



## ***City of Miami Springs, Florida***

The regular meeting of the Miami Springs Business and Economic Development Task Force was held on Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

### **1) Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M.

Present: Board member Milam  
Board member Guerra (via zoom)  
Board member Leonard  
Board member Kemmache  
Board member Garcia  
Board member Perera  
Board member Troillard  
Vice-Chair Carrillo  
Chair Trowbridge

Absent: Board member Finney  
Board member Fernandez

Also Present: Mayor Maria Puente Mitchell  
Vice Mayor Jacky Bravo (via zoom)  
Councilman Bob Best  
Councilman Victor Vazquez  
City Manager William Alonso  
Board secretary Juan Garcia

### **2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING: November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Minutes of the November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

**Board member Milam moved to approve the minutes as written. Vice-Chair Carrillo seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously on voice vote.**

### **3) UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND CITY LEADERSHIP:**

Mayor Maria Mitchell and thanked the Board members for their time and impute. Mayor Mitchell noted that the Council has been considering what has been discussed in previous Task Force meetings and they are addressing some of the topics such as the review of the City's Code of Ordinance as well as sending a personalized letter from her to all new businesses with contact information for City departments. Mayor Mitchell noted that the Council will be discussing parking options in the upcoming year.

Councilman Victor Vazquez addressed the Board members and thanked them for their time. Councilman Vazquez noted that he really like the business survey idea and hope to expanded it to all residents and not just business owners.

**4) PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

The following members of the public addressed the Board Members:  
Jennifer Graham – Miami Springs Historical Museum, 501 East Drive, Jeff Dunevitz – Burritoville, 61 Curtiss Parkway, Nestor Suarez – Miami Springs.com, and Jorge Santín – Twice as Sweet Bakery, 75 North Royal Poinciana Boulevard.

**5) NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Discussion of Question(s) for Business Survey**

Chair Trowbridge thanked the members for sending questions in. He added that it may be beneficial to bring this item back at the next meeting in order to have more time to review the questions prior to discussing this item.

By consensus the Board tabled this item for the next meeting.

**b) Discussion of Format and Audience(s) for Business Survey**

Vice Chair Carrillo asked if there was a way to get all the business owner email in order to send this to each person via email. Board member Guerra noted that it would be a good idea to distribute the survey using a QR code by way social media, email and text message. He added that the survey had to be brief and there should be some incentive to completing the survey.

By consensus the Board tabled this item for the next meeting.

**c) Consideration of a Group Walking Tour of Central Business District by Members of Task Force**

Board member Milam wanted to the Board to consider possibly going as a group to see some of the issues with the downtown business area and some of the issues that that area faces. Board secretary Garcia noted that it was fine for the Board member to go see this area individually, but that as a group it would not be possible to go as that would be a direct violation of the Sunshine Law.

By consensus the Board tabled this item for the next meeting.

#### **d) Central Business District Parking Review**

Board member Milam gave a presentation on the parking in the Central Business District. Board member Milam highlighted the lack of parking for businesses in the area, as well of the impact the Gateway Overlay District and the 1 Curtiss Parking project will have on the existing parking.

#### **e) Canal Street Beautification**

Board member Perera wanted to ask Public Works to increase the cleaning frequency on the grassy area on Canal street and possibly planting flowers and trees. Board member Perera also added that cobble stone can be added on the street for beautification

#### **f) Westward Drive Refurbishment**

Board member Perera proposed diagonal parking on Westward drive in order to increase the parking spaces in front of each business. Board member Perera added that he spoke with the design for the proposed parking with Mr. Manny Perez-Vichot and asked him to do a rendering of what the new parking might look like.

Mr. Manny Perez-Vichot of Southeast Design Associates, Inc. addressed the Task Force and presented his architectural design to them.

Board member Leonard agreed with this idea and thought it would be very beneficial to the business owners.

#### **g) Curtiss Parkway Parking Expansion**

Board member Perera noted that Board member Milam already addressed this issue previously and did not have more to add on this at the moment.

#### **h) Creating “Code” that is Supportive of Businesses**

Board member Perera thank Mayor Mitchell for mentioning this idea as one of the things Council will be improving the code to promote business.

#### **i) Funding Sources for New Projects/Ideas**

Board member Garcia stated that the City can look into crypto currency in order to pay for some of these projects. Board member Garcia added that City of Miami was already doing this with Miami Coin and believe that Miami Springs could take advantage of this and raise funds this way.

By consensus, the Board deferred this item to the next Board meeting.

## **6) OLD BUSINESS**

### **a) Discussion on small business incentive program**

By consensus the Board tabled this item for the next meeting.

### **b) Small Business Saturday**

Chair Trowbridge stated that the local businesses could really benefit from a “Small Business Saturday” event after Black Friday on Thanksgiving weekend. He stated that he would like the City to promote it for the upcoming year on social media and through the website so that the residents are aware of the event and so they support local businesses in the City.

## **7) PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Board Secretary Garcia wanted to see if the Board had any interest in changing their meeting schedule. Board member Troillard stated that he believes it would be beneficial to meet more frequently as there is a lot this Task Force wants to accomplish in such a short amount of time.

By consensus the Board wanted to revisit this topic at the next meeting to have this discussions with all the Board members present.

Chair Trowbridge reminded the Board members to send any agenda items to Board Secretary Aleman.

## **8) HAPPY HOLIDAYS & HAPPY NEW YEARS**

Councilman Bob Best thanked the Board for their work. He stated that he appreciates all the ideas the Task Force discussed at this meeting and added that we will be attending the meeting in January to listen to more of their input.

Mayor Mitchell once again thanked the Board members and reminded them that she would like the Task Force to also take a look at the Northwest 36 Street District and Abraham Tract as well. She stated that those are areas that need attention and that she looked forward to their input. Mayor Mitchell closed with wishing everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

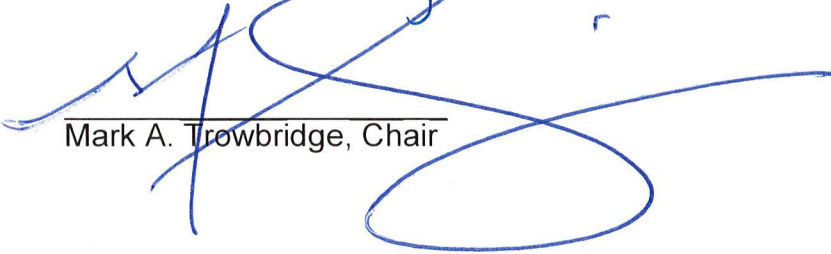
## **9) ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was duly adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Juan D. Garcia  
Board Secretary

Adopted by the Board on  
this 6 day of January, 2022.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark A. Trowbridge, Chair

Words ~~-stricken through-~~ have been deleted. Underscored words represent changes.  
All other words remain unchanged.

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*"The comments, discussions, recommendations and proposed actions of City Citizen Advisory Boards do not constitute the policy, position, or prospective action of the City, which may only be established and authorized by an appropriate vote or other action of the City Council".*  
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