

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 5, 2008, 8:00 a.m.

City of Coral Gables Development Department
95 Merrick Way, Suite 450, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	J	J	A#	S	O*	O**	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	COMMISSIONERS
José R. Garrigó	P	P	-	P	P	E	P	-	-	P	P	P	P	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Bobbi Litt	P	P	-	E	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	E	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Bernice Matalon-Roth	E	P	-	P	E	P	P	-	-	E	P	P	E	Commissioner Maria Anderson
Carol Damian	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Beatriz Pereira	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Wayne "Chip" Withers
Andrea Cole				E	P	P	P	-	-	E	P	P	P	Board Appointee
Miguel Diaz de la Portilla		-						-	-					City Manager David L. Brown
													P	P

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

- = No Meeting

* Regular Meeting and FY2006-2007 Final Reports

Regular Meeting + FY2007-08 Grants Workshop

** FY2007-2008 Cultural Grant Applications Review & Scoring

Staff In Attendance:

Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, Development Director
Cindy Dorrel, Development Department

Recording Secretary:

Nancy C. Morgan, Coral Gables Services, Inc.

Guests: Carlos M. Hidalgo, Arcoart

Chair Carol Damian called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

I. Minutes of April 7, 2008:

Mr. Diaz de la Portilla made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2008 meeting as presented.

II. Meeting Attendance:

Mr. Garrigó made a motion to excuse the absence of Dr. Matalon-Roth and Ms. Litt. Mr. Diaz de la Portilla seconded the motion, which passed.

III. Update on Arts Advisory Panel:

Dr. Damian reported that, to date, Marijean Miyar and Freda Tschumy agreed to serve on the Panel. A report will be made at the next meeting regarding remaining candidates.

IV. Presentation by Carlos Hidalgo Regarding a Proposed Public Art Project:

Mr. Hidalgo reviewed Arcoart's purpose to introduce art in public settings, prior to stating his intent to present at this meeting an outdoors art project for Board consideration. He described his company, showrooms, monthly exhibitions and a variety of art projects as background for his proposal.

The Banyan Tree Project was presented as a proposed outdoor art feature to be exhibited in the downtown through the month of December and continuing through March. A minimum of 25 blank aluminum trees would individually be painted by different artists, each of whom would be selected and commissioned. Mr. Hidalgo described safety features, dimensions, artist pre-screenings, corporate sponsorships, signage, maintenance, placement locations, removal of the art at the end of the exhibition, and responded to numerous Board questions. The project, he said, would fulfill several objectives: providing original art in public space, attracting families to City streets and parks, generate revenue to the City and private sector, and contribute to a non-profit community foundation.

Board discussion comments:

- Numerous details would be involved if the City undertook the project.
- The project was a creative way to bring art to children and families.
- The project would support charity.
- The sculptures were very large. As such, the art would have to be excellent.
- If the Commission approved the project, many City departments would be involved in the process.
- Concerns were expressed about the scale and placement of the sculptures.

Mr. Diaz de la Portilla made a motion to endorse the concept of the project with a caveat regarding scale and placement of the sculptures. Mr. Garrigó seconded the motion, which passed.

V. Updates:

City Web Site:

Ms. Rivenbark reported that she and Janet Gavarette will confer about culture and imaging on the City's web site. She then distributed an initial mockup of a City web site revised to include cultural arts, while Ms. Dorrel described the subtle changes, cultural arts features and ways of navigating from the home page. With the Board's suggestions and support for the mockup and the progress, Ms. Rivenbark said the next step would be to review the concept with the City Manager, and to work with Public Affairs Manager Maria Rosa Higgins-Fallon. Ms. Rivenbark will also re-open discussion with Janet Gavarette and her creative resources.

VI. Status Reports:

a. Art Cinema Project:

Ms. Rivenbark reported that construction rebidding has not yet occurred, but it is anticipated that the timing for bids may be advantageous to the City. The project should be released for bidding in a week. Construction drawings are complete and approvals from Building and Zoning have been received. With that schedule, the project will not be back to the City Commission until the second meeting in June.

b. Art in Public Places:

The University of Miami presented their campus master art plan, and the City Commission will address the item at its next meeting. Staff will brief the Commission, but based on the intent of the Ordinance exemption granted to the University, believes U.M.'s master art plan meets that intent in all respects.

Regarding the City's Art in Public Places program, Dr. Damian commented that it was contingent on the City's master plan. Ms. Rivenbark is awaiting confirmation of the Arts Advisory Panel before bringing additional research to the Board and proceeding with efforts to bring in a consultant to help build the master plan.

VII. Additional Board Business:

General City Update:

The budget resolution encouraging the City Commission to retain current cultural grants funding will be heard at the next Commission meeting. Staff was asked to prepare three possible budgets; one reducing expenses by 5%, one reducing expenses by 10% and one to remain even.

The nine Carbonnel award recipients were well received by the Commission.

The Country Club of Coral Gables is closed. The City Manager is developing an interim process and has asked staff to develop a long-term RFP for a new club manager.

Alternate Board meeting dates for June were discussed. Board members will be polled. Discussed dates included Monday, June 9, Thursday, June 5, or Thursday, June 12.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

**Upcoming Meeting: Next regular Board meeting: Monday, June 9, 2008, 8:00 a.m. B
Development Department Conference Room**

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Swanson Rivenbark, AICP, CEcD
Development Director and Secretary to the Board

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