

MiMo BISCAYNE ASSOCIATION (MBA)

Minutes Board Meeting—Monday, March 14, 2016, @ 9 AM @ Cushman School

Attendance: Nancy Liebman, Avra Jain, Jorge Planas, Melissa Hege, Robert John Graboski, Debby Stander, Rosemary Ference, John Bachay, Annalisa Damley, Amber Natale (QUORUM).

GUESTS/SPEAKERS: Sharie Blanton-NET, Sheryl Rudnick-Cushman School, Kiara Garland-City of Miami, Kimberly Bentley-City of Miami, Noa Yavkovski-Miami Ironside, Amber-Trina Turk, Andres Althabe-BNA, Keni Chow-Oriental Decor, James F. Kruse-J.F.K. Associates

AGENDA:

TREASURERS REPORT: \$11,356.00

Approval of Minutes for February 2016. Approved without modification.

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

BID (BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT): Avra reached out to Greenstreet & several other large property owners on the boulevard. They have no interest in BID for the following reasons: the large property owners have their own security which in effect subsidizes others; extra police have been assigned to the neighborhood; people are more careful. BID was motivated by security issues and these have largely been rectified. BID has been put on hold for now. Any foreseeable BID participation might have to come from tenants instead of property owners.

MARKETING: Amber provided an update. Productive first meeting. The newsletter was released on time. It's on the website, posted on Fbook and emailed to members. Next newsletter scheduled for May. The Board members are welcome to suggest topics and content for the newsletter. Email Amber articles to post on social media. Our Instagram has been taken down as it wasn't an effective platform for us.

MEMBERSHIP: Annalisa provided an update. Ironing out final kinks with Amber to make membership function seamlessly. New MiMo stickers have been ordered to place on the windows of businesses on the boulevard who are members. MiMo bags are in the process of being ordered. On March 30, 9am, Annalisa & Sharie will go door-to-door on Biscayne Boulevard to meet with businesses, make formal introductions and talk about NET & MiMo. Annalisa is using this opportunity to sell memberships as well. The day before, March 29, 11 am, we meet at the NET office to prepare bags for the door-to-door meetings. Bags will contain both MiMo and NET materials, stickers. Volunteers are welcome to join to help prepare the bags. Please invite people to like MiMo Biscayne Association on Facebook and to forward its postings on Facebook. This will heighten MBA's visibility and encourage membership.

CITY OF MIAMI: Commissioner Ken Russell was unable to attend. Kimberly Bentley, District Director from the Office of Commissioner Ken Russell attended in his absence.

PLANNING & ZONING: Robert provided an update. FDOT has reviewed their design guidelines. Requests were made for on-street parking, crosswalks, plant medians. Surrounding neighborhoods have extended their support for a proper FDOT plan where curb appeal and pedestrian experience is a priority. FDOT's 2 year study on Biscayne Blvd is in progress. MBA representatives will be part of the study committee. Our section of the boulevard is under review. The planning & zoning professionals on the Board (architects, urban planners), have worked together to create a Biscayne Blvd. block by block plan from 50th to 77th street which underscores the need to make the boulevard a more desirable walking experience. We have support from City of Miami and legislature. Of note, there is confusion at the city level about who owns alleyways and parking next to sidewalks. Planning and zoning guidelines being updated. Design guidelines being updated. The 35 foot cap has to be addressed as it continues to deter development along the Boulevard. Tenants want 20 foot ceilings with 2 storys and mixed use. This can't be achieved with a 35 foot restriction. In addition, lack of parking continues to be a concern. Nancy will schedule a meeting with Commissioner Ken Russell to work on these planning issues going forward.

TRINA TURK: Trina Turk's representative Amber attended the meeting. Trina Turk is scheduled to open in May, permits permitting.

COPPERTONE GIRL (EASEMENT AGREEMENT): The invoice to Bayer for payment has been sent. The Board approved the contract with Greenstreet regarding the sign.

NET: Sharie Blanton, NET's Administrator updated us on the Earth Day & Wellness Event: April 23, 2016, 11am-3pm. Legion Park, 6599 Biscayne Blvd. MiMo Biscayne Association will have a table at this event, located next to the HOAs of surrounding neighborhoods. Volunteers are encouraged to come out, show their support and assist at the MBA table if possible.

TASTE OF MORNINGSIDE: This event is also on April 23, 2016, 3pm-6pm at Morningside Elementary School.

EVENTS: Rosemary talked about plans to have a MiMo tour at Earth Day. Events is no longer going forward with this plan as NET wishes to keep the focus on the Earth Day & Wellness Festival within the park on Earth day. A MiMo tour will be scheduled later in the year.

EYES ON THE BOULEVARD: Melissa and Mark are the co-chairs. They plan to work collaboratively with BID and the Planning & Zoning Committee. Code enforcement is lacking along the boulevard. Sidewalks are broken and cracked in several spots. Several hotels and their signs are in various states of decay. Some hotels operate on an hourly basis. Signage violations by specific markets are an eyesore. Several options to force code were discussed: invite the police to our next meeting to talk about crime and hourly hotels; invite the head of CODE to discuss how MiMo design guidelines should work; check with Sharie at NET about what is considered a violation and what can NET actually cite hotels for. Debby Stander, who raised a number of the issues discussed, offered to join the Committee and was accepted as its newest member.

BNA (Biscayne Neighborhoods Association): Andres Althabe, President of BNA spoke about new construction and issues south of 39th street. A new highrise building is scheduled for the corner of 38th street as well as a small shopping center in place of the now shuttered Art By God building. With these new developments at the junction of I95 and the Julia Tuttle Causeway, as well as the homeless at that location, residents are increasingly concerned about traffic and losing merging lanes.

OLD BUSINESS:

MEETING WITH PLANNING DEPT.: March 30, Commissioner Keon Hardemon's office.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 18, 2016, 9 am, 8101 Biscayne Blvd., #309, Miami, FL