



April 4, 2022 Membership Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The April Membership Meeting was called to order on April 4, 2022, at 6:34 pm and was presided over by Melinda Bowker - President. The meeting was held in-person at the New River Inn, 231 SW 2nd Ave and also via Zoom. Melinda reviewed the agenda.

2. Roll Call-Board of Directors

Four attendees were in-person at New River Inn and Five via Zoom meeting. The roll was called by Vice President Lianne Rubbo. The following 2022 Board Members were present: Melinda Bowker, Lorena Melgarejo, Nicole Marsala, Lianne Rubbo, Debbie Picker, Ernie Cordova, Ian Lubetkin, Steven Yaro, and Kandace Leshner. Absent: Linda Davis. A quorum was met since 9 of 10 Board members were present.

3. Guest Speaker Downtown Development Authority

Attendees from the Downtown Development Authority were: Jenni Morejon, President & CEO; Elizabeth Van Zandt, Executive Vice President, Alex Saiz, Planning & Program Manager, and Matthew Schnur, Research & Innovation Manager

Jenni Morejon provided a history of Huizenga Park and the suggested reimagining of Huizenga Park that was developed by the design firm Perkins & Will.

The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Biggest changes include removal of the band shell and addition of a 2-story restaurant, customized bench seating, a central promenade, fenced dog park with agility apparatus, playscape for children, public restrooms, and reduction of the lawn from 50,000 sq ft to 29,300 sq ft.

Construction is estimated to begin in early 2023.

Additional details can be found at: www.ddaftl.org/huizenga

Q&A session with the residents was then held. The questions received in advance are attached to these minutes.

4. New Business

Melinda reminded us to attend the Redistricting City Commission Meeting tomorrow on April 5, 2022. The Commission meeting on Tuesday--both the Conference Agenda at 1:30pm and at the Main meeting at 6pm. The FAU consultant's report is part of the materials for the agenda.

Old Business

5. The meeting was adjourned by Melinda Bowker at 7:44 pm.



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Minutes prepared by: Lorena Melgarejo 2022 Recording Secretary

Minutes approved by: Board at Meeting held on 10/05/2022

Recording Secretary Approval:

Lorena Melgarejo

Date: 10/05/2022



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DFLCA

Membership Meeting

4/4/22

Questions/Comments from Residents on Huizenga forwarded to the DDA

1. Need update on the monitoring of bathrooms in the park. DDA says there may be security or monitoring. Kickball or any other adult coed sport seems unlikely to continue. 15 million budget a lot for a ½ acre park. 100 Las Olas and LORH residents have concerns about the restaurant
2. If we are going from 50k sq ft to 39 sq ft, does the 39 sq ft include the dog park?
3. Upkeep:
-who will be responsible for overall grounds being kept as clean as possible? Currently, the trash around the benches and trash cans can pile up. In addition, after events the trash can get out of hand. Love to see the kickball games from my balcony but there are some mornings where water bottles are littering the perimeter. Finally, the grassy areas are just a mess. Again, between the events (I.e, St Patricks day celebration, sports, ...) has just torn up the grass. I know the future layout will take care of these issues but knowing who will have overall responsibility is key. At the end of the day who is paying/responsibility for the maintenance of the park.

Traffic:

- we all have to agree that the traffic is simply a problem along 1st street and more so on the park side of Las Olas. Given the current plan for a restaurant and other food venues I would expect daily deliveries of food/supplies and trash removal. As you know, with the current valet at the hotel, resident traffic, restaurants, and other delivery services, traffic is going to be a challenge for us. A traffic plan must be shared that will address daily flow on Las Olas and 1st Street.

Security:

-Overall security plan for the proposed park is important. The addition of 90+ Trees, large boulders, shrubs, buildings including the bathrooms, will not only be a positive addition but will also attract problems. We discussed our homeless population at the meeting and the response I received was the more people that use the park, the less homeless will stick around. That may be true, but we can't simply count on that assumption. The number of people on the Riverwalk now does not seem to deter the men that sit in the pergola near the pump station all day. In addition, more people could also draw panhandlers, drug dealers, My point is I would like to see a plan that tells us residents and business owners that surround the park how the park will be kept safe day and night.

4. What plans are there to ensure security around the bathroom area? Also, what plans are there to stop the grassy area from being used as an off-leash park?
5. I have already sent my comments on the form but want to say that I am in total FAVOR of the reimagined park BUT the Restaurant is an issue. The dead end is always congested and now for a valet to have cars lined up is an affront to the River House. I hope you can address this issue.



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6. Hi there, as a resident of 100e Las olas, we are very concerned about the possibility of change &/or future development of the Huizenga park. Obviously we would like to preserve our view, as well as density & parking concerns. And preserve the dog park, it's a very appreciated part of the neighborhood. Please address at the Monday night 4/4/22 meeting.
7. Hi Melinda. I'm planning to attend in person tonight's subject meeting. Here is a question I posed in the survey they issued after their meeting a few weeks ago: What are the plans to separate/segregate the projected restaurant vehicular traffic on SE 1st Avenue. SE 1st Avenue is currently heavily used for the River House Condo for deliveries, contractor access, and garbage pickup. SE 1st Avenue is also heavily used by the Hyatt and 100 East Las Olas Condo for various uses.
8. One question I have is "Why is the bandshell being removed and not replaced?" As far as I know, there are no other bandshells in the downtown area. If it was underutilized in the past, perhaps it wasn't promoted enough. I see from the renderings that a space for an "amphitheater" is indicated but it looks like just an open space on the river with some tiered concrete seating. Will there be something more substantial there that could be utilized as a performance space and how could it actually be utilized as any kind of performance space since there is so little space near it to accommodate audiences?
9. Noise and Safety: Ft Lauderdale ORDINANCE NO. C-08-37 is specific on dBA levels: **USE TIMES**
OUTDOOR INDOOR Residential 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. 60 dBA* 50 dBA 45 dBA 35 dBA Commercial 24 hours 65 dBA 55 dBA Industrial 24 hours 75 dBA 65 dBA There are also relevant Florida and Federal statutes, including OSHA ([Occupational Noise Exposure - Overview | Occupational Safety and Health Administration](https://www.osha.gov/noise) <https://www.osha.gov/noise> Yet, as we have seen repeatedly in this area, notably Salt 7 Restaurant, various Riverfront /Las Olas restaurants and Huizenga Park events, there has been continuous and blatant violation of said ordinance/regulations, while enforcement has been lax.
10. Any proposed "Reimagined" must be comprehensive, in synchronization with the existing conditions within aforesaid area.
 1. What assurances do we have that such plan will be comprehensive?
 2. What assurances do we have that enforcement will be comprehensive and continuous?
 3. What additional Ft L Police and other relevant agencies will be incrementally funded and staffed to assure safety and, especially, noise control-- including fines/penalties that violators will truly "feel the pain"