

Garcia, Cynthia

From: Urquia, Billy
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2019 8:50 AM
To: Garcia, Cynthia
Subject: FW: Bermuda Village HOA - Trolley Barn/Fire Station

Agenda Item F-3 - Entered into the Public Record

> On May 24, 2019, at 2:46 PM, Santamaria, Eduardo <esantamaria@coralgables.com> wrote:
>
> Per the request of the CAO.
>
> Best,
>
>
> Eduardo "Ed" Santamaria, P.E. , CGC, LEED AP, ENV SP Assistant City
> Manager Operations & Infrastructure City of Coral Gables
> 405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL 33134
> T: 305-460-5201
> www.CoralGables.com
> Go Mobile! Use the Coral Gables' mobile app to submit questions or report concerns directly to the City. It's easy,
reliable, and available 24/7. Download the app here.
> Be Informed! Sign up to receive the City news electronically at
> enews@coralgables.com · Think Green! Please do not print this e-mail unless it is completely necessary.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Lago, Vincente <vlago@coralgables.com>
> Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 9:06 AM
> To: jbuster@att.net; Iglesias, Peter <piglesias@coralgables.com>;
> Santamaria, Eduardo <esantamaria@coralgables.com>; Granell, Chelsea
> <cgranell@coralgables.com>
> Subject: Re: Bermuda Village HOA - Trolley Barn/Fire Station
>
> Ed,
>
> Please review and advise. I would like to meet with the resident to discuss and hopefully find a compromise.
>
> Regards,
>
> Vince
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>> On May 19, 2019, at 9:44 PM, "jbster@att.net" <jbster@att.net> wrote:
>>
>> Good evening Vince:
>>

>> As a follow-up for you; after your email to Mr. Iglesias, please know that I received no communication or follow-up last week from anyone at the City on the Fire Station/Trolley Barn item to work through and reach a compromise on the items mentioned.

>>

>> My problem is this week, I only have Monday through Wednesday to work with the City to reach a compromise, before I am out of town for the Memorial Day Holiday.

>>

>> Hopefully, you can help set up a meeting with the appropriate City personnel to work through the few open items.

>>

>> Thank you,

>>

>> Jerry Sternstein, President
 >> Bermuda Village of Coral Gables Assn.
 >> 305-519-6193

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Lago, Vincente <vlago@coralgables.com>
 >> Sent: Monday, May 13, 2019 4:40 PM
 >> To: Gerald Sternstein <jbster@att.net>
 >> Cc: Iglesias, Peter <piglesias@coralgables.com>; Santamaria, Eduardo
 >> <esantamaria@coralgables.com>
 >> Subject: Re: Bermuda Village HOA - re Trolley Barn/Fire Station

>>

>> Peter,

>>

>> Please review and advise.

>>

>> Thank you,

>>

>> Vince

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>>

>>> On May 13, 2019, at 4:21 PM, Gerald Sternstein <jbster@att.net> wrote:

>>>

>>> CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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>>> Commissioner Lago:

>>>

>>> As a follow up to our call today, please see below the list of items which are of concern and objectionable in the proposed new changes to the Fire Station/Trolley Barn Plans which were viewed by one of our homeowners at the City last week, and then presented to the homeowners at their Meeting on May 7.

>>>

>>> As I mentioned some of these objections if known at the time could

>>> have been raised if these revised plans would have been presented or discussed and reviewed at the scheduled planning meeting on 2/13/2019 which Planning Meeting was cancelled before construction began. (See attached Notice) Construction on the new Fire Station/Trolley Barn began sometime in March 2019.

>>>

>>> The items of objection and concern are listed as follows:

>>>

>>> 1. The proposed change most concerning and objectionable to Bermuda Village Association's homeowners is to the creation of a new curb cut which creates a new driveway off of Ponce de Leon (close to the entrance to Bermuda Village) under the MetroRail and running directly to newly created back doors now added to the back of the Fire Station.

>>> 2. The objectionable new curb cut for a new driveway, is a wide path with the new road/proposed driveway on the Plans shows the removal of at least 2 beautiful mature Oak trees that provide a much needed screening effect to the rear of the Fire Station. The newly proposed curb cut appears to be for exclusive use of Fire Equipment to traverse from Ponce into newly added large entrance doors at the back of the Fire Station that were not previously disclosed on the Plans. Those large doors are industrial and not as decorative as those on the front of the Fire Station facing US1; rather these are large unattractive industrial appearing doors which would be directly across from the Bermuda Village homes.

>>> 3. The attached Staff Report (see attached) which is party of the record now filed and was to be presented at the cancelled February 13 Planning Meeting, on Page 7, Standard 8, states:

>>> Standard 8. The design of the proposed driveways, circulation patterns and parking is well defined to promote vehicular and pedestrian circulation.

>>> Staff recommendation: (Does it meet the Standard?) Yes. Vehicular

>>> parking for the project is provided on site.

>>> No new curb cuts are being proposed, it utilizes the circulation layout.

>>>

>>>

>>> 4. The next item of concern/objection is that proposed revisions are not clear to understand the overall landscaping scheme, but appear to show removal of more plantings. And the new Plans appear to leave in-place the unattractive chain link fencing from the old Fire Station at rear of the Fire Station which faces Bermuda Village. The plan shows adding architectural block screening on the other side of the chain fencing with the decorative fencing facing to busy US1, but with no concerns to a similar architectural fencing or beautification at the rear of the property which faces the homes of Bermuda Village and others in the community using Ponce de Leon.

>>>

>>> 5. The next item regards the proposed new plan appears to add dedicated/possible covered parking spaces; but it is not clear if there is any provision for screening the rear of those new covered spaces. It was difficult to tell from the photos what or how many of those new parking spaces exist.

>>>

>>> I would appreciate being able to meet with an appropriate person at the City next week when I am back in town, to work through the objections and changes to the Plans now revised.

>>>

>>> Thank you for your continued interest and assistance. I look forward to hearing form you.

>>>

>>> Jerry Sternstein

>>> President

>>> Bermuda Village of Coral Gables Association

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>>> From: Lago, Vincente

>>> <vlago@coralgables.com<mailto:vlago@coralgables.com>>>

>>> Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:02 PM

>>> To: Gerald Sternstein <jbster@att.net<mailto:jbster@att.net>>;

>>> Santamaria, Eduardo

>>> <esantamaria@coralgables.com<mailto:esantamaria@coralgables.com>>;

>>> Iglesias, Peter
>>> <piglesias@coralgables.com<mailto:piglesias@coralgables.com>>;
>>> Granell, Chelsea
>>> <cgranell@coralgables.com<mailto:cgranell@coralgables.com>>
>>> Cc: iquintero27@att.net<mailto:iquintero27@att.net>; Schwab Paul
>>> <billymabel@yahoo.com<mailto:billymabel@yahoo.com>>
>>> Subject: Re: Bermuda Village HOA - re Trolley Barn/Fire Station
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> Gerald and
>>> Peter,piglesias@coralgables.com<mailto:piglesias@coralgables.com>
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> I am aware that you spoke in regards to the project. I ask that we not proceed with the changes in question until the community and staff has fully vetted the proposed changes... IE. tree removal, curb cut and landscaping/fence to remain.
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>>>
>>>
>>> Thank you!
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> Vince
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>
>>> _____
>>>
>>> On May 8, 2019, at 2:24 PM, Lago, Vincente <vlago@coralgables.com<mailto:vlago@coralgables.com>> wrote:
>>>
>>> Mr. Sternstein,
>>>
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>>>
>>> It was a pleasure to speak with you this afternoon. As we discussed, I have copied our City Manager in an effort to attain further information, because as of right now I don't have any information regarding your legitimate concerns.
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> I will have further information once our team responds and then I will make a decision.
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> Please give me a few days.
>>>
>>>
>>>
>>> Regards,
>>>

>>>

>>>

>>> Vince Lago

>>>

>>> Sent from my iPhone

>>>

>>> _____

>>>

>>> On May 8, 2019, at 1:38 PM, Gerald Sternstein <jbster@att.net<mailto:jbster@att.net>> wrote:

>>>

>>> [This email comes from an external source]

>>>

>>> Commissioner Lago:

>>>

>>> Thank you for reviewing with me this morning the concerns of my Bermuda Village Homeowners Association membership as a result of the Commission Meeting Notice for 5/14 regarding changes to the Fire Station/Trolley Barn Project. Some of us (but not all) of our homeowners were surprised to receive this Notice beginning this past Friday and continuing through Tuesday of this week.

>>>

>>> The issue of the proposed changes to the Fire Station/Trolley Barn already under construction was presented at our Annual Board Meeting which was held on May 7th, at which 75% of our homeowners were represented. At that meeting one of our home owners presented iPhone pictures he took when he went to the City to inquire when he received the Notice of the 5/14 Commission Meeting to consider project changes. The pictures he took showed the Plans for revision and several of the changes met with unanimous objection by our homeowners, and thus the reason for my call. The Board was directed with unanimous homeowner support to pursue all means necessary to obtain answers and object to several of the proposed new changes which the homeowners felt if implemented would cause a reduction in their ability to enjoy and use their property, and reduce the quality of enjoyment in their surroundings where the proposed changes would occur.

>>>

>>> As I mentioned to you a Planning Board Meeting was scheduled for February 13, which was cancelled and not rescheduled, where myself and others were prepared to attend and ask questions as a result of Plans we saw. At that time our homeowners had questions but overall were mostly favorable to the proposed project, and had several questions, but our goal at that 2/13 Planning Meeting was to ensure proper landscape, no added noise, or traffic, and that landscaping and screening issues were addressed and implemented before construction began.

>>>

>>> Shortly after the Planning Meeting was cancelled construction began on the Fire Station/Trolley Barn project. That meeting was not rescheduled.

>>>

>>> We were not able to locate on the City website on Monday the new set of Plans describing the changes and therefore relied on the photos taken by our homeowner. As a result of what we saw our concerns and objections to the proposed changes are as follows:

>>> 1. A presentation of the revised plans should have been discussed and reviewed at a rescheduled planning meeting before construction began.

>>> 2. One of the proposed changes and Bermuda Village's objection is to the creation of a new curb cut, creating a new driveway off of Ponce de Leon (closer to the entrance to Bermuda Village) under the MetroRail directly to newly created back doors just added to the back of the Fire Station.

>>> 3. A parallel objection, in addition to the objectionable new curb cut for a new driveway, is the wide path the new proposed driveway takes which on th plans shows the removal of beautiful mature Oak trees that provide a much needed screening effect to the rear of the Fire Station. The newly proposed curb cut appears to be for exclusive use of Fire Equipment to traverse from Ponce into newly added large entrance doors at the back of the Fire Station that were not previously disclosed on the Plans. Those large doors are industrial and not as decorative as those on the front of the

Fire Station facing US1; rather these are large unattractive industrial appearing doors which would be directly across from the Bermuda Village homes.

>>> 4. The next item of concern/objection is that the new proposed revisions are not clear to understand the overall landscaping scheme, but it does appear to show removal of more plantings, and yet the Plans appear to leave in place the unattractive chain link fencing from the old Fire Station at rear of the Fire Station which faces Bermuda Village. The plan shows adding architectural block screening on the other side of the chain fencing with the decorative fencing facing to busy US1, but with no concerns to a similar architectural fencing or beautification at the rear of the property which faces the homes of Bermuda Village and others in the community using Ponce de Leon.

>>> 5. The next item regards the proposed new plan appears to add dedicated/possible covered parking spaces; but it is not clear if there is any provision for screening the rear of those new covered spaces. It was difficult to tell from the photos what or how many of those new parking spaces exist.

>>>
>>> Due to the broad nature of these proposed changes, additional explanation by the Planning Department or head of the project would also be requested to learn if there are any changes to the use of the Trolley Barn, or its entrance or driveway from Ponce, or if there are any changes as to how it will be used, or if the uses remain the same as previously contemplated on the set of plans in place at the time of the February Meeting cancellation.

>>>
>>> Thank you for your consideration and review of this matter; I and my Association, and the homeowners greatly appreciate your assistance to put forth our concerns and objections.

>>>
>>> If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me on my cellphone listed below.

>>>
>>> Jerry Sternstein, President

>>> for and on behalf of

>>> Bermuda Village of

>>> Coral Gables Association

>>> 305-519-6193

>>> Sent from my iPad

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>>>

>>> <attachment 1.pdf>

>>>

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>>> <02 13 19 PZB Staff Report re Fire Station.pdf>

>>> <02 13 19 Attachment A - Applicant's Submittal Package.pdf>

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