



Town of Surfside

SPECIAL DOWNTOWN VISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 11, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.

Town Hall Commission Chambers –
9293 Harding Ave, 2nd Floor, Surfside, FL 33154

Opening Items:

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

The following Members introduced themselves:

Chair Shaun Grenald
Vice Chair Elliot Kula
Fred Landsman
George Kousoulas
Marianne Meischeid

Absent: Sandra Oliva
Asmaa Benkirane

Also present: Guillermo Olmedillo, Town Manager
Duncan Tavares, Assistant Town Manager
Jeff Lehman, Tourist Board Liaison
Lindsay Fast, Tourism Director
Frank Trigueros, Marketing & Special Projects Coordinator
Frantza Duval, Recording Clerk
Elinor Joseph, Parking Operations Manager
Alan Graham, Code Compliance Director
Commissioner Liaison Barry Cohen *Arrived at 6:15pm.
Mayor Daniel Dietch **Arrived at 6:43pm

2. Approval of Minutes: March 7, 2019

Committee Member Landsman made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion received a second from Committee Member Kousoulas and all voted in favor.

3. Continuation of Discussion from March 7, 2019 Meeting: New Committee Short, Medium, Long-Term goals & Proposed Timeline

Town Manager Olmedillo presented the item and stated that the special meeting was called to set specific priorities that the Committee would like to focus on.

Tourism Director Fast put notes together from the previous meeting and stated that the bigger items discussed that they could start discussion on were the followings:

- Alleyways
- Traffic
- Walkability
- Unified look
- BID

Chair Grenald believed that the committee should focus on what they can accomplish themselves without having to go through other boards and committees.

Vice Chair Kula noted that the unified look topic was most likely the easiest thing to initiate with the Committee.

Chair Grenald agreed, and believes that the unified look is a good starting point because they will have the most impact on through and with the assistance of Code Compliance.

Committee Member Kousoulas believes that the BID is also something they can review and maybe if there is consensus they can move forward with their recommendation.

Town Manager Olmedillo explained the BID process, including the election process. Board Member Kousoulas then presented the members with a handout and provided a background explanation of a BID and how it works.

* Commissioner Cohen serving as the Commission liaison arrived at 6:15pm.

A discussion took place about the fact that in the last election the BID failed due to absent votes. An absent vote was counted as a no vote. Assistant Town Manager Tavares provided a more in-depth explanation about the history of the BID in the Town of Surfside and the challenges. He recommended to engage property owners and have them advocate amongst themselves, instead of having it come from the Committee.

After some more discussion Committee Member Kousoulas made a motion to allow Board Members to speak to property owners and tenants regarding the BID

and to have staff look into Main Street and possibly bring back to the next meeting. The motion received a second from Committee Member Landsman and all voted in favor.

** Mayor Dietch arrived at 6:43pm.

Commissioner Cohen serving as a liaison, provided his view and opinion of the BID and his thoughts about the possibility of making the DVAC Committee a stand-alone committee with a charter.

There was more discussion regarding traffic and parking among Commissioner Cohen and the members of the Downtown Vision Advisory Committee. Commissioner Cohen encourage the Committee to bring forward a business plan to the Commission regarding parking.

4. Parking Lot Solutions

Chair Grenald spoke about the parking study, the three locations with the multiple designs that were submitted, and how can the Town build something like one of the proposals submitted.

Chair Grenald spoke regarding the Abbot Lot Amphitheater proposal and everything that was proposed with it. He spoke about the parking stacking options and the cost associated with these types of projects.

Board Member Kousoulas spoke about the specifics of the Town of Surfside and how it will be challenging to build a parking garage.

Tourism Director Fast and Town Manager Olmedillo presented a memo explaining what the Town Commission had approved regarding parking and the rates during the weekends. He introduced Parking Operations Manager Joseph Elinor to answer any questions the committee may have.

The following members of the public spoke on the item:

Steven Thomas
Larry Labok
Sasha Plutno

Discussion took place regarding the loading zones and uber drop off and pick up points in the downtown area.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of doing something in Abbott regarding loading zones.

Commissioner Cohen suggested that the item be brought to the Commission for discussion and to come up with some solutions.

After a lengthy discussion Committee Member Kousoulas made a motion to free up 95th street for more effective loading and relocate a designated Uber to another location in Town and request the Commission to approve a dedicated Uber place effectively by dealing with the ride sharing companies and through signage so that the passengers are instructed to go to that dedicated Uber location. The motion received a second from Committee Member Landsman and all voted in favor.

Commissioner Cohen acting as the liaison stated that the Committee should have some sensitivity towards the elderly and disabled population, and potential difficulty for them to get to a designated pick up / drop off location for ride sharing. He suggested for the committee to come up with some mechanism that they could suggest to the Town Commission.

Committee Member Meischeid made a motion to recommend that small trucks that are able to fit in parking spaces are allowed to park and deliver from the Abbott Parking Lot. The motion received a second from Committee Member Landsman and all voted in favor.

Committee Member Kousoulas made a motion to extend for 30 minutes. The motion received a second from Vice Chair Kula and all voted in favor.

Parking Operations Manager Joseph Elinor presented the item related to the parking rates and what the Town Commission has approved and referred to the Committee for their input on the Parking Lots, per the request of the Town Commission.

Tourist Board Liaison Lehman left the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Questions posted by the Committee were addressed by members of the staff and administration.

Discussion took place on what is the appropriate total amount of hours to be allowed to park on the Town parking lots.

After some conversation Committee Member Kousoulas made a motion to limit the time to 4 hours non-renewal limit, Monday through Friday 9am - 5pm at the current new hourly rate of \$4.00 an hour. Hours outside those hours, parking would be renewable at the current new hourly rate of \$4.00 an hour. The motion received a second from Committee Member Landsman and all voted in favor.

Chair Grenald spoke about an email he received from a member of the community regarding the Bal Harbour Shops stating his disagreement with the proposed updated design of the shops. Chair Grenald believes the Committee has no jurisdiction on this topic, but it is willing to ask the Town Commission to maybe speak to the people of Bal Harbour Shops.

Town Manager Olmedillo spoke on the item and stated that he has reached out to Bal Harbour Shops and spoke to them about the project. Assistant Town Manager Tavares spoke about the site plan and how the Bal Harbour Shops will be accessible to the Town's residents on 96th Street and Harding Avenue where the crosswalk is located. The rest of 96th Street will be a wall but will have some opened displays and the entrance to a garage.

Regarding unified looks under item 3 on the agenda, Committee Member Meischeid spoke about the hurricane shutters on different downtown locations and she wanted to know how can they move forward to create some type of ordinance that will require stores to remove hurricane shutter a week after a storm. Properties are using the shutters as curtains, and it is detrimental to the look of the whole street.

After some discussion Committee Member Kousoulas made a motion to request the Town Commission to look into an ordinance that will require Town owners to upkeep their shutters in good repairs and to only deploy them upon the announcement of a storm emergency and retract them after seven days of the passing of the emergency. The motion received a second from Committee Member Meischeid and all voted in favor.

Committee Member Kousoulas made a motion to extend the meeting 15 minutes. The motion received a second from Committee Member Meischeid and all voted in favor.

Chair Grenald continued to speak about the Town's unified look under item 3 on the agenda. Conversation began about up lighting in downtown. Tourism Director Fast spoke about an RFP request regarding enhanced lighting for downtown that supposed to be released in the near future. Assistant Town Manager Tavares explained that the intent is to come up with a more comprehensive lighting solution that could enhance lighting in downtown.

Extensive discussion took place regarding the unified look, including the awnings, signage and other elements within downtown.

Committee Member Kousoulas made a motion to direct staff to find Instagram-memorable moments in the Town and bring an inventory back to the next meeting to as a team find suitable places within Town. The motion received a second from Committee Member Landsman and all voted in favor.

5. Future Meeting Dates

Committee Member Kousoulas made a motion to have a special meeting on May 16, 2019. The motion received a second from Vice Chair Kula and all voted in favor.

Committee Member Kousoulas spoke about a map he created and distributed to the members.

Chair Grenald requested the following items to be placed on the May 16, 2019 agenda:

Unified Look
Walkability
Alleyways

No additional comments from the public.

6. Adjournment

Committee Member Meischeid made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. The motion received a second from Committee Member Kula and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Accepted this 16 day of May, 2019



Shaun Grenald, Chair

Attest:



Sandra Novoa, MMC
Town Clerk