

**RICHMOND HEIGHTS AREA CHARRETTE
MEETING SUMMARY**

Coral Reef Branch Library

9211 Coral Reef Drive

Miami, Florida 33157

April 08, 2009 6:30 P.M.

Committee Members Present

Rev. John A. Ferguson, Calvin Gordon, Ed Hanna, Rev. Anthony Reed, James Brown, James Marshall

Community Members Present

George Baldwin, Frances Moore, Hermeine Gibson, Wylmerle Marshall, Eugene Bedgood, Patricia Bethel, Barbara Nickerson, Vaughn Marshall, Valerie Staten, Helen McCray, Tommie Daniels, Ola Stevens, A Mackin, Marilyn Whitehead, Teresa Brown, Ned Roberson

County Staff Present

Department of Planning and Zoning: Subrata Basu, Eric Silva, Manual Armada, Thomas Spehar, Shailendra Singh, Amina Newsome, Jess Linn, Alejandro Zizold, Catherine Prince, Josh Rak, Kimberly Brown

Office of the Chair, District 9: Helena Sumpter

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County Commission Chairman Dennis C. Moss began the meeting at approximately 6:30 PM by introducing the Assistant Director for Planning, Subrata Basu.

Mr. Basu began by explaining that Chairman Moss sponsored resolution for a charrette area planning study in the Richmond Heights Downtown Core.

Chairman Moss requested that the audience introduces themselves.

Mr. Basu presented a slideshow that defined the charrette and area plan implementation processes.

Reverend Anthony Reed inquired as to the time frame for the process. Mr. Basu explained the time would depend on the steering committee and the department would like to move as fast as possible. He also explained the timeline for the approval process of the Area Plan report.

Chairman Moss discussed the steering committee and how members were selected. He also stated that it would be an evolving process and he wanted to ensure representation from all segments of the community.

Steering committee member Ed Hanna, described his past charrette experience, urging everyone to be involved and to share their ideas early. He also stressed the importance of following the plan through to implementation phase.

Frances Moore asked about successful strategies used to get youth involved in the charrette planning process. Mr. Basu responded by stressing the importance of getting the word out to the community and getting everyone involved in the charrette process.

Chairman Moss explained the importance of planning. He also stated that following Hurricane Andrew many people were involved in putting together the "Moss Plan" and that as resources became available they were used to implement portions of the plan. Chairman Moss explained that there will never be enough money to do everything that is in the plan, but implementation can occur in phases, in the long run creating a community that everyone wants.

Wylmerle Marshall recalled meeting 16 years ago and developing part of what would later become known as the "Moss Plan". The Neighborhood Resource Center is an example of implementation of the "Moss Plan".

Steering committee member James Marshall asked if the area plan process would have any effect on existing homes. Mr. Basu responded that it is not possible to look at an area without looking at the larger picture. Therefore impact on existing homes around the downtown area will be addressed.

Jess Linn discussed the role of the steering committee and explained the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Hanna requested meetings occur more frequently - every few weeks instead of once a month.

Mr. Marshall emphasized the need to get the word out to the people of Richmond Heights and encourage everyone to participate.

Chairman Moss suggested reaching out to the churches and utilizing the resources of his office to get the information out to the people.

Mr. Basu stated staff would put together a flyer on the process, to be provided to interested parties.

Chairman Moss asked the residents for feedback on the meeting.

Barbara Nickerson stated, Richmond Heights is a unique community, and it would be interesting to develop a unique corridor that will draw people into the Richmond Heights area.

Mrs. Marshall raised a concern that everyone in the community does not receive the same Neighbors section of the newspaper where the charrette steering committee meetings are advertised.

Vaughn Marshall stated, the Neighborhood Resource Center is a place where people come together to commune. Richmond Heights is like a village; but without a community area. There is a need for a place for community activities, shopping, and parks which will attract and bring people to this location.

Chairman Moss emphasized that the Main Street is the engine that drives a community that's the reason for the focus on downtown. Compatible developments will protect the community and create opportunities for the people and it will be a place to gather. During the charrette process, everyone

has something to contribute - developers, community social service groups, residents, homeowners. That is the focus point, the heart and soul of the community.

Mr. Basu asked that for the next steering committee meeting, members think about the study area boundary, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of steering committee, and community issues (assets and problems).

Chairman Moss asked if there were any groups that were not being represented during the meeting. The groups mentioned were the Concerned Brothers of Richmond Heights, churches (no names given), and the Richmond Heights Women's Club. The groups will need to be contacted to inform them of the meetings.

Mr. Hanna requested the demographic information for Richmond Heights be emailed before next meeting (if possible). He also asked for clarification of why the study area boundary extends outside downtown.

Chairman Moss addressed the study area boundary. He stated that in order to make sure the impact on the surrounding area is fully addressed; the area across from downtown will need to be studied. He also mentioned that the steering committee will be expanded to include a larger representation from the community.

Mr. Basu concluded the meeting by announcing the date and time of the next meeting.

**Next committee meeting:
Wednesday, May 6, 6:30 P.M.
Coral Reef Branch Library
9211 Coral Reef Drive**

