

Membership Meeting Collins Park Neighborhood Association

July 15, 2008 at the Dorset Hotel, 1720 Collins Avenue

Ray Breslin Presiding

Board Members:

Sidney Davis, Barbara Morris, Ian Rosenior, Manny Miland, Prakash Kumar, Carolyn Klepser, John Couriel, Lee Ortega,

Guests;

T.J. Morales – Ballet

Lynn Bernstein – CMB Community Outreach

Harvey Burstein - MB Arts Trust

Request for all members present to sign up for the email list if not already on it.

Thank you to Nathan Lieberman the owner of Kung Fu Chu and part of the South Beach Hotel Group for hosting. SBHG is planning a Mexican restaurant as part of their development project at 2000 Liberty Ave.

Park Renovation: Last week CIP announced closing the parking lot at east end of Collins Park for 4 months as part of the 13-month park reconstruction. Ray has pointed out the need for temporary parking; this item is on the Commission Consent Agenda for tomorrow (July 16th) to create a temporary gravel lot on the site of the old library, in time for Art Basel.

Carl Fisher Clubhouse – There will be a meeting on July 22nd at the Botanical Garden to review the long-range proposal for renovation and use of this site. Plans include a skate plaza that CPNA would prefer to put in Par 3 Golfcourse or Scott Rakow Center, or if it must be at the clubhouse, at least on the Wash Ave. side for visibility/safety. Little Theater needs new A/C to open again, and Carson Kievman of SoBe Music Institute offered to manage it as well, to keep the focus on cultural arts at this site.

Collins Park Garage: CPNA sent a letter to City Manager to urge one of 3 alternatives ASAP: First choice is behind the Miami City Ballet partnering with Ron Bloomberg, who owns half the lot.

2nd choice is a garage spanning Liberty Ave. on City land behind the Ballet and Library, if it maintains pedestrian traffic and includes a plaza with restaurant on the South side facing the Park. 3rd choice is City partnership with the Gansevoort Hotel to develop their surface lot on Liberty Av. north of 23rd St. Ray has met w/Asst. City Mgr. Tim Hemstreet about this, who said that the City wants a partner for the parking facility even if it is wholly on their land, and wants to partner with someone who has a vested interest and not just issue an RFP. The developer of the Carlito's site is a possibility.

Ron Bloomberg should present his plan to the City Finance Committee, as Scott Robins did recently re: a similar situation at Sunset Harbour. So far he has only dealt with the City Manager's office. It is time to break the deadlock on this important project that is part of the Collins Park Master Plan.

CANDO Committee suggested an Arts Walk event, perhaps quarterly, that could coordinate with local hotels commissioning art pieces. CPNA could set up a 501 C3 Foundation to fund.

Update progress on Building Projects:

- a. David Barton Gym is opening in September
- b. Gansevoort Hotel is going before the Planning Board July 29 and may have license revoked because of excessive noise from their roof top pool bar.
- c. Walgreens has a new roof now and is starting work on the interiors, but won't be complete before January.
- d. W Hotel is on schedule for March 2009 opening depending on cooperation from the city on getting timely inspections.
- e. Traymore is being renovated as a hotel and has the same owners as the Brazilian Court Hotel in Palm Beach. It will be 60 suites \$500 per night facility. They are expanding the swimming pool and will have a restaurant in the rear facing the Ocean.
- f. Rivage is making some changes to their plans but should be under way with design very soon.

New Business

- a. It was suggested that when the Boardwalk is eventually replaced with a beach walk, it will incorporate the existing Miami Beach Drive promenade from 24th to 29th St., which is already public right-of-way.
- b. Discussion on bringing the antique and fresh market to Collins Park. Ray proposes a letter to the City Manager to provide a grass area in the center of the parking lots east of Collins to accommodate the fair tents.
- c. South Beach Local bus will have one stop in the area starting sometime next year, probably in April. It was passed by the City's Transportation and Parking Committee and will have to go through both the City Commission and the County for approval.