



Coconut Grove Business Improvement District Board of Directors' Meeting

Park Grove Condominium 2821 South Bayshore Drive, Miami, FL 33133

December 5, 2019 at 9:00 AM

****meeting minutes are not verbatim****

FINAL

Board members in attendance:

Commissioner Ken Russell, BID Board Chairman

Art Noriega

Olaf Kohrsmeyer

Lauren Carra

Donna DeMichael

Steve Keup, via phone

Claire Lardner

Lalo Durazo

Michael Comras

Monty Trainer, non-voting member

Commissioner Russell called the meeting to order at 9:09 AM.

1. Approval of October 9, 2019 Board of Directors' meeting minutes.

Upon a properly made and seconded motion, the board unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes of October 9, 2019.

Motion: Olaf Kohrsmeyer

Second: Claire Lardner

2. Approval or denial of the administration's recommendation to accept the draft financial statement or FY18-19 by auditors SKJT&J and submit the approved audit statement to the City of Miami Commission for approval.

Richie Tandoc, partner with SKJT&J presented his firm's findings to the board. SKJT&J reported a clean financial audit with no reported issues. Mr. Tandoc thanked Executive Director Mahony for her help and assistance in providing all requested documents during the audit. Upon a properly made and seconded motion, the board unanimously voted to approve and submit the audit statement to the City of Miami Commission for approval.

Motion: Olaf Kohrsmeyer

Second: Lauren Carra

3. Approval or denial of the administration’s request for approval of a waiver of the formal requirements set forth in the City of Miami Code of Ordinances, as amended, specifically Section 18-85, and under Florida Statutes Section 287.057, for BID board ratification by a four-fifths affirmative vote seeking approval to donate, in an amount not to exceed fifty-thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) to the Coconut Grove Art and Historical Association for the 2020 Coconut Grove Arts Festival.

Matt Fillioe, Executive Director of the Coconut Grove Art and Historical Association, presented his organization’s request for funding. For the first time, the festival will kick-off with a free musical performance by Emily Estefan. Donna DeMichael, Michael Comras, and Claire Lardner expressed concern that the funding request is the largest the BID has ever dispersed to the CGAF. Steve Keup highlighted last year’s hotel occupancy during the weekend of the festival was ninety-six percent on Friday and was ninety-eight percent on Saturday in making the argument that the festival brings people into the district from outside the community. Claire Lardner requested the the BID administration complete a post event survey of the BID businesses to determine the impact of the festival on their sales. Upon a properly made and seconded motion, the board unanimously voted to approve the allocation of forty-thousand (\$40,000.00) to the Coconut Grove Art and Historical Association for the 2020 Coconut Grove Arts Festival. Monty Trainer recused himself from the discussion and vote.

Motion: Claire Lardner

Second: Lauren Carra

4. Approval or denial of the administration’s request for approval of a waiver of the formal requirements set forth in the City of Miami Code of Ordinances, as amended, specifically Section 18-85, and under Florida Statutes Section 287.057, for BID board ratification by a four-fifths affirmative vote seeking approval to execute a three (3) year contract with Light-Er-Up, LLC for the maintenance of the lighting installation in Peacock Park, in an amount not to exceed thirty-two thousand dollars (\$32,000.00).

Stakeholder Fransisco Balli, partner in ownership of Glass & Vine, addressed the board voicing his support for the approval of the contract. Upon a properly made and seconded motion, the board unanimously voted to approve the allocation of no more than thirty-two thousand dollars (\$32,000.00) to execute a one (1) year contract with the option for two (2) one-year renewals with Light-Er-Up, LLC for the maintenance of the lighting installation in Peacock Park.

Motion: Lauren Carra

Second: Claire Lardner

5. Approval or denial of the administration’s recommendation to donate, in an amount not to exceed fifty-thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) to the City of Miami Police Department for the licensing, installation, maintenance, and monitoring of the closed circuit television cameras (CCTV) within the BID boundaries.

Community member Courtney Omega addressed the board voicing her support for the program and thanked the board for allowing public opinion. Board member Claire Lardner expressed concern that the cameras could lead to potential civil rights violations, racial profiling, and possible false arrests. Board member Art Noriega highlighted that protecting businesses is one of the BID’s responsibilities and that the cameras will serve as a deterrent. Upon a properly made and seconded motion, the board voted 8-1 to approve the administration’s recommendation to donate an amount not to exceed fifty-thousand (\$50,000.00) to the City of Miami Police Department for the installation of CCTV.

Motion: Lauren Carra

Second: Art Noriega

Ayes: Commissioner Ken Russell, Art Noriega, Michael Comras, Steve Keup, Donna DeMichael, Lauren Carra, Lalo Durazo, Olaf Kohrsmeier
Nays: Claire Lardner

6. Presentation by CocoWalk on the request for a waiver of the holiday construction moratorium.

Cocowalk representative Chris Cobb and Cocowalk legal representative Iris Escarra presented to the board the construction timeline and necessary maintenance of traffic (MOT) required for the installation of a Miami-Dade County mandated new water and sewer line in the middle of Virginia street. The MOT will require a road closure of Virginia street. Cocowalk requested that the board recommend to the City of Miami that the mandated holiday construction moratorium be waived so that Cocowalk can work in the public right of way during the holiday season. The following representatives of businesses impacted by the road closure spoke about their concerns about the impact to their businesses: Bilai Silar of Sweet Mercy Brewery, Georgia of Silly Monkeys, and Gaston Legorburu of GlueIQ. Sean McKeen, the general manager of the Mayfair Hotel, voiced his support for the waiver of the construction moratorium. Cocowalk committed to opening up pedestrian access along Grand Avenue in January 2020 and ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) for parking validations to be used for customers along Virginia Street. The board also directed Executive Director Abigail Mahony to mediate between Cocowalk and Virginia Street businesses to best address the business needs during the construction.

Upon a properly made a seconded motion, the board unanimously voted to direct Executive Director Abigail Mahony to submit the board's recommendation to waive the construction moratorium for Cocowalk to complete construction in the public right of way during the 2019-2020 holiday season to the City of Miami Department of Public Works and the City Manager. As Cocowalk's appointee to the BID board, Michael Comras recused himself from the vote and discussion.

Motion: Lauren Carra

Second: Lalo Durazo

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 AM.