



NEAT STREETS MIAMI
MEETING SUMMARY
April 27, 2016
FINAL

NSM Members Present

William Anderson, GMCVB
Lina Blanco, City of Miami
David Cardenas, MDPROS
Dr. Claudius Carnegie, CTAC
Aneisha Daniel, DSWM
Margaret Daly, Designee/MDC Commissions,
District 12, Friends of The Underline
Tabitha Fazzino, MDC Public Schools
Juan C. Garrido, Designee/MDC Commissions,
District 7
Jack Haime, Bio Planet
Patricia Harris, Private Citizen
Rick Johnson, MDX
Gianni Lodi, MDC Planning & Zoning Department
Maria Mitchell, Designee/MDC Commission,
District 6
Commissioner Dennis C. Moss, MDC Dist. 9
Rick Vasquez, FPL, MDC Designee, Dist. 5
Lynda Kompelien Westin, South Florida
Regional Transportation Authority
Mark Williams, City of Miami Beach

Participants Present

Diana Amaya, District 9
Maggie Fernandez, Active Design Miami
Dr. Jennifer Fu, FIU
Patrice Gillespie Smith, NSM
Ginny Gutiérrez, GMCVB
Dr. Henry (Hartwig) Hochmair, UF
Ben Ibarra, DBI
Lisa Johnson, DBI
Jennifer Korth Llorente, NSM
Quatisha Oguntoyinbo-Rashad, City of Miami,
Environmental Resources
Jennifer Rodero, DDA
William Talbert, III, GMCVB
Wanda Torres, NSM
Marta Viciedo, Active Design Miami
Britany Ziems, A Better South Florida

I. Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Moss opened the meeting. He asked everyone to introduce themselves. He thanked the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau for hosting the Neat Streets Miami Board meeting.

Mr. Bill Anderson reported for the 1st Quarter of the year:

- 82.3% Occupancy
- Room rate \$243.40
- #1 in the Nation in RevPAR
- #1 in Room Rate
- #2 Occupancy
- Leisure & Hospitality – 134,800 people employed; 0.1% increase from past 5 years

Ms. Ginny Gutiérrez added the month of May is:

- Miami Sports Month
- Miami Museum Month
- National Tourism Month—GMCVB will be having its State of the Industry Address on April 29th at the Rusty Pelican

II. Action Item – Approval of 03/30/16 Minutes

Chairman Moss asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Carnegie motioned to approve the minutes and the Chair second. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Item – Appointment of new Neat Streets Miami Board Member – Meg Daly

Chairman Moss asked for a motion for appointment. Dr. Carnegie motioned for the appointment of Meg Daly the remaining board members second. Ms. Daly's appointment was approved.

Ms. Daly mentioned she's happy to be a part of the Board and commended their vision for the community. She announced Miami Beach's Ciclovía will be May 1st and also, there's a group bike ride from Coconut Grove to Dadeland North.

Chairman Moss mentioned, "The Underline is not just a vision, but a project that is underway." It will have an impact in the community. He commended Ms. Daly for being a champion for this cause.

Special Recognition of Neat Streets Miami Board Members:

Patrice Gillespie-Smith announced we will recognize several board members who have moved onto other positions at the May Board Meeting.

III. Reports

Chairman Moss asked Ms. Quatisha Oguntinyinbo-Rashad to share with the board her City of Miami news. Ms. Oguntinyinbo-Rashad announced the City of Miami received for the 9th consecutive year recertification as a Tree City USA.

a. Urban Tree Canopy Study Results – Dr. Hartwig Henry Hochmair

Ms. Gillespie Smith said she would be thrilled to introduce Dr. Hartwig (Henry) Hochmair, who has been working for the last year to analyze the tree canopy in Miami-Dade. She commended him for his diligence and hard-working nature.

Dr. Hochmair presented to the Board, Miami-Dade's Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) Analysis. He thanked the Sponsors of the study: Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces, Neat Streets Miami and American Forests.

Project Scope

- Determine the urban tree canopy of Miami-Dade County
- Determine the UTC percentages break down—for census places, commission districts, land uses categories and property parcels
- Compare tree canopy with surface temperatures and socioeconomic information

Method

- Create a land cover classification map (9 categories), using Satellite imagery
- Using GIS vector layers from County and other sources

Land Cover Statistics

- Urban Tree Canopy- 19.9%
- Total possible tree canopy—44.2%
- Possible tree canopy on previous surface—24.1%

Tree Canopy and Surface Temperature: Patty Harris asked, “What is considered impervious?” Dr. Hochmair responded it is concrete structures, but not building or roads--anything hard to dig up to plant something.

Jack Kardys asked, “Are roadways excluded?” Dr. Hochmair responded, “Yes.” Mr. Kardys asked, “Are parking lots included?” Dr. Hochmair, “Yes.”

Dr. Hochmair added, there’s a possible 24.1% for tree canopy impervious surfaces. Ms. Gillespie Smith mentioned, the reason for including impervious surfaces is that there are communities redeveloping industrial areas where replanting is a possibility.

- Dr. Hochmair indicated trees play a big role in cooling surface temperatures
- He also cited a correlation between income and trees
- Finally, he mentioned in areas where there are high population of African Americans or Latinos there are fewer trees

Dr. Hochmair’s complete presentation,--The Miami-Dade Urban Tree Canopy Analysis can be found on The Neat Streets Miami website.

Chairman Moss asked is there a way to analyze by cities? Dr. Hochmair responded either by zip code or census place. He added, “The city isn’t an official census unit.” Chairman Moss responded, there should be a way for each city to track their tree canopy. This will enable them to set up programs to track progress. Dr. Hochmair responded, if I can access the city boundaries, information will be easier to extract.

Action Item

Chairman Moss requested a map showing the percentage of urban tree canopy for each city.

Dr. Carnegie asked, “How easily could you correlate the data to zoning?” Dr. Hochmair responded, they were looking at current land use categories to see how they relate to tree classification for different housing units, institutions, businesses and office buildings. Also, the County has a very detailed layout; it has low and high density housing. It could be broken down by unit.

Ms. Daly asked how many trees are included in the 20%? Ms. Gillespie Smith responded, one million trees are equal to 24 thousand acres of new trees in Miami-Dade County. She said they have never looked at how many trees per acre should be planted, but it’s a great question and she will research if such standards exist.

Maria Mitchell asked how do you marry the increased development with the need for more trees. She said Brickell is a great example of an affluent community that isn’t planting a lot of trees because so many buildings are going up. Dr. Hochmair responded that this is a question for whoever makes the policy. Jennifer Fu said that there is limitation due to lack of plan.

Chairman Moss asked, what is the alternative to cooling in areas where trees aren’t a viable option in large quantities. There has to be policy implications. Dr. Hochmair mentioned, there were Complete Street initiatives going on. Chairman Moss reiterated, “There needs to be policy initiatives and we have to be in a place to provide education to the community. Furthermore, there has to be education to the community on the value of trees and why it’s important to plant more trees. Chairman Moss asked, are you aware of studies being done and taken by government entities to make policies to make changes for canopy coverage. Dr. Hochmair responded, the focus is on the areas wanting to plant new trees, but he didn’t know of any policies. Ms. Gillespie Smith mentioned Washington, DC is a great example of a city that has increased density, yet increased canopy at the same time. When they realized they lost so much tree canopy, they made a commitment and invested resources to increase the tree canopy.

Gianni Lodi mentioned there is information for demographic data in the Planning Division. Chairman Moss asked, “Does this mean, we could meet with the County’s demographer and look at the census?” Mr. Lodi indicated his office could help.

Chairman Moss mentioned in ethnic communities, we need to increase the tree canopy without making it economically unfeasible. He stated, “Government needs to take a greater role in filling the deficit.” He asked, should there be implications on plantings and how could we create more canopies along roadways. They offer an opportunity for planting. Dr. Hochmair responded maintenance is an issue.

David Cardenas mentioned, based on the tree canopy analysis, RAAM has started looking for opportunities in those communities where the canopy is lowest. They’re looking at different tiers. So far, they’ve reached out to Medley and Hialeah.

Dr. Carnegie mentioned, we have opportunities with our schools, colleges and universities for tree canopies. Formulate a policy to find opportunities in government participation. “Let’s get it done.”

Chairman Moss talked about converting school fields to parks to create more accessible green spaces.

Action Item

Chairman Moss stated, “Let’s fully explore this.”

Dr. Carnegie asked Jack Kardys if he knew which schools were located next to a park. Mr. Kardys responded, there are forty schools that share space or are adjacent to a park.

Action Item

Chairman Moss would like explore the forty schools that share space or are adjacent to a park.

Ms. Fu mentioned there is an orchid tracking program (Coral Gables Million Orchids) that involves students. Students are asked to adopt an orchid. Chairman Moss mentioned we’re looking in partnering in the Million Orchid initiative and in discussion with Fairchild.

Ms. Jennifer Korth Llorente made an announcement regarding the Street Tree Matching Grant ties into this and to apply for the grant. Mr. Johnson asked was the grant targeted toward the low-canopy communities. Ms. Korth Llorente responded, “Yes. Preference will be given to areas with lower tree canopies. Ms. Gillespie Smith mentioned Neat Streets Miami staff will be making calls to all the target cities about the Street Tree Matching Grant. Mr. Johnson mentioned the County has a certain responsibility for landfills and roadways.

Ms. Gillespie Smith mentioned that Mr. Kardys has the findings of a recent study to share.

Mr. Kardys talked about a recent released University of Miami study of how greenery affects people’s health. He mentioned that the study monitored 249,000 Medicare beneficiaries under the age of 65. The study showed having more trees meant people had fewer chronic conditions. Everyone who lived in a neighborhood with greenery, regardless of income, age and ethnicity, lived three years longer. People who live in a lower income area lived longer than those in a wealthy area. Furthermore, Brigham’s Women Hospital examined 108,000 individuals enrolled in a nurse’s health study and found women living in a greener area had a lower death rate than women without greenery. More information on this study can be found on Neat Streets Miami’s website.

b. Miami Dade Active Design Guidelines – Marta Viciado

Ms. Viciado presented an overview about the Active Design Guidelines currently being developed for Miami-Dade.

The Active Design Miami’s mission is to promote physical activity and health in public spaces and streets. Their strategies are:

- Collaborative – In February County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution that solidified the relationship with Active Design Miami, County Planning and Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces
- Evidence Based - Every strategy introduced is based on evidence

- Cumulative – The guidelines will ultimately be a book; it will go to the County and the Board of Commissioners will hopefully adopt it as a set of strategies in the comprehensive development master plan (comp) and municipalities could adopt into their transportation plan
- In Miami-Dade 2/3 of residents are overweight or obese
- 35% of adults don't do any physical activity other than what is required for work
- Bike and pedestrian safety continues to be a critical issue.
- 35.5% of residents reported feeling sad and/or depressed every day for 2 years.

Miami-Dade's focus:

- Connectivity—parks & public spaces, transportation & mobility, development patterns and buildings
 - Greenways and Waterways—activate in a better way
 - Underline—getting active, development patterns (how it connects to the street and buildings)
 - Parklets—create more community interaction
 - Buildings—development will look at whatever design is easy to see staircases (private & public)
- Values—physical & mental health, wellbeing, safety, accessibility, knowledge and equity

Ms. Vicedo's presentation can be found on Neat Streets Miami website.

Ms. Gillespie Smith mentioned Miami Gardens is fabricating street signs to encourage more physical activity at all of their trolley stops. This would be an example of Active Design.

Chairman Moss asked, how do we bring all this together? Ms. Vicedo responded guidelines are made to be pulled into strategy. Example: Changing zoning to not include stairs in the floor area ratio.

Ms. Mitchell asked about fire code restrictions. Ms. Vicedo responded, fire codes are difficult to amend.

Chairman Moss asked, what did other cities have to make them feel happy? Ms. Vicedo responded, communities that are better connected and have more access to parks, public spaces, have more greenery, a higher density and access to transportation are generally happier and healthier. (Based on NY study)

Mr. Johnson could see where we could start linking maps of the areas that are short of trees. We could target the people responsible for the roads, private properties and swales and begin developing a champion within those municipalities so we could start building out those areas.

Dr. Carnegie mentioned Chicago is green, but it has lots of crime. He asked how does that fit into her association that green cities are happy? Ms. Vicedo responded, increasing lighting, density and eyes on the street to give a sense of safety, but I never thought of sadness or depression due to an act of crime. We need to look into this.

IV. Update

a. Office of Neat Streets Miami – Patrice Gillespie Smith encourage members to:

- Participate in the Street Tree Matching Grant
- Attend the Poster Contest Winners' Award Ceremony on May 3rd
- Earth Day – Pine Lakes Elementary (Thanks to Citizens For A Better South Florida for arranging this event)
- Review Great Park Summit – Announced winners of the Neat Streets Maintenance and Beautification Awards
- Join us at West Perrine Tree Planting May 6th
- Attend Jeff Dawson's retirement Luncheon May 13th
- Connect with us on Twitter; announced NSM has 200 Twitter followers

b. Street Tree Subcommittee – Rick Johnson

Mr. Johnson said given Mr. Dawson's pending retirement, the Landscape and Tree Subcommittees proposed merging the Landscape and Tree Subcommittees into one committee. Dr. Carnegie motioned and Mark Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed to merge both subcommittees.

- Tree planting on SW 168th Street on May 6th
- Street Tree Matching Grant
- Kenwood Elementary 30th Anniversary celebrating their Native Hammock

Ms. Gillespie Smith congratulated Penny Lambeth on TREEmendous receiving an award from Dade Heritage Trust for the restoration of Miami City Cemetery.

c. Gateway/Corridor Subcommittee – Dr. Claudius Carnegie

- Safer People, Safer Streets LAT presented plan to MPO March 31st and to Board of County Commissioners on April 5th—it was well received
- Miami DDA had a lane repurposing workshop on SW 1st Street
- Miami Beach's Ciclovía on May 1st
- I-395 workgroup met to discuss how to improve this important gateway. FDOT agreed it will enhance lighting, improve painting and remove remaining fencing under ramps. NSM is speaking with art and public places on beautification

Ms. Gillespie Smith thanked DBI for its continued efforts to clean up the area under I-395.

Ms. Llorente announced an application on behalf of Neat Streets Miami was submitted for the Public Space Challenge in District 11 for a project that would plant trees at bus stops along Kendall Drive and feature haikus about trees

Dr. Carnegie mentioned MPO approved new Smart Plan for six corridors throughout the County; Biscayne Boulevard in the Northeast, NW corridor (27th Ave), SR836, South (Busway) and

Kendall Drive. Chairman Moss mentioned each corridor will have their own funding to pursue planning, design and engineering.

d. Marketing and Education – Lina Blanco

- Neat Streets Miami and Million Trees Miami received lots of social media recognition during the Great Park Summit
- She encouraged members to send information they want to promote to NSM
- City of Miami and Doral have Earth Day events this weekend

Chairman Moss thanked Lina and group for making the 2016 Poster Contest a success.

Quatisha Oguntinyinbo-Rashad announced April 29th was their Arbor Day event at Juan Pablo Duarte Park. She encouraged all to attend.

V. Recap of Action Items 04/27/16 Meeting

- Chairman Moss requested a census of individual cities
- Chairman Moss stated, he would like to bring about policy changes to increase physical activity and explore opportunity with schools for tree canopies
- Chairman Moss would like to explore the forty schools that share space or are adjacent to a park.

VI. Closing Remarks

Meeting was adjourned at 11:58am