



Coconut Grove Village Council

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**Coconut Grove Village Council
November 16, 2006
Meeting Minutes**

On November 16, 2006, a quorum of duly elected Directors of Firm met to discuss and decide issues relevant to the business of the corporation. Council Members Person, Nelson, McDonald, Dubin, Zilber, Hecht, Collins and Niemeyer were present and voted. Mr. Sarnoff arrived during the meeting and voted on issues discussed after his arrival. The following discussions took place, including the enactment of resolutions as described herein:

Committee reports:

27th Avenue Metrorail. 101 West Flagler, Historical Museum, Nov. 29, 9:00 a.m., meeting of the County organization. Committee urges people to attend and support the original project that was accepted by the county. Nov. 28 at 5:00 pm. Rally at the metrorail station. Please come.

Other reports: Some of David Collins' neighbors are curious about whether the meeting is being televised tonight. We were told the meeting is being televised.

Website is up and has discussion pages to give your comments. The address is:
www.coconutgrovevillagecouncil.com.

Old Business:

Dub Evins, CG Chamber of Commerce spoke regarding status of the Chamber's South Bayshore Beautification Project. Referred to documents passed to us. South Bayshore has become disheveled and badly maintained. South Bayshore from McFarlane to Monty's. City and County funded. Committed to make it happen before the Superbowl. Resets and establishes tree and landscape standards for Coconut Grove.

Phase II, Avenue of the Arts. Includes exterior sculpture and is coordinated and managed by the Coconut Grove Arts Festival. Have "worked closely with a lot of people." Has plans here. Handouts. Lili Dones, Chamber Vice President, says primary concern is re-greening of the medians.

Committee wants the VC to go along with the plan of greening the medians. Phase 2 needs more input.

Stephen Duncan of Miami-Dade County. Initial plan he saw was a drawing submitted by a landscape company. Lot of palm trees. No provision as to whether it met sight triangle or setback requirements. Resubmitted to the Chamber. At some point Mr. Evins' firm, Bermello Ajamil, did drawings that were resubmitted to traffic engineering for review and comment. Concerned about use of natives over non-natives. Additional changes made to increase level of native species. They have not submitted anything for permitting yet. County has committed to maintain material that is installed. Right of way and aesthetic assets management division are involved on the county level. Felice is curious, what if they like the placement of the trees, are they deciding on the species? How long does this take? He's reviewing and commenting now, can't answer for traffic engineering section? David loves it when the VC presumes to comment on something as complicated as this without knowing much. David thinks this is an extraordinary project from the Chamber. David trusts the tree man trust with decisions on arbor in this town. It has to go forward with the approval of the tree man trust. Send it to Sasaki. Notes David saw say Phase II automatically goes forward and continues right away. Jim said trees seem to be planted to accommodate the art festival. Super Bowl deadline is a wonderful deadline. Blocking traffic during holiday season will hurt business in the Grove. "Avenue of the Arts." David is a supporter of the Arts Festival, but Philadelphia has the Avenue of the Arts, he thinks the name is presumptuous. Dub DK if the street will be blocked.

Stephen Duncan can't say if lanes will be shut down. They try to do rolling lane closures. When asked about getting tree man trust approval Dub Evins indicated you should use "professionals" for this type of project. Fees paid or in kind. Bermello set a budget of \$5,000 and will develop a total budget, funding will come in Phase II. Ron: more trees slated for removal on spreadsheet than in letter. Ron suggests we need to sit down with the County one more time about what trees should stay and what should go. Lili, at committee meeting last night they agreed they would go to the county and go through the plans together. Jim McMaster said in the first island in front of the women's club there is a possible placement of sculptures. The Chamber plan contemplates the removal of virtually all the native canopy trees. If the Chamber is willing to leave the canopy trees, strangler figs, and one more, in front of the Women's Club. If the chamber agrees to keep those first four trees, then they can add some. Most of the proposed trees are not native. Stephen Duncan thinks Jim and he and his arborist should look at some of the trees together. Jim McMaster: as for the aesthetic, Coconut Grove is not Bal Harbor. Steve Duncan has heard funding is \$200K coming out of County Public Works. Steve is assuming the Chamber has a working group. Lili - they have a working committee that was formed in May. Lili and Mark Alvarez of the Grand Bay are chairing it. Included public works, NET office, etc. Yvonne's initial concern... glad this was brought before the council ...

MOTION: Motion by Martin that we support Phase I (only) and there will be a committee of VC, tree man trust, chamber and County. Motion passed 6 to 3. 27th Avenue Improvement Plans:

Priscilla Morales from M-D County Public Works presented two alternative designs proposed to the community. Have taken to heart community comments and have come to consensus. Gateway to Coconut Grove. Lush landscaping, tree lined boulevard. Left turn bays at the medians, on-street bicycle facilities. Working with City and Tree Man Trust for a lush tree lined corridor. Anticipate beginning construction January 2008.

Public comment:

Ted Stahl - County agreed to create a pdf that can be posted on the website for comment. There has been only one meeting residents know of. Mr. Stahl would like this deferred and would like Ms. Morales to bring her plans to the affected associations. Kidney shaped island will direct traffic down Day Avenue. Ms. Morales said the County took alternatives from a City master plan that had public input. Cesar Gonzales of City Capital Improvement Department says the Planning Department did something but doesn't think they ever did a charette. The City took the initiative. Peter Waldron, represents owners of Berry's and EZ Kwik. Overwhelming sentiment was no one wanted landscape barriers. Also, frontage parking is being lost by some businesses including Berries and EZ Kwik. Joel Krieger indicating the islands were not wanted by the public because without them it's impossible to make a left hand turn into the apartments and businesses. Andy Herskowitz has tenants who would have a problem getting into their property. Never received anything from the City or County about this until two weeks ago. Carl Crook. Has been resident and store owner for years (Crook & Crook).. Oct. 21 was the first meeting he was ever aware of. He's surprised to see Alternative 1 because it was soundly put down on the 21st. He thought there would be changes based on the discussion, and it's disturbing that Alternative 1 is still there. Day Avenue and other streets' residents should be consulted. Suggests we go forward with Alternative 2 only. Michael Manno, property manager at a property at 27th and South Bayshore. Medians would affect ingress and egress. Comment from County made it clear they are not really taking input. The master planning process is over and they are moving into the design phase. Problems at the property Mr. Manno manages with sidewalks being ruined by boat trailers. Tom McCarthy with EZ Kwik. The October 21 meeting was the first they knew about this. Requested a copy of the plans and was told it was expensive to reproduce, he offered to pay, sent a certified letter asking, no response. County tried to tell them they did not own the parking they do own.

Council comments. Martin: is there anyone who does not want more input? Michelle commented on concern about public input and situation creating a Day Avenue secondary highway. Gary commented that he was concerned there was only one meeting on October 21. This has him upset. Ms. Morales claimed resident concerns will be addressed in the design phase where the project would be fine tuned. She also said the goal of urban design is to disseminate traffic onto the less traveled roads.

MOTION: David motion, Gary second. VC inform Commissioner Jimenez that we reject a hybrid or original of those medians, that we reject Alternative 1 absolutely, and that we further invite Commissioner Jimenez to participate in a charette with the Village Council in the next three weeks to be chaired by Mr. Stahl and Mr. Nelson. Martin comment. Does not like the idea of completely rejecting the plan. Would rather ask for more input. Ron like idea of charette but does not want to reject the medians outright. Let's plan a charette for 27th Avenue and get it done.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: David amended to withdraw the part about total rejection of the "thrillseekers delight of medians."

Lottie thanked county for coming. She does not endorse this when no one has heard about it; it should go back to the community.

Marc quoted Winton, that he's never seen a project that didn't improve with public input. Don't put more traffic on the Center Grove.

Martin: we need to work together on this.

David asked about the projected digging time.

Yvonne indicated she thinks the Village Council did its job in making sure this was brought to the public. It's about making sure we decide the future of our community. Supportive of us making sure we air this issue as much as we need to do so.

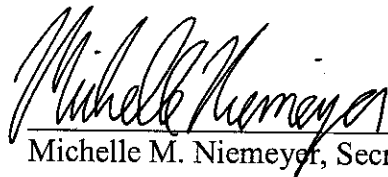
Felice asked if any consideration was made to the side streets; it was not.

The council voted. Motion passed as amended.

Martin moved to adjourn, MMN seconded.

Dated:

December 22, 2006



Michelle M. Niemeyer, Secretary