, CERTAIN VIOLENT FELONS, AND CERTAIN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS AND NON-LEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM WORKING OR VOLUNTEERING ON PARK PROPERTY OWNED OR OPERATED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; PROVIDING AUTHORITY FOR ENFORCEMENT BY CIVIL PENALTY; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Report: See Agenda Item 1E1 Amended; Legislative File No. 073761.

1E1 AMENDED

073761 Ordinance Sen. Javier D. Souto

ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO CHAPTER 26 OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ENTITLED "PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS"; DELETING SECTION 26-33; CREATING ARTICLE III TO REQUIRE CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL PERSONS WORKING OR VOLUNTEERING ON COUNTY PARK PROPERTY; PROHIBITING SEXUAL OFFENDERS, SEXUAL PREDATORS, CERTAIN VIOLENT FELONS, AND CERTAIN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS AND NON-LEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM WORKING OR VOLUNTEERING ON PARK PROPERTY OWNED OR OPERATED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; PROVIDING AUTHORITY FOR ENFORCEMENT BY CIVIL PENALTY; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE [SEE ORIGINAL ITEM UNDER FILE NO. 073195]

Forwarded to BCC with a favorable recommendation with committee amendment(s)

Mover: Souto

Seconder: Edmonson

Vote: 4-0

Absent: Sorenson, Rolle

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the foregoing proposed ordinance into the record.*

Commissioner Moss opened the public hearing on the foregoing proposed ordinance.

Mr. Jay Baum, Chief Financial Officer, Miami-Dade County Fair & Expo Inc. (F&E), commended committee members for sponsoring this ordinance and noted that representatives of the F&E supported this proposed ordinance. He noted that the financial impact to the Fair came with this ordinance; the total was \$100,000 per year, approximately \$45,000 direct cost to the Fair and about \$55,000 direct cost to the independent concessionaires and carnival. Mr. Baum explained that before this ordinance was conceived, the F&E was conducting background checks similar to those proposed in this ordinance.

Mr. Keith Reilly, President, Howard Palmetto Baseball and Softball Association, noted his Association was a non-profit, volunteer community-based organization (CBO), with approximately 300 volunteers. He said he did not intend to diminish the importance of this proposed ordinance; however, he was concerned that as written, this ordinance would result in cost prohibited fees would be added on to registration fees, which would eventually increase the registration fees by approximately 18%. He noted he wanted to keep the fees as low as possible in

order to ensure that this program was affordable for all children. Mr. Reilly expressed concern regarding the fees to conduct background checks on every volunteer.

In response to Commissioner Moss's inquiry about the average cost to perform background checks, Mr. Reilly explained that they utilized a company which performed background checks for approximately \$10 per volunteer.

Responding to Commissioner Rolle's question regarding the amount of the fee for background checks if the ordinance passed, Mr. Reilly said the fee could go up to approximately \$50 to \$100 depending upon how this ordinance was worded.

Mr. Dave Wasser, President, Wasser Agency, noted that his private investigation company conducted background checks, and he felt the fee would be significantly higher than Mr. Reilly suggested. Mr. Wasser expressed concern that this fee would trickle down to parks and would not be affordable for families. He noted he support this ordinance as it pertained to background checks, but he felt it needed to be refined to ensure that it was cost effective.

Commissioner Moss relinquished the Chair to Chairman Souto.

Commissioner Rolle asked Mr. Wasser, the projected cost for conducting background checks as proposed in this ordinance. Mr. Wasser responded, stating that a national comprehensive background check was not like the Federal Citizen Information Center (FCIC) or National Crime Information Center (NCIC) checks, which went through every police department in the United States; and that database companies used by private investigators to conduct background checks was not nationwide; and that such criminal records checks were prohibited in Massachusetts, Georgia and other states. Mr. Wasser estimated that it would cost approximately \$50-\$100 to conduct simple background checks. He noted it would cost significantly more to conduct background checks through the FCIC or NCIC.

Upon Chairman Souto's request, Major Elizabeth Buchholz, Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD), gave a brief explanation regarding the intent of the foregoing ordinance and how it had developed. She provided details of cases where sexual predators had been hired or allowed to

volunteer at events that children attended. She noted that the ordinance had been substantially modified to give the Police Department the ability to enforce this. Major Buchholz stated that upon conducting random spot checks at events, 20 people were found to be non-compliant and without identification. She explained that the Police Department did not have the authority to access records and check out individuals that worked/volunteered at facilities and events. Major Buchholz apprised committee members that Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) charged \$71.00 per person for background checks. She stated that she had reviewed the company that Mr. Baum (Miami-Dade Fair & Expo) used to conduct comprehensive background checks at a nominal cost of \$15 per person.

With regard to Major Buchholz comments regarding the Police Department not having the authority to access records, Assistant County Manager Munoz clarified that MDPD did have jurisdiction over Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation Department (PARC), and the MDPD could access records on any event held on County property.

Chairman Souto expressed concern regarding incidents that had occurred on PARC and County-owned property. He noted that these incidents prompted him to be more diligent about conducting background checks on employees and volunteers to ensure that children were protected.

Commissioner Moss concurred with Chairman Souto and noted that the cost issue of background checks must be dealt with. He questioned whether Major Buchholz was familiar with the company that Mr. Baum utilized to perform background checks.

In response to Commissioner Moss' inquiry about the company that provided background checks, Major Buchholz noted that Sergeant Bill Williams, MDPD, conducted extensive research on different companies that performed background checks as well as the FDLE and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). She stated they were satisfied with the company the Miami-Dade County Fair & Expo used.

Sergeant Williams noted that Mr. Baum used United Screening Services Corp. and that after reviewing several companies because they provided the service for the lowest fee (\$15).

Commissioner Moss asked Assistant County Manager Munoz to take a look at the operations of United Screening Services to ensure they meet the criteria and to ensure that this company was available to not-for-profit organizations.

Assistant County Manager Munoz addressed Commissioner Moss's comments, noting that he conducted a report regarding the fee to complete a comprehensive background check, and discovered that the approximate \$40 fee, was higher. He noted he would be happy to review the Police Department's research regarding background checks.

Mr. Jack Kardys, Director, Parks & Recreation Department noted that the company, United Screening Services, was considered as a benchmark in the industry for the screening process; that he communicated this information, and that he referred program partners and CBO's to United Screening Services, the National Alliance for Youth Sports, the National Recreation Park Association, and the Florida Recreation Park Association. He noted that all of those groups utilized various agencies that performed background checks for a low fee. Mr. Kardys stated that he would endorse the United Screening Service as the most cost effective company.

Commissioner Moss expressed his concern regarding the financial burden placed on not-for-profit organizations to conduct background checks.

Assistant County Attorney Monica Rizo read the following amendments into the record: that a scrivener's error existing on handwritten page 6, Section 26-37, B-4, should be corrected to delete the word "and" and insert it at the end of sentence B-3;

The following language be inserted on handwritten page 7, Paragraph A, first sentence: "upon adoption of this ordinance employers of child event workers, employers of park vendors, programming partners and CBO's shall secure a nationwide criminal background check on existing child event workers, park vendors, employees, and volunteers whose duties require physical presence on park properties owned or operated by Miami-Dade County";

the words "every year" be deleted on

handwritten page 8, paragraph B, and replaced with the words "every three (3) years thereafter" and that any references to employers of child event workers be deleted;

the following language be added to paragraph B, "however, employers of child event workers shall secure a nationwide criminal background check for existing child event workers whose duties require physical presence on park property owned or operated by Miami-Dade County every year thereafter";

a scrivener's error existing on page 8, paragraph D, be corrected to delete the letter "D" at the beginning of the first sentence and to correct the first sentence to read as follows: "Employers of child event workers shall maintain copies of the results of the criminal background checks required by the section for a period of 2 years from the date they were secured and employers of park vendors programming partners and CBO's shall maintain such copies for a period of three (3) years from the date they were secured";

the following language be inserted on handwritten page 9, section 26-39: "Upon adoption of this ordinance the Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation Department shall secure a nationwide criminal background check of all existing employees and volunteers whose duties require physical presence on park property owned or operated by Miami-Dade County"; and

the language "a period of two (2) years" be corrected to read: " a period of three (3) years" on handwritten page 10, paragraph D.

Commissioner Edmonson expressed her concerns regarding the fee for background checks and noted this posed a hardship for her constituency.

With regards to Commissioner Edmonson's concerns, Assistant County Manager Munoz clarified that background checks may very well be a part of the registration or that coaches may pay the fee, and individual CBOs would determine how to proceed.

Commissioner Jordan inquired about organizations that were not in compliance and how this would be enforced.

In response to Commissioner Jordan's inquiry

regarding enforcement, Major Buchholz noted that currently no enforcement power was available. She noted that upon randomly checking for compliance, the only enforcement was to notify the managers that they were not in compliance. She further noted that if someone with a criminal record accepted this type of employment, they would be in violation and could be arrested. Major Buchholz said that the Police Department would only get involved when a situation occurred.

Discussion ensued in connection with the immigration status of employees and volunteers.

Mr. Baum noted that they used an I-9 form and requested certain documents as proof of citizenship.

Assistant County Attorney Munoz noted he would like to provide a supplement to the foregoing ordinance to provide clarification regarding meeting the requirements of background checks as well as regarding immigration status.

Hearing no further questions or comments the Committee members proceeded to vote.

1F DISCUSSION MATTERS

2 COUNTY COMMISSION

2A

073534 Resolution

Rebeca Sosa

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING IN-KIND SERVICES FROM THE MIAMI-DADE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE APRIL 18-20, 2008 SPRINGS RIVER FESTIVAL SPONSORED BY SPRINGS RIVER FESTIVAL, INC., A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,266.00 TO BE FUNDED FROM THE DISTRICT 6 IN-KIND RESERVE FUND

Forwarded to BCC with a favorable recommendation
Mover: Sorenson
Seconder: Moss
Vote: 5-0
Absent: Souto

3 DEPARTMENT

3A

073395 Resolution

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FUNDING OF THREE FELLOWSHIP AWARDS TO SOUTH FLORIDA ARTISTS FROM THE FY 2007-2008 DANCE MIAMI CHOREOGRAPHERS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM; AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO EXERCISE CANCELLATION PROVISIONS CONTAINED THEREIN (Cultural Affairs Council)

Forwarded to BCC with a favorable recommendation

Mover: Sorenson

Seconder: Edmonson

Vote: 5-0

Absent: Souto

3B

073508 Resolution

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING INTENT TO MAINTAIN IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE RIGHT OF WAY OF TAMIAMI CANAL (C-4) LOCATED NORTH OF SW 8TH STREET BETWEEN SW 122 AND SW 119 AVENUES (Park & Recreation Department)

Forwarded to BCC with a favorable recommendation

Mover: Edmonson

Seconder: Sorenson

Vote: 5-0

Absent: Souto

4 COUNTY MANAGER

4A

073321 Resolution

RESOLUTION RATIFYING EXECUTION OF AMENDMENT NUMBER SIX TO THE AMENDED AND RESTATED OPERATING MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER TRUST, INC.; AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR DESIGNEE TO EXERCISE RENEWAL AND TERMINATION PROVISIONS CONTAINED THEREIN (County Manager)

Amended

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the foregoing proposed resolution into the record.*

In response to Commissioner Moss' inquiry regarding the changes to the foregoing proposed resolution, Assistant County Manager Alex Munoz explained the following change on handwritten page 16, E. Operations Phase, Section E.1.2: The County, acting through the County Manager and the Commission Auditor or their designees, shall have the right to oversight of the Corporations' operations.

In response to Commissioner Moss's question regarding what this allowed, Assistant County Manager Munoz explained that this amendment would help avoid discrepancies with the occupancy costs by allowing the Commission Auditor more direct involvement.

Commissioner Sorenson asked Assistant County Manager Munoz to add a non-discriminatory provision pertaining to sexual orientation to this resolution.

Hearing no other questions or comments, the Committee forwarded the foregoing proposed resolution to the County Commission with a favorable recommendation, with committee amendment(s) to add the non-discrimination provisions regarding sexual orientation which had become pertinent since the Human Rights ordinance was enacted and all appropriate County ordinance requirements to this resolution.

It was moved by Commissioner Sorenson that the foregoing resolution be forwarded to the County Commission with a favorable recommendation, with committee amendment(s). This motion was seconded by Commissioner Moss, and upon being put to a vote, passed 5-0. (Commissioner Souto was absent).

5 COUNTY ATTORNEY

6 CLERK OF THE BOARD

6A

072775 Report

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 13, 2007 RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS BUDGET WORKSHOP COMMITTEE MEETING (Clerk of the Board)

Approved
Mover: Rolle
Seconder: Sorenson
Vote: 5-0
Absent: Souto

6B

072858 Report

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2007 RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIR COMMITTEE MEETING (Clerk of the Board)

Approved
Mover: Sorenson
Seconder: Edmonson
Vote: 5-0
Absent: Souto

6C

073140 Report

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 5, 2007 RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Clerk of the Board)

Approved
Mover: Sorenson
Seconder: Edmonson
Vote: 5-0
Absent: Souto

7 REPORTS

7A

073229 Report

ORAL REPORT RE: STATUS OF THE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM (County Manager)

Report Received
Mover: Jordan
Seconder: Edmonson
Vote: 5-0
Absent: Souto

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the foregoing report into the record.*

Mr. Michael Spring, Director, Cultural Affairs Department, stated that a written report regarding the progress of the merger of Art in Public Places (APP) and the Cultural Affairs Department was distributed on Friday December 7, 2007 to the Mayor and the County Commission. Mr. Spring noted Cultural Affairs was focusing on the following three key areas regarding APP:

- ~Care and accountability of the art collection*
- ~Operational excellence*
- ~Dependable financial procedures*

Mr. Spring stated that the Department was pursuing the three areas by conducting a national survey of best practices for public art programs and an internal assessment of finance maintenance and inventory. He further stated that the Department was working closely with the Audit and Management Services (AMS) Department on a report to be released by the end of the month which closely assessed the APP. Mr. Spring clarified that the Cultural Affairs Department was implementing changes to the APP as they were suggested.

Mr. Spring stated that Cultural Affairs was completing an internal inventory of the art collection and that he was ensuring that staff was aware of every work of art and its location. He said 90% of the collection had been reviewed and he expected that every location would be verified by the end of January 2008.

Furthermore, noted Mr. Spring, restoration of the APP's art work had begun, and staff had begun contacting firms regarding complete appraisal of the collection. Mr. Spring said it was critically important for Cultural Affairs to confirm the value of the collection. Investigations of missing artwork would be conducted when the AMS report was complete, and any missing pieces of art would

be pursued, explained Mr. Spring. He also said that Cultural Affairs would be conducting a more aggressive campaign to inform the public of the great number of art pieces in the APP collection which were owned by Miami-Dade County. Brief discussion ensued regarding when an inventory the artwork would be complete and regarding methods for tracking the artwork.

In response to Commissioner Moss's concerns regarding works of art being moved to or placed in inappropriate locations, Mr. Spring explained that works of art could be moved to different locations.

Commissioner Moss commented about the public's ability to view the works of art. He noted he was pleased that the Department was constructing a catalogue to let the general public know where the art work was located and to give them an opportunity to visit and view the works of art.

Mr. Spring noted that the catalogue would allow the public to take a self guided tour of the art work that currently existed all over the county.

Commissioner Jordan expressed concern regarding tracking the art work. She noted she wanted to ensure the works of art were being displayed and that a process was in place for the artwork to return to inventory if it was not displayed.

Mr. Spring said that the goal was to make sure that every piece of art work in the collection was publicly exhibited.

Commissioner Sorenson suggested having an APP catalogue in conjunction with Art Basel so that patrons of this event could visit the APP's collection as well.

Mr. Spring stated that he expected to produce the APP catalogue before next year's Art Basel. He noted that during this year's Art Basel, APP's staff led tours highlighting some prominent collectors and media representatives of the public art collection.

Mr. Spring noted the staff of Commissioners Souto and Heyman had provided a tremendous amount of support and guidance and had been very involved in ensuring the APP was headed in the right direction.

*Hearing no other questions or comments, the
Committee proceeded to vote on the foregoing
proposed report.*

7B

073142 Report

ORAL REPORT RE: MONTHLY UPDATE ON THE MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AGRITECH & LIVESTOCK EXPO
(County Manager)

Report Received

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the foregoing report into the record.*

Mr. Jack Kardys gave a brief update report regarding the Miami International Agritech & Livestock Expo. Mr. Kardys reported that the website, www.miamicattleshow.com, was now available with links to the Visitors Convention Bureau's website, which provided travel information for South American customers and registration forms. He noted all of the specifics of the show were detailed on the website. Mr. Kardys noted their affiliation with the International Brahman Congress, said their logos would be included, and the two events were linked through shared logos and mutual advertising opportunities. A travel agent had been identified to work with the Business Convention Bureau to service people coming from South America for the event. Approximately 60 vendors had signed up for this event, and the marketing campaign included trade magazines regional, national, and international journals, said Mr. Kardys. He explained that advertisements were purchased for the Brahman Association, the Brangus Association, and the Florida Cattleman's Association magazines; and that television advertisements were being put together that would run on RFDTV and agricultural television networks. Additionally, 300 postcards would be mailed to attract more people to the event, said Mr. Kardys.

Mr. Kelvin Moreno, Consultant, Miami-Dade Parks & Recreation (MDPR), noted they were looking forward to involving many grades of cattle, but featuring the two main breeds Brahman and Brangus cattle with the influence of keeping the international market and relationship strong since these types of cattle did well in tropical climates. Mr. Moreno noted that he would travel to other major shows to promote this event.

Mr. Charles Lapradd, Agricultural Manager, Department of Planning & Zoning noted that to date he had met with Commissioner of Agriculture Charles Bronson, who promised to support this

event's marketing and promotions. Mr. Lapradd noted that during his meeting with the Tropical Research Education Center (University of Florida), six scientists agreed to set up booths and conduct seminars at the event. Mr. Lapradd noted that on December 13, 2007, he would travel to Gainesville to speak with the head of the Animal Sciences Division regarding exotic pests and diseases.

Commissioner Moss noted that he was impressed with all of the work done for the event and would like a copy of the overall program. He further noted this should be a successful event with a great economic impact on Miami-Dade County.

7C

073570 Report**ORAL REPORT- UPDATE ON THE ARTS PROGRAMS
WITH LATIN AMERICA (County Manager)****Report Received
Mover: Sorenson
Seconder: Jordan
Vote: 5-0
Absent: Souto****Report:** *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the
foregoing report into the record.*

Mr. Spring noted that working relationships were being established with countries in Latin America for the purpose of cultural exchange, and that he recently met with the Consulate General of Colombia who was interested in doing cultural exchange between Miami and Colombia. they were working closely with Miami Dade College, which had a system of galleries through all of its campuses, to do a system wide exchange of art work between Miami and Medellin, Colombia. This was just the beginning of the kinds of things that could be done regarding cultural exchange, noted Mr. Spring. Mr. Spring discussed the Department's International Cultural Exchange Program, which was currently active between Miami, Countries in the Caribbean, Argentina, Mexico, and Brazil.

Mr. Raymond Santiago, Director, Libraries, gave a brief report regarding the Library System's activities. He noted the department was also working with Medellin, Colombia to set up this year's Art of Storytelling Festival, the public libraries of Medellin would bring in groups from Medellin. Mr. Santiago said the department had a professional exchange with Medellin as well, which allowed staff to travel to Medellin to work with public library system.

*Hearing no other questions or comments, the
Committee proceeded to vote.*

7D

073576 Report**CARNIVAL CENTER MONTHLY STATUS REPORT -
NOVEMBER 2007 (County Manager)****Report Received
Mover: Jordan
Seconder: Sorenson
Vote: 5-0
Absent: Souto****Report:** *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the foregoing report into the record.*

Mr. Rick Arriola, Chairman, Performing Arts Center (PAC) Trust, gave a brief report regarding the status of the PAC. He stated that the CEO, Mr. Michael Hardy, had been replaced by Mr. Lawrence Wilker. Mr. Arriola stated that some committee members had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Wilker and that he was currently scheduling meetings with the remainder of the committee members. A new management team had taken over, and team members were working to improve programming and to reinvigorate private sector fundraising efforts, Mr. Arriola noted. He said an assessment of the PAC's strengths and weaknesses was currently underway, and staff had reorganized to improve operations, efficiency and customer experience.

With regards to ticket sales, Mr. Arriola stated that October ticket sales were on budget and were 131% over last year's October ticket sales; facility rental revenue was slightly lower than projected; and occupancy costs for October came in at approximately \$630,000, which was below budget. He explained that the occupancy costs were below budget due to the termination of a maintenance contract, and those functions were brought in-house, which resulted in costs savings of approximately \$400,000 per year. In addition, Mr. Arriola stated a payment in the amount of \$375,000 was scheduled for the Sunshine Construction Loan on or before December 31, 2007.

Mr. Arriola discussed programming at the PAC. He noted among the efforts underway were free concerts as well as free guided tours twice a week (on Mondays and Saturdays). Mr. Arriola elaborated and stated that the goal was to start with free monthly concerts and move to free weekly concerts and eventually free daily concerts. Mr. Arriola said efforts were being made to bring in additional performances during

the summer and spring seasons and add Broadway shows during the summer. He noted the following shows were scheduled for the PAC: Sweeney Todd, My Fair Lady, Flamenco Festival, Mavis Staples and the Blind Boys of Alabama, Spamalot, Moiseyev Dance Company, and the Nutcracker. Mr. Arriola noted staff was negotiating with mainstream pop artists to perform at the PAC.

With regards to marketing efforts, Mr. Arriola noted that in addition to mainstream publication advertisements, staff made an effort to make the PAC calendar and programming available to community publications such as the Miami Times, the Miami New Times, the Express Courier and the Haitian Progress, etc. In an effort to increase revenue, staff was working hard to increase rentals of the hall and new promotions, noted Mr. Arriola. He said for next calendar year, they were working on a monthly Jazz series. In conclusion, Mr. Arriola stated they were working to continue their efforts in bringing family oriented programming to the center.

Commissioner Sorenson questioned why ticket sales projections were not available for the months of July, August and September.

In response to Commissioner Sorenson's inquiry, Mr. Arriola stated that PAC staff was being very conservative and working on a budget that was approved last summer which included very little programming dollars; the goal and expectation was that the numbers would be better this summer.

Commissioner Moss noted his enthusiasm in the PAC had been renewed with the new leadership. He asked Mr. Arriola to consider bringing the Lion King Broadway Production to the PAC.

Hearing no other questions or comments, the Committee proceeded to vote.

8 ADJOURNMENT

Report: *There being no other business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.*