



MINUTES
WORTH AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE
IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2ND FLOOR, TOWN HALL
360 SOUTH COUNTY ROAD, PALM BEACH

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2011, 1:30 p.m.

Please be advised that in keeping with a recent directive from the Town Council, the minutes of all Town Boards and Commissions will be “abbreviated” in style. Persons interested in listening to the meeting, after the fact, may access the audio of that item via the Town’s website at www.townofpalmbeach.com or may obtain an audio recording (CD) of the meeting by contacting Cynthia M. Delp, Secretary to the Worth Avenue Improvement Project Review Committee at (561) 227-6408. As a point of reference, you will find the recording times listed on these minutes at the beginning of each item.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL(1:30:17 p.m.)

William J. Strawbridge, Jr., Chairman	PRESENT
William P. Feldkamp, Vice Chairman	PRESENT
Edward Austin Cooney, Committee Member	PRESENT
Murray Goodman, Committee Member	PRESENT
Eugene Pandula, Committee Member	PRESENT
Stefan Richter, Committee Member	ABSENT
Wallace Rogers, Committee Member	PRESENT
Jeffery W. Smith, Committee Member	ABSENT
Ann L. Vanneck, Committee Member	PRESENT

Staff members present were Thomas G. Bradford, Deputy Town Manager, John S. Page, Director of Planning, Zoning & Building, Eric Brown, Assistant Director of Public Works, and Cynthia M. Delp, Secretary to the Worth Avenue Improvement Project Review Committee.

Chairman Strawbridge called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

II. COMMUNICATION FROM CITIZENS (3-minute limit, please)(1:30:45 p.m.)

Sherry Frankel approached the microphone to make a request for a traffic sign in the intersection of Worth Avenue and Hibiscus Avenue, but elected to reserve her comments until a later point in the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA(1:30:52 p.m.)

MOTION BY MR. FELDKAMP FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
MOTION SECONDED BY MR. PANDULA.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:(1:31:56 p.m.)

A. Worth Avenue Improvement Project Review Committee Meeting March 11, 2011

**MOTION BY MRS. VANNECK FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.
MOTION SECONDED BY MR. PANDULA.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. REVIEW OF PROPOSED DESIGN ELEMENT ADDITIONS OR MODIFICATIONS(1:32:07 p.m.)

Please note that the following items were discussed out of the order listed on the agenda.

A. Clock Tower Design Element

- i. Request to Revisit the Clock Tower Design Element [Murray H. Goodman]
(See below)
- ii. Additional Plantings, Flagpole with "Palm Beach" Flag, Engraving of words "Worth Avenue" on North/South Sides of Clock Tower [Mark Marsh, AIA]

Architect Mark Marsh called attention to the rendering of the clock tower which had been seen at previous meetings. Some who viewed this rendering thought that the stones would be mottled in color as depicted on the rendering, but Mr. Marsh stated that the stone is one single color and will patina naturally over time. It was once suggested that the dome might be done in copper, but the committee previously recommended against it. It has likewise been suggested that a flagpole be applied to the clock tower and/or that the words "WORTH AVENUE" be engraved on the tower element. Mr. Marsh recommended that the clock tower remain as it is without the suggested embellishments. In any case, the clock tower will be up lit, and the Green Island Ficus flanking the tower will be replaced with Silver Saw Palmettos as an enhancement to the landscaping and to help anchor the clock tower.

Mr. Goodman expressed his views: That the clock tower needs something; that it disappears at times, especially as one moves north/south; that the original rendering appeared to have different colored stones; and, that at a cost of just under \$ 600,000, the clock tower should be more noticeable.

Discussion continued relative to several ideas proposed: Trying to speed up the aging process of the stone; possibly relocating the Coconut Palms flanking the tower; a suggestion to remove the clocks and replace them with the colorful Town of Palm Beach seal; and, a suggestion to apply mosaic tiles to the dome and spell out Palm Beach or Worth Avenue in the mosaic. There was little committee support for these suggestions, and it was felt that the clock tower should be given a year to weather. Members

commented that this is an elegant entry marker as it exists; and, that it is delicate, precise, and not showy, reflecting the design attitude of the street. Chairman Strawbridge stated that there was a motion made at the last meeting to retain the clock tower as it exists, and that motion will stand.

C. Sod Inlay for the Park at 150 Worth Avenue (SE corner of Worth and South County) [Mark Marsh, AIA]

Mark Marsh stated that it had been suggested that additional grass be added to the tip of Triangle Park. After re-studying the issue and visiting the site, Mr. Marsh presented new photographs of the area and stated that it is still the opinion of the design team and still the opinion of the Garden Club that no additional grass is appropriate since this is a very strong pedestrian circulation area. Members were in agreement with Mr. Marsh for no additional grass (no motion made, but consensus achieved).

B. Update on 204 Worth Avenue (Ferragamo Building) and 205 Worth Avenue (Armour Building) [Mark Marsh, AIA]

Jorge Sanchez reported that the pots from the Hibiscus Avenue plaza have been removed and placed intermittently along the 400 block of South County Road in front of the Ferragamo Building, and will be planted with Garcinia. As for the Armour Building, Palm Beach Purple Bougainvillea will be trained to grow on a portion of the east façade, and one planted pot will be placed at ground level. Both property owners involved are in support of these changes.

Sherry Frankel commented that the Bougainvillea looks like a carpet hung on the side of a building, and does not enhance it. Burton Handelsman thought the Bougainvillea cheapens the living wall across the street and is wrong for this building. Terry Rakolta, 537 Island Drive, complimented the entire avenue as extraordinarily beautiful, complimented the restraint and quality of the clock tower, and stated that she loves the proposed Bougainvillea because the building is dreary as is. Cindy Hoyt, President of the Garden Club, likewise complimented the beautiful project and stated that the Garden Club likes the look of the Bougainvillea and feels that it is Palm Beach appropriate. Committee members were largely in favor of the proposed Bougainvillea. Mr. Bradford indicated that the property owner had asked the Town to extend the irrigation line to create a bubbler and the Town has agreed to do that. Mr. Strawbridge indicated that there was agreement on the Ferragamo building, but asked for a motion on the Bougainvillea.

MOTION BY MRS. VANNECK FOR APPROVAL OF THE BOUGAINVILLEA.

MOTION SECONDED BY MR. COONEY.

MOTION CARRIED 6-1, WITH MR. STRAWBRIDGE OPPOSED.

F. [Hibiscus Plaza Design Element](#)

- i. Overview of Input Received [Mark Marsh, AIA]
- ii. Garden Club Correspondence [Cindy Hoyt, President, Palm Beach Garden Club]

- iii. Burt Handelsman Fountain Proposal [Burt Handelsman]
- iv. Bridges, Marsh Revised Fountain Concept [Mark Marsh, AIA]

Jorge Sanchez of Sanchez and Maddux Landscape Architects stated that it had been suggested last month to add green areas in the center of the plaza. He showed a rendering including the grass and stated that he had no objection to it being added. If the plaza will be used for public gatherings most of the time, then no grass is preferable. If it is not used for public gatherings routinely, grass is preferable from a design standpoint. In consideration of the request to look for another fountain choice to replace the two small marble 14th century styled fountains (with yellow/blue tiles), Mr. Sanchez stated that these fountains were chosen because they are small in scale for this small plaza. Other fountain styles were suggested by others and reviewed. The design team reached what they feel is a compromise by creating a coquina 18" tall basin (either octagonal or scalloped in shape) around the marble pedestal fountain which would actually elevate the pedestal fountain by 10 to 12 inches. The basin will have marcite inside, with either white marble or white flat river stones. The basin would provide additional bench space to the plaza.

Mr. Bradford reported that 80 Worth Avenue customers were surveyed about their favorite element of the plaza and what they dislike most about the plaza. Favorite element: 49 persons: Marble fountains; 24 persons: Plants and greenery. Dislike: 29 persons: Nothing disliked; 14 persons: additional benches needed; 7 persons: too much pavement; 6 persons: water looks dirty; and 1 person: proportion of marble fountains too small. Mr. Bradford stated that persons/groups seeking to use the plaza must first seek permission from the Town Council.

Committee comments: The fountain, as it exists, does not make a strong enough statement; perhaps add a finial in the middle of the pedestal fountain or raise it on a plinth to give it more height; preference for scalloped basin; don't introduce another material here (as shown on the fountain style submitted by others); make the basin wall thinner around the pedestal fountain so it does not overwhelm the fountain; I love it the way it is; either alternative works, but the scalloped one is better; questionable to have grassy area around the pedestal fountain; not in favor of the existing fountain...looking for change...the existing base of the existing fountain may be a safety hazard...grass is essential for warmth; and, grass is preferable to promote a cooler environment.

Burton Handelsman was vehemently opposed to the existing fountain. His comments: Wrong material, wrong size, in the wrong environment; it should be an old world fountain; "It looks like a bird bath"; the marble is an element that should not have been introduced; the proposed basin is just a wall around the wrong fountain; the yellow and blue tiles are out of character; does not want to spend any additional money to enhance the existing fountains...would rather see the existing fountains disappear; replace citrus trees at the north end of the plaza with a much lower box hedge and flowers to enhance visibility; and, remove the tiles from the bench at the north end. Sherry Frankel commented that most of her regular customers were shocked at the existing fountains because they felt they were insignificant. Terry Rakolta commented that the fountains are in perfect proportion anchoring the large pool; she likes the colored tiles; the design shows restraint; it would be a mistake to start looking like the Gardens Mall. Jane Holzer liked the matching basin;

does not like the marble fountains; and, she would be fine with replacing the marble fountains with trees.

MOTION BY MRS. VANNECK TO ADOPT THE FIRST ALTERNATIVE WITH THE COQUINA SURROUND (SCALLOPPED) WITH THE MARBLE INSET AND THE GRASS TO STAY, BUT RETAIN A PATH AROUND THE FOUNTAIN WITHOUT GRASS.

MOTION SECONDED BY MR. FELDKAMP.

MR. STRAWBRIDGE PASSED THE GAVEL TO MR. FELDKAMP AND MADE A SUBSTITUTE MOTION.

MOTION BY MR. STRAWBRIDGE FOR APPROVAL OF THE DESIGN AS ORIGINALLY PRESENTED (what is there now) WITH A GRASS STRIP ADDED.

**MOTION SECONDED BY MR. PANDULA.
MOTION CARRIED 4-3, WITH MRS. VANNECK, MR. GOODMAN, AND MR. FELDKAMP OPPOSED.**

Mr. Marsh proposed that the yellow tiles be removed from the bench at the north end of the plaza in favor of blue tiles with a coquina back and seat.

At this point, there was a bit of discussion relative to the citrus trees at the north end of the plaza, since Mr. Handelsman had requested their removal. Committee comments: Love the citrus trees; height of landscaping in this area is too high.

**MOTION BY MR. COONEY FOR APPROVAL OF THE BENCH CHANGE AS PROPOSED.
MOTION SECONDED BY MR. FELDKAMP.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. [Cross Walk Signage Modifications \[Mark Marsh, AIA\]](#)

This item is on the agenda pursuant to Ms. Frankel's request for a pylon sign in the crosswalk intersection at Worth Avenue and Hibiscus Avenue to increase safety for pedestrians. Mr. Marsh stated that there is existing crosswalk signage, crosswalk paving, crosswalk nodes and landscaping...all to draw attention to crosswalks. He was not in favor of adding the requested sign at Worth Avenue and Hibiscus. Such a sign is in place at the Everglades Club location at Worth Avenue and Cocoanut Row.

Committee Comments: They are ugly and get run over; people walk wherever they want in disregard of signage and traffic; drivers often do not make a full stop, so the signs may be necessary, but I don't like those signs; these signs block the clear avenue view of Worth Avenue; and, perhaps ticketing is the answer to make drivers stop for pedestrians.

Mr. Bradford noted the problem that the signs give the pedestrian a false sense of security. Ms. Frankel asked the committee to choose safety over appearance.

**MOTION BY MR. ROGERS TO MAINTAIN THE EXISTING CONDITION WITHOUT THE SIGN AT WORTH AVENUE AND HIBISCUS AVENUE, TOGETHER WITH APPROVAL OF THE EXISTING SIGN AT THE EVERGLADES CLUB.
MOTION SECONDED BY MR. COONEY.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Let the record show that later in the meeting it was suggested that regulation Stop Signs be installed at this intersection to hopefully put an end to the problem, and the committee embraced that suggestion.

G. Committee Recommendations on Proposed Design Element Additions and Modifications

Relative to pots at the Hibiscus Avenue plaza, clarification was requested. Since the large pots have been removed, Jane Holzer strongly requested that smaller pots with smaller plants (annuals) be placed on the bench wall at the pool. After some discussion, the committee gave permission to Mr. Sanchez and Mr. Marsh to select smaller pots (8 - maximum quantity) with smaller plants.

Relative to the citrus trees at the north end of the plaza, Burton Handelsman requested boxwood and flowers instead. He felt this would curtail dog walkers and littering, and increase visibility for vehicular traffic moving north and south. Mr. Marsh responded that the citrus trees are indigenous to Palm Beach and create a sense of presence. Mr. Marsh expressed his opinion that there is no visibility or safety issue and the citrus trees serve to hide the unsightly conditions at the Apollo lot. When the unsightly conditions at the Apollo lot were mentioned, Mr. Handelsman stated that improvements are being contemplated in that area, but they will not move forward if those improvements will be hidden by landscaping. As such, Mrs. Vanneck offered a compromise that if it is evident that improvements to the parking lot move forward, the citrus trees might be relocated. This was acceptable to Mr. Handelsman and Ms. Holzer.

VI. DISCUSSION ON FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS SCHEDULE (IF NEEDED) [Thomas G. Bradford, Deputy Town Manager](3:30:09 p.m.)

The committee determined that there is no need to set any additional meetings of this committee. Mr. Bradford indicated that staff will take all of the committee's recommendations to the Town Council for final approval. He thanked the committee members for their service.

VII. ANY OTHER MATTERS:

E. Update on Donated Bench [Thomas G. Bradford, Deputy Town Manager]

Mr. Bradford stated that the dedication plaque has been removed from the bench; the donation money has been refunded to the donor; and the donor has been approached about an alternate location for a bench with dedication plaque.

Jane Rankin, Attorney for the Worth Avenue Restoration Association, asked the Chairman to consider one additional meeting to discuss a compromise about the fountain situation at the Hibiscus Avenue plaza. Mr. Strawbridge responded that it is not in the interest of the committee to hold an additional meeting, that is, unless Mr. Bradford deems it necessary. Mrs. Vanneck reminded Ms. Rankin that ultimately this will all be heard by the Town Council; that any further discussion could take place at that time; and, that this committee has made its decision on the basis that no better alternative was presented. She also noted that all members on the committee are available to be contacted for advice or opinions.

Ms. Rankin wanted the record to reflect that the Worth Avenue Restoration Association has requested another meeting. Mr. Bradford responded that although this request has been made, the committee is not inclined to have another meeting. The final decision will most likely occur at the May Town Council meeting. Any alternatives or compromises should be submitted to Mr. Bradford so that he may include it in the Town Council's back-up materials for that meeting.

Mr. Cooney added that the committee has held three public meetings; that a clipping from a catalogue is not sufficient; that this is the first time Mr. Handelsman has attended a meeting; and, that another fountain proposal should have been submitted earlier.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT(3:35:47 p.m.)

MOTION BY MR. GOODMAN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 3:35 P.M.

MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. VANNECK.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Strawbridge, Jr., Chairman

WORTH AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE

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