Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date: April 25, 2013

To: Honorable Jean Monestime
County Commissioner

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

Subject: Gratigny Plateau Park

The following information is provided in response to your March 15, 2013 memorandum concerning a review of plan process for Gratigny Plateau Park.

The Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS) was approached by WPLG Channel 10 to develop Gratigny Plateau Park located at 885 N.W. 117 Street. PROS welcomed the offer and launched the effort together with Channel 10, designer and contractor Edward D. Stone and Associates (EDSA) and Miller Construction. Miller Construction was chosen by Channel 10 due to their willingness to donate their time and effort to the project. Miller Construction recruited EDSA to design the project pro bono.

Gratigny Plateau Park has two streets bisecting three parcels of land which makes it unique. The design process began on May 10, 2012, and several community meetings led by EDSA were held to obtain input from local residents. At the May 17, 2012 community meeting the "flower design" was chosen unanimously by the local residents. EDSA finalized that design and began preparation of construction drawings. The drawings required County permitting reviews by PROS and Public Works and Waste Management Department (PWWM) staff.

After PROS and PWWM reviews were finalized, the completed construction plans were submitted for permitting and approval on September 12, 2012. The plans were reviewed in an expedited manner by the Regulatory and Economic Resources Department (RER) and returned to EDSA on September 27, 2012 with comments. Thereafter, the plans were re-submitted three times by EDSA and returned by RER seeking additional information. EDSA and RER resolved key issues by February 21, 2013.

The following issues arose during the permitting process:

1. The park irrigation controller did not have an Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) designation. This requirement resulted in delays until the substitute UL controller was included on the revised plans.

2. Accessibility to the park to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was also an issue that took time to resolve. This is a small park in a neighborhood without sidewalks. EDSA evaluated several crosswalk and sidewalk solutions and the requirements to comply with ADA mandates. This resulted in their submittal of revised plans on three separate occasions, which took additional time to review by PWWM. Ultimately, the PROS Director interceded with the Internal Services Department's ADA Coordinator to move this issue forward as this precedent affects all future neighborhood park development.

3. The final design of the ADA accessible crosswalks was also a complicated matter. The designer's artistic vision and the PWWM requirements for the two crosswalks between the three park land parcels did not align. The designer worked diligently to analyze several alternatives recommended by PWWM.

In addition to the above mentioned issues, the park design included an eight foot high security fence, requested by the community, which is not allowed by the current Miami-Dade County Code. This required a General Facilities (GF) hearing. To save time, on November 29, 2012, PROS decided to run the GF process concurrently with the permitting process. The GF process was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on March 5, 2013. PROS was notified on March 7, 2013 that the permitting was complete and permits were approved for all three parcels of land. All interested parties were then notified and a "pre-work" meeting was held on March 29, 2013 with Channel 10, Miller Construction, EDSA and PROS staff.

PROS is appreciative of all the help and collaboration from EDSA and various County agencies in processing the permits. This is a remarkable example of partnership, considering all parties outside of the County are donating their time and resources while maintaining their own day-to-day businesses. This has proven to be a model for the delivery of park projects of this nature.

Should you have any questions please contact Jack Kardys, Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department, at 305-755-7903.

c: Alina Hudak, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
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