

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of The Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2010

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I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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3 The meeting of the Public Works Committee was called to order at 2:04 p.m., on Wednesday,
4 October 5, 2010, in the Town Council Chambers. On roll call, Chair Coniglio and Committee
5 Member Kleid were present.

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II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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8 **The Agenda was approved as presented.**

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III. PUBLIC COMMENT

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11 There were none.

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IV. REVIEW OF WORTH AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT MODIFICATIONS

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14 Public Works Director Paul Brazil indicated that the Worth Avenue Project is slated to be
15 completed by Mid-November. Mr. Brazil presented a PowerPoint to the Committee and a copy
16 was submitted into the record.

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18 There were five items that the merchants and owners of Worth Avenue wished to discuss:

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20 1. Hibiscus Avenue Piazza landscaping plan

21 2. Hibiscus Avenue fountains

22 3. Newspaper Racks in Worth Avenue Commercial District

23 4. Allow hanging baskets on all street lights in the Worth Avenue Commercial District, which
24 would require the addition of hanging basket brackets on the street lights before the construction
25 project was complete

26 5. Revisit the approved sign pole design to preclude the use of brushed aluminum on secondary
27 regulatory signs and instead provide black fluted poles on all street signage in the Worth Avenue
28 Commercial District.

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30 The following persons spoke regarding their concerns:

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32 • Mr. Burt Handelsman, President of the Worth Avenue Restoration Association

33 • Mr. Bob Moore, on behalf of the Goodman Company

- Mr. Mark Marsh, Architect
- Mr. Jose Sanchez, Sanchez and Maddox
- Mr. Stephan Richter, Richters of Palm Beach
- Ms Sherry Frankel, Worth Avenue Association
- Mr. John Maus, merchant on Worth Avenue
- Ms. Sharon Neary, Garden Club

The Committee discussed costs, timing of the project, changing of the news rack ordinance, signage, light poles and the numerous public meetings that were held prior to all of the final approvals. Chair Coniglio expressed concern that many of the items had gone through the hybrid ARCOM/Landmarks commission for approval and now last minute proposals for approval were problematic.

Mr. Marsh indicated several times that the contractors and designers had met with Mr. Handelsman and had written emails from Mr. Richter confirming the acceptance of the fountain design. He also stated that the project began in April, 2009 and had held over twenty meetings. He was astounded and distressed that the items were being brought up today when there have been numerous opportunities to object or voice an opinion. It was difficult to execute the remainder of the project on schedule if items were to be changed now; the contractor has performed outstandingly, and assured the Committee that no comments had been ignored.

Chair Coniglio asked Public Works Director Brazil about other items that were in a packet submitted to the Committee just prior to the meeting by Mr. Handelsman. The Town Clerk nor Mr. Brazil were provided a copy until one was asked for. It was decided not to discuss those items since neither the Committee nor staff had time to review the concerns. Mr. Handelsman submitted additional photos into the record.

John Maus, 312 Worth Avenue, asked Mr. Brazil which merchants were on the Hybrid Committee. There were none and he noted that was part of the problem. The Committee Members both stated they felt like referees when many items had already been discussed at length in public prior to today's meeting.

There was a lengthy discussion on the signage and types of poles, and alternate fountain designs used around town and what was proposed for Worth Avenue.

Committee Member Kleid stated that the Town Council does not want to micro-manage this project. Once the project had been blessed, the Town Council could revisit it in a year to see if any changes needed to be made.

Mr. Richter commented that none of the items discussed today were "make or break" for the project. He stated that for the most part, everyone he had spoken to has been very happy with the project. He congratulated the Town for getting it done successfully.

Mr. Moore, on behalf of Mr. Goodman and the Everglades Club, commended the Public Works Department and the design team. PW came to staff with the project. He noted that although not

present today, Deputy Town Manager Bradford was the key person who made this a one year project and should be commended. Mr. Moore asked with the report to be given to the Town Council that they recommend encumbering the funds that would be necessary, and return to joint meetings of ARCOM and the Hybrid Committee for further consideration. He added that Mr. Goodman would be supplying a list of recommended changes within a week.

The next item, Christmas Tree, was added to the agenda, heard under ANY OTHER MATTERS, and then the Committee returned to Item IV to finish the discussion and make recommendations.

The Committee revisited the list and made the following recommendations:

1. The Committee recommended encumbering bond funds for sign poles but a revised design request would need to be studied by the Hybrid Commission for final approval.
2. The Committee recommended encumbering funds for potential fountain design, placement and color but should go back to the Hybrid Commission for consideration.
3. Newspaper Racks -Would need to go to ORS, be publicly vetted by newspaper owners, and run through ARCOM. The time constraint and the use of bond funds could be an issue but the funds would be encumbered if necessary.
4. Hibiscus Avenue Landscaping plan – The Committee approved the larger pots and plant material along the sidewalks.
5. Hanging baskets – Encumber bond funds and the Hybrid Committee should re-consider this item.
6. Landscaping – Encumber bond funds for potential future additional landscaping.

Chair Coniglio stated that any additional costs or maintenance of modified improvements will remain the responsibility of the Worth Avenue Special Assessment District.

V. ANY OTHER MATTERS

This item was heard in the middle of Item IV, and then returned to Item IV for further discussion.

Chair Coniglio asked to have some public discussion about the Worth Avenue Christmas Tree. She added that the tree base was on the ARCOM agenda but would open the subject for debate. Town Clerk Cunningham advised that this was not announced or approved when the agenda was approved.

Chair Coniglio advised that the Committee could discuss it today followed by vetting of the full Town Council next Tuesday, and that no decisions would be made today.

Public Works Director Brazil presented the item and stated that because of the improvements on Worth Avenue, the Worth Avenue Merchants Association expressed a concern about re-using the existing base for the holiday tree. It was a green plywood base that has been used for many years and was not very attractive. There were no funds in the Public Works budget to purchase a new base. There was not enough time to go to ARCOM and then to Town Council prior to the season. The current decorations were old and obsolete. He suggested getting a new lease arrangement that would include set up and take down by the company.

Mr. Brazil stated that two holiday trees were in the Public Works budget, and the third tree was by a donation. Some of the decorations are leased.

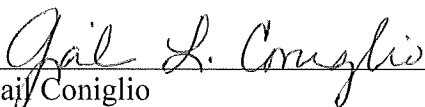
Mr. Richter stated that he had spoken to the decoration company and this would be the last useful year for the tree. He had no ideas for funding. Chair Coniglio indicated that Council President Rosow had established a donation fund for holiday lighting and decorations. She suggested bringing the matter to Council President Rosow. Mr. Brazil noted that bond money could not be used for decorations but would verify this with Deputy Town Manager Bradford and the bond counsel. Mr. Moore commented, for historical purposes, that the tree originally was a donation from Mr. Giorgio.

Chair Coniglio asked that a representative from the Worth Avenue Merchants Association and the merchants come forward to address all of the issues at the next Town Council meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Public Works Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, October 05, 2010, was adjourned at 03:49 p.m.

APPROVED:


Gail Coniglio
Chair

10-05-20 Public Works Comm BackUp Docs