

Summary of the October 21st membership meeting at the Bass Museum of Art

Refreshments were served from 6:30 compliments of Parc Place Development.

The meeting was called to order at 7PM by Ray Breslin, President

Other board members in attendance were: Ian Rosenior, Manny Meland, Tony Guerra, Sidney Davis, Barbara Gehring, Barbara Morris, Hope Gainer, Walid Sfeir, John Couriel, Lee Ortega, and Prakash Kumar. Absent was Mark Cole.

Silvia Cubina, the new executive director and head curator, presented her vision for the future of the Bass Museum which places a great deal of emphasis on programming and community events both in and around the Bass Museum. This kind of exposure and energy is sure to fast track the second addition to the Bass Museum which has been in limbo for several years and is absolutely necessary to move the Bass to the next level of excellence.

Allen Shulman from Shulman Associates presented us with a very comprehensive and complete plan to develop the Conni Gordon site at 22nd and Park Ave. It paid great respect to the history of the site and included development of the linear park along Washington Court to Washington Avenue which is not currently on the City Center or Cultural Center plan for development. CPNA was excited about this plan offering over 37000 square feet of mixed use including commercial, office and residential use. With the exception of Carolyn Klepser who had to abstain because she was retained to do historic research on this project, the association voted unanimously to support this development plan. If you wish to view the plan go to our website and click on Neighborhood. You will see the pdf file with 9 slides.

We also had the opportunity to review the proposal that Ron Bloomberg will be taking to the finance regarding a parking garage on 23rd Street offering over 400 spaces and first floor retail. His proposal also includes development of an office building behind the library that would offer first floor retail, gallery space on the second level, dorm or cultural related housing on the 3rd level and office space on the top two floors. This type of development is exactly what this neighborhood is trying to achieve through the CANDO district. The Association voted to unanimously support this plan which could be ready to go to the HP board by year end if approved by the finance committee November 17th. I'll be there to give the plan our support. Consider joining me.

CPNA was also informed by the Transportation and Parking Committee that we will finally be getting the South Beach Local coming to our neighborhood in April. It has taken us 5 years but we finally will become part of South Beach again. Persistence works. We are beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

Our next membership meeting is the Annual Meeting, January 20th, 2009 which will be held at the Botanical Garden. Last year our annual meeting had over 120 in attendance. Mark you calendar now. We'll have entertainment, a guest speaker, and a life time achievement award will be given to Diane Camber, former executive director and head curator of the Bass Museum who retired last year after 27 years of service. Stay tuned as more details unfold. We will also elect a new Board of Directors. If you are interested in becoming a board member please contact Ray Breslin at 305-772-5665 to discuss your interest prior to November 17th so the current board can review on November 18th at the board meeting. CPNA does not meet in December.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM