

To: David Shorter
Virginia Key Beach Park Trust
3550 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137

Date: July 3, 2003
From: Carolyn Mitchell
Ref No.
Project: Virginia Key Beach Park
Pages:
Re:

CC:

David,

Attached is a color "mock-up" of the master plan report for review and approval. Upon receipt of your final comments, I will incorporate any requested changes and deliver 24 bound, double-sided color copies of the final master plan report. The cost for 24 copies is \$1800. Please note that the Cultural Center Appendix included in the mock-up is in draft form. The final version will be submitted separately for your review. Also included are full-size copies of the historic plans for your records.

Even printed double sided, I think that this report is too long for most readers and the Trust may want to consider an abridged version for distribution beyond the Trust staff and board.

I have reviewed the Preservation Plan prepared by Vicki Cole and it meshes with the Master Plan, except for the location of the entrance road, as noted below. I have the following minor comments:

p.4. Please correct the name of the firm from "Wallace Todd & Reed" to Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC

p. 30. The proposed protection strategy is inconsistent with the master plan on several points. We have addressed this issue in the Master Plan by recommending that the Motor Boat Exclusion zone be marked and enforced and boat access actively discouraged by the Trust. The Trust will need to work with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to develop an appropriate strategy for securing the ocean-access. A mesh barrier, lights or lighted buoys may interfere with the wildlife. Also, banning alcohol and fires won't solve the problem of vandalism but will interfere with the recreational use of the park. A beach-side beer for people who are not misbehaving would be harmless enough and potentially part of the concession stand's offerings. Fires are essential to picnic and camping activities which are the heart of the recreation program, thus fires in designated grills and fireplaces should be permitted. Controlling access to the beach seems more pertinent than these two "bans."

p. 32 Historic plans (which are included in the Master Plan in an appendix) include plans for the train station, the track layout, the tunnel and the lake. These plans came from Miami Dade County Parks.

The park entrance will not be relocated to the Sewage Treatment Plant Road. I can't tell if this is a misunderstanding of the Master Plan or a recommendation. It will help to give Vicki a copy of the Master Plan report and let her revise her draft with full information.

p. 33 Our recommended treatment for the parking lot is "preservation and adaptive reuse" and not strict preservation. Before they are implemented, the plans will need to be reviewed by the appropriate authorities.

p. 35 and after. All of these recommendations should be combined within a strategic plan to guide implementation of the Master Plan and Preservation Plan recommendations. Preparation of a brochure for fund raising purposes is a good idea but should be part of a well-conceived capital campaign.

p. 49 Please replace reference to Heisenbottle Architects with Judson and Partners Architects.