



NEAT STREETS MIAMI
MEETING SUMMARY
January 28, 2016
FINAL

NSM Members Present

William Anderson, GMCVB
Lina Blanco, City of Miami
David Cardenas, MDPROS
Dr. Claudius Carnegie, CTAC
Vice Mayor Patricia Cohen, Bal Harbour,
Miami-Dade League of Cities
Jeffrey Dawson, Miami-Dade Aviation
Marcus L. Dixon, MDC, District 2
Gloria Antia, A Better South Florida
Cesar Garcia-Pons, Perkins + Will/ At Large
Patricia Harris, Private Citizen
Ramiro Inguanzo, Miami Dade College
Rick Johnson, MDX
Jennifer Korth-LLorente, City of South Miami
Gianni Lodi, MDC Planning & Zoning
Robert McClellan, MDT
Commissioner Dennis C. Moss,
MDC District 9
Alyce Robertson, Miami DDA
Peter Trupia, Designee,
MDC Commission, District 3
Rick Vasquez, FPL, MDC Designee, District 5
Lynda Westin, South Florida
Regional Transportation Authority

Participants Present

Bernard Zyscovich, Zyscovich & Associates
George Navarrete, MDPROS
Ginny Gutierrez, GMCVB
Ana Benatuil, Zyscovich & Associates
Aymee Zubizarreta, Zyscovich & Associates
Diana Amaya, District 9
Manuel Garcia, MDTPW
Susannah Troner, RER
Patrice Gillespie-Smith, NSM
Wanda Torres, NSM
Annette Dominguez, NSM
Quatisha Oguntinyinbo-Rashad, City of Miami,
Environmental Resources
William Talbert, III, GMCVB

I. Welcome and Introduction

- A. Patrice Gillespie-Smith opened the meeting. She asked everyone to introduce themselves and welcomed Annette Dominguez, Neat Streets Miami Intern. Ms. Gillespie-Smith welcomed Gloria Antia back from her leave of absence.

II. Action Item – Approval of 12/10/15 Minutes

Ms. Gillespie-Smith asked for a motion to approve December 10, 2015 minutes. Rick Johnson motioned to approve. Gianni Lodi seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Action Item – Vote to drop “formally known as CIAB” language

Ms. Gillespie-Smith mentioned the Neat Streets Miami brand was introduced one year ago and given that it has been around the community for this length of time, should the

“Formerly known as the CIAB,” language be removed from Neat Streets Miami materials. Ms. Gillespie-Smith asked if anyone from the Marketing Committee would like to speak.

Lina Blanco responded everyone has been aware that we are no longer CIAB. She recommended CIAB be dropped.

Ramiro Inguanzo commented he was comfortable dropping CIAB but would like to continue to see the mission of Neat Streets Miami remain.

Ms. Gillespie-Smith agreed with Mr. Inguanzo’s suggestion.

Ms. Blanco motioned to drop “formally known as CIAB language” from Neat Streets Miami materials. The motion was seconded by Mr. Inguanzo. The motioned passed unanimously.

III. Update

a. Office of Neat Streets Miami – Patrice Gillespie-Smith

Ms. Gillespie-Smith announced the status of some items discussed at the NSM December Board meeting. She is waiting to hear from EAC, Consulting regarding underpass pricing; they are working on the figures.

Ms. Gillespie-Smith reported we are waiting to hear from Secretary Gus Pego’s office to see if Underpass Retrofits are possible to have in Miami-Dade County.

She reminded everyone about the Great Park Summit on April 15th. Leo Alvarez will be discussing the Atlanta Beltline and Debra Marton President of the New York Restoration Project, who completed Million Trees New York, will be featured.

She reported that the Local Action Team for Safer People and Safer Streets had their Public Officials Breakfast with presenter Gabe Klein. A video of Mr. Klein’s presentation can be found on the Complete Streets website. Ms. Gillespie-Smith shared that in 2015 approximately 30,000 people were killed on our roads-- as many people as were killed by guns.

Ms. Gillespie-Smith informed everyone the Neat Streets Team has visited 50 schools for the Clean-Up Green-up Poster Contest. She asked each member and guest to share the posters with others so we could increase student participation.

Ms. Gillespie-Smith asked Henry Meyer to give a report on the Ag Tour.

Mr. Meyer shared February 19th Agriculture Tour will be a fish farm and other agricultural exhibits.

Ms. Gillespie-Smith said that she and Mr. Meyer will team up to participate in the Anti-Poverty Summit on January 30th and invited others to take part. They’ll talk about the value of trees; how they’ll serve you and the right trees to plant.

Ms. Gillespie-Smith thanked Mr. Meyer for sharing his information.

b. Marketing Committee – Lina Blanco

Ms. Blanco reported the committee met on January 27 to discuss the Clean-Up Green-Up Poster Contest. She stressed the importance of promoting the poster contest in order to have successful student participation. She announced the Miami Herald would not be assisting the committee this year. Ms. Blanco also announced, the poster judging would be held at the Women Center in West Flagler. Ms. Blanco thanked Tabitha Fazzino and Juliet Chambers for helping promote the contest; Penny Lambeth who sent out a press release to all the media contacts and Ginny Gutierrez and Bill Talbert who provided the prizes and support. In its most recent meeting the Marketing Committee discussed asking board members to use in-house resources to promote Neat Streets Miami and Million Trees Miami. She asked if anyone had space on their website or in their building to contact her. Ms. Blanco mentioned the Committee discussed there was a need to educate the community. If anyone is interested in serving with Neat Streets Miami on a Speaker Bureau to contact Ms. Gillespie-Smith for training. Ms. Blanco thanked members who had added the Neat Streets Miami logo to their signatures. She asked members if they could start using Neat Streets Miami on their social media sites to bring awareness to Neat Streets Miami mission. Ms. Blanco asked if anyone interested in joining the Marketing Committee to contact her.

Chairman Moss asked for a round of applause. He thanked Ms. Blanco for her report and apologized for being delayed due to traffic.

c. Street Trees Sub-Committee – Rick Johnson

Rick Johnson shared they were moving forward to Phase 2 of Urban Tree Canopy Study. He hopes to have it completed by March 2016. He shared Surfside has become a Tree City USA. Mr. Johnson mentioned it will be important to leverage the \$500,000 additional county funding for Street Trees. They are collecting planting requests. Mr. Johnson asked members to start thinking of candidates for the Crown Canopy Award. He asked Ms. Gillespie-Smith to provide everyone with the location of the Great Park Summit.

Ms. Gillespie-Smith responded the date is April 15 located at Miami-Dade College Wolfson Campus.

Ms. Gillespie-Smith asked if there were any questions.

(Chairman Moss and members applauded the committee on their accomplishments.)

Vice Mayor Cohen shared she's observed no one sitting under the trees in Sunny Isle Park during the day, due to the size of trees. She suggested planting larger trees to the canopy so the park can be more inviting to park goers.

Ms. Gillespie-Smith responded the County has certain standards for tree sizes.

Mr. Dawson commented there have been studies about "What is the right size tree." He shared studies shows that the survivability rate is greater when smaller trees are planted.

Mr. Meyer commented there is far more maintenance for larger trees than smaller trees.

Gianni Lodi commented there needs to be more education in this area. He mention there will be a Landscape Code update coming up. Code changes may raise the size of the trees to 12 ft. Mr. Lodi also mentioned Planning and Zoning will be working closely with Neat Streets Miami to ensure the right trees are being planted in the right area.

Action Item

Chairman Moss would like to discuss at a later date the size of trees to be planted and how we can educate the public.

Chairman Moss thanked Mr. Johnson for his report.

d. Gateway/Corridor Subcommittee – Dr. Claudius Carnegie

The Transportation, Corridors and Gateway Committee met in January 2016. They had a presentation from Mr. John Berry, a concerned citizen. He presented a vision of art murals on building walls along the TriRail corridor. Mr. Berry was invited to share his presentation to the Board.

Action Item

Ms. Gillespie Smith will be coordinating with Mr. Berry, TriRail and FDOT for this presentation.

Dr. Carnegie mentioned the Safer People, Safer Streets Public Officials' Breakfast held on January 14. The panelists were: Mayor Carlos Gimenez, Commissioner Esteban Bovo, Secretary Gus Pego, City Manager Jimmy Morales, Chief Antonio Brooklen, Dr. Jose Szapocznik and Aileen Boucle. The panelist elaborated on "How Communities Are Achieving Safer Streets." Gabe Klein discussed "Using Innovation to Create Safer Streets." The Local Action Team Action Plan will be presented in March 2016. I-395 safety issues were discussed. Dr. Carnegie thanked the City of Miami for painting the mural to make the area look welcoming. They will continue to work with FDOT to make I-395 a safer area for the community.

Robert McClellan announced MDT had a new executive director Alice Bravo. In October 2015 MDT added an additional 43 buses to the Miami Beach route and the Busway 34 routes. A Green Light Priority system enables buses that are off schedule traveling Kendall Drive the opportunity to extend green lights. If buses are on schedule they won't have green light priority. In November 2015, the 95-Express was extended from Broward County to the Civic Center. In December 2015 the buses on Coral Way were updated with real-time tracking systems. This system will be compatible with Phones and Androids. Passengers can now go online to track buses so they can have precise timing. Also, in December a pilot program was started with Metrorail Express. This program has been well received by Metrorail users. By April 2016, all transit should have real-time tracking in place.

Dr. Carnegie congratulated MDT on their accomplishments.

Ms. Gillespie-Smith was asked to explain to members and participants what brought about the Local Action Team (LAT) for Safer People and Safer Streets. Ms. Gillespie-Smith shared in September Mayor Gimenez and Commissioner Dennis Moss convened a group of local experts to implement a plan creating safer streets for pedestrian and bicyclist. Miami-Dade County is the 4th worst metropolitan area for pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and the numbers continue to climb.

LAT has been compiling recommendations to reduce pedestrians and bicyclists fatalities and increase walking, biking and transit use. The LAT members from Neat Streets Miami are: Alyce Robertson, Ramiro Inguanzo, 2 Mayors, Chief of Jackson Trauma Center, IT Specialist, Dr. Claudius Carnegie, and Cesar Garcia-Pons and others. Now the team is transitioning to putting their plan into action steps. In February or March the entire action plan will be complete and presented to the Neat Streets Miami Board.

Action Item

Ms. Gillespie-Smith announced the LAT will be taking their action plan before the Board of Commissions April 5, 2016 for their approval.

The Transportation and Public Works Department hired a municipal planner to help with the implementation of municipal transportation plan. The Local Action Team has urged a change in the culture and has been encouraged by the changes in the TPW department.

Chairman Moss thanked Dr. Carnegie for his update.

Chairman Moss thanked the GMCVB for their continued support to the Neat Streets Miami Board and asked William Anderson to give a report.

Mr. Anderson reported the following:

- Occupancy 76.8% third highest in the U.S.
- Room availability (+3.5%)
- Rooms Sold (+1.8%) – in the month of December
- Room rate average (\$240.77) – in the month of December
U.S. average (\$115.81)
- RevPAR - \$184.90 up 1.9% in the month of December
- 2015 – Hotels occupancy (78.1%) almost 1% increase in previous year
(6th highest in the country)
- Selling approximately 80% of the rooms throughout the year
- Added 3.6% of rooms and sold 3.7%
- Room rate increased by 5%
- RevPAR increased by 6%
- Employment past 5 months – lead the county not only in rate of growth but also new jobs; at the end of 2015 136,000 working in the hospitality industry-- an increase of 29.4% since 2008
- 2016 GMCVB projects we will see an additional 2,500 rooms

Ginny Gutiérrez shared the American Black Film Festival will be this February. She announced Ebony Magazine has a presence in Miami. Ms. Gutiérrez shared the GMCVB is working with various journalist throughout the world and they are excited to work with Ebony. Ms. Gutiérrez reminded everyone Cruise Month was about to end, Romance Month would start in February as well as Black History Month.

Dr. Carnegie commented that Airbnb is getting ready to interrupt the hospitality business. He asked if the GMCVB could comment. Mr. Anderson responded they're looking into the matter but Airbnb does not pay into the County Tax Collector's Office directly. Airbnb needs to be held accountable for paying taxes so GMCVB is able to monitor the financial impact of these alternative reservations. The GMCVB is hoping they have the support of leaders to help in this matter. Mr. Anderson mentioned anyone who rents out the property for 179 days or less must pay taxes. He shared there are approximately 1000 Airbnb accounts in Miami-Dade County.

Dr. Carnegie also commented that we may also want to look into foreign condo owners who are renting their properties but are not reporting to the necessary agencies. He stated there are several issues which need to be addressed.

Vice Mayor Patricia Cohen commented renters risk losing their homestead exemption when reporting the lease of their condos.

Chairman Moss commented this was the same type of disruption he discussed about Uber. He realizes this is a difficult situation. Chairman Moss talked about Gabe Klein's presentation about a shift to autonomous vehicles. This change will have an impact in the community (i.e. retail, and other various transportations) will be disrupted. Chairman Moss' concern is to find solutions that allow people to follow the law.

Chairman Moss commented technology is not going away; we have to make the necessary adjustments.

Chairman Moss commented he is not pleased with the appearance of our roads. It is important people understand the importance of our gateways to our community's image. He wants people to be safe and able to take pride in their community. Chairman Moss stated it's important we continue to work on our public assets.

Ms. Gillespie-Smith shared that she would share information to file complaints regarding any road issues.

Ms. Alyce Robertson commented what troubles her about this system, is that it is complaint based. She stated there needs to be a push to be more proactive. Chairman Moss agreed. She stated there needs to be more people monitoring from different entities. She asked, "How do we get beyond a complaint driven system?"

Action Item

Chairman Moss would like to discuss at a later date, how to create a proactive maintenance program like MDX has.

Vice Mayor Cohen thanked Chairman Moss for putting focus on the aesthetics of the community. Vice Mayor asked, "How are we going to solve the congestion of traffic in our streets?"

Chairman Moss responded that improved transit will provide an alternative but we will continue to have congestion. He compared our transit system to New York and Los Angeles who have a

larger transit system, yet has much more congestion. Chairman Moss stated it will be difficult for most people to transition to an expanded transit system because they chose to drive their cars. However, we will expand transit because there is an interest in the community.

Vice Mayor Cohen asked, “How are we going to encourage people to leave their vehicles home?”

Chairman Moss encouraged everyone to look at things in context. Chairman Moss also pointed out when you have congestion; it shows you have economic growth.

e. Landscape Projects Subcommittee- Jeffrey Dawson

Mr. Dawson reported that the Landscape Committee met to discuss many items. The Committee indicated I-395, Krome Avenue, and I-95 will be the focus gateways for 2016. The enhancement for the Landscape Code was discussed. The committee invited Gianni Lodi to attend the next Landscape Committee meeting on February 17, 2016, so he can update them on the proposed code changes. Mr. Dawson mention there was a new Adopt-A-Road sign installed in North Dade. He mentioned the Kirk Munroe WHEELS sign at the Coconut Grove MetroRail Station was vandalized. Ms. Gillespie-Smith responded the sign was replaced.

Mr. Dawson reported the Vizcaya fountain is working. Mr. Dawson reported that the Committee continues to work in the I-395 area.

Commissioner Moss thanked Mr. Dawson for his committee report.

III. Reports

A. “Plan Z” for the Rickenbacker- Bernard Zyscovich, Aymee Zubizarretta

Mr. Zyscovich shared in 2012 he introduced to a larger committee his mission about safety on the Causeway after 2 deaths of cyclists. Since 2012 the idea has been evolving. He shared over a period of time; the community has been developing more public facilities. The Underline Park and Ludlum Trail are underway, Virginia key, and the Seaquarium. Mr. Zyscovich shared everything on the Rickenbacker is a park except the Village, package treatment plant and the Causeway itself. Mr. Zyscovich mentioned he developed a non-profit organization, called “Plan Z” Miami. The concept they envision is on a larger scale. Mr. Zyscovich commented the Underline is a commuter system and sees it as a loop around the county. He compared it to the Beltline in Atlanta. Mr. Zyscovich pointed out the Rickenbacker is where cyclists, runners and walkers go to exercise. Mr. Zyscovich stated they could take 10 acres and generate a waterfront park without acquiring any land. He stated a park could be generated through reconstruction of road and realignment. He’s met with the Mayor and other City Officials who embraced the plan. Mr. Zyscovich stated their plan is to move all bicycle activity to the south side and have a complete total lane separation between cyclists, pedestrians and runners. Mr. Zyscovich commented the Causeway would no longer be a highway but a park. He shared when you increase the movement for cyclist you also increase for runners and pedestrians. Mr. Zyscovich mentioned there is plenty of space for “Plan Z.” Mr. Zyscovich said this vision of this project is to have tourist and locals come and take a walk, stay fit and enjoy the view. There is about 250ft of right-of-way. There would be plenty of parking located near the water’s edge. The roadway

would be moved to the north. The bicycle lanes would be on the south. A landscape architect has not been hired to make the vision even more appealing. Mr. Zyscovich stated this would be a huge asset to the County. Mr. Zyscovich stated most importantly, we have to make it safe. To complete the green bike lane project it would cost approximately \$2 Million. Mr. Zyscovich introduced Aymee Zubizameta and Ana Benatul from his firm.

Chairman Moss asked what the estimated cost was.

Mr. Zyscovich responded approximately \$30-40 million. The project would come at the end of a Master Plan's vision. Mr. Zyscovich also urged starting with the pilot plan of the green bike lane, which is inexpensive.

Dr. Carnegie asked are there any opportunities for a P3 component for the master plan? (i.e. tennis facility).

Mr. Zyscovich stated this project would draw tourist, bicyclist, runners and other athletic and fitness communities. This could develop funding sources to help with the implementation of this plan.

There was a question about the cost of the current green striping on the Causeway. Mr. Manny Garcia, of Transportation and Public Works said the initial segment cost \$73,000.

Mr. Inguanzo urged that we do this right away and this would be an important thing to do.

Mr. Zyscovich stated people would provide funding when parks are involved.

Mr. Inguanzo asked where parking would be.

Mr. Zyscovich responded with the renovation of the Miami Marina to double up and have parking on the north side and more landscaping on the south side.

Vice Mayor Cohen comment she was excited. The iconic focal point would attract photographers and tourist.

Mr. Garcia-Pons commented on Illuminated RPMs have been added to the green bike lanes—providing even more safety measures for cyclist.

Giani Lodi commented there is a bigger problem with the lack of open spaces.

Chairman Moss asked Mr. Zyscovich if he had spoken with Key Biscayne and what type of feedback he had received.

Mr. Zyscovich responded the first stage was precipitated by Gene Starns, a Key Biscayne resident, who has challenged them on how beautiful can they make Key Biscayne. The problem is how you solve the separation. They've meet with several people in Key Biscayne.

Mr. Inguanzo asked for a motion to the Chair to approve the Plan Z.

Chairman Moss commented this plan puts our community in a very unique position. He sees this as a tourist draw. Iconic is important; it will add to the community.

Mr. Inguanzo motioned and Dr. Carnegie seconded the motion.

Ms. Robertson asked when would zoning start.

Mr. Zyscovich responded it's already zoned.

This presentation will be added to the Neat Streets Miami website.

V. Recap of Action Items 1/28/16 Meeting

Due to time restraints, there were no Action Items recaps.

VI. Closing Remarks

Chairman Moss asked if there were any more questions. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:51am