

Virginia Key Beach Park Trust

Notes from Parking Lot Construction Meeting May 16, 2005

Areas of concern surrounded the following topics:

- ADA parking space requirements; what is the formula for parking lots in Florida, etc? Are the handicapped spaces close enough to the desired special features on the park to meet requirements (300 ft) – Historic core; Nature Center; VKBP museum?
- During the months of June through September heavy rain will make the already high water table extremely difficult to deal with; this will make the French Drain storm water drainage plan more difficult. The French Drains will be shortened to 15 feet from 20 feet in depth due to these issues and the fact that at the depth of 20 feet the French Drain's trench walls would probably not remain stable and crumble.
- Trust staff asked that the City of Miami consultant look into ***stamped asphalt*** for many sections of the paving areas throughout the park.
- Edgar Espenosa, City of Miami consultant and project manager for the VKBP parking lot construction project claimed that the City of Miami got DERM and FDEP “sign-off” approvals of “no environmental concerns or affects” from the parking lot construction project. Also, the existing French Drain in the center of the parking lot will be sealed; does this drain have any connection to the existing French Drain at the top of the road North of the pond?
- Edgar Espenosa, City of Miami consultant and project manager for the VKBP parking lot construction project claimed that only a permit from the City of Miami Building Department is needed to complete the parking lot construction project.
- A great deal of discussion surrounded the re-construction and or design of the existing landscaped island and flag pole arrangement in front of the historic concession stand building. Final designs must be completed soon.
- Light poles and other fixtures that are specified in the parking lot design plan must be confirmed as acceptable for use on the beach park and not a threat to sea turtle nesting.

Notes from the June 14, 2005 Parking Lot Construction Meeting to finalize the parking lot design plan

Two main issues had to be discussed and finalized:

- The re-construction and or design of the existing landscaped island and flag pole arrangement in front of the historic concession stand building.
- Tree removal and re-planting specified in the parking lot design plan.

In response to any changes taking place on the “flag pole island” it was explained that the plans were in error and were never to have shown the removal and paving of the “flag pole island.” That feature will be left as is and new paving will surround it.

The tree removal issue is more complex. The existing tree pits that currently hold the trees must be moved several feet seaward to accommodate the design of the parking lot. The entry/exit roadway that will be constructed will force the removal and reconstruction of the existing tree pits. The entire parking lot construction is designed to use only the existing parking lot footprint and not any land outside of that area.

The trees, not native or endangered, will be removed. There has been a landscaper’s opinion that the trees are “sick” and would not survive the trauma of replanting. (We will ask that they be replanted at a separate location on the park)

Trees that will be replanted are: 14ft Strangler Figs; 14ft Green Buttonwoods; 14ft Gumbo limbos and 16ft Coconut Palms.

The parking lot will include 12 handicapped spaces, the parking lot minimum of HC spaces is 9 and the parking lot will have 2 baby stroller parking spaces.

There are discussions that would add the paving of the intersection at the Rickenbacker Causeway and Virginia Beach Drive to the parking lot construction project – removing it from the Sanitary Sewer project. This would keep the project from potentially having a “patch work” appearance by having one contractor do all of the paving from the intersection and throughout the park and parking lot.

REQUESTS:

The Trust is seeking copies of the written clearance from DERM and FDEP giving their approval to the light fixtures to be used on the park.

- Tree removal and re-planting specified in the parking lot design plan must be reviewed and confirmed by the VKBPT Nature & environment committee.
- Edgar Espenosa, City of Miami consultant and project manager for the VKBP parking lot construction project claimed that August 2005 is the date that the City of Miami would have a contractor selected and soon after begin work on the project.

We are also requesting in the writing the decision being made by the contractors to change the depth of the French Drain storm water drainage system to 15ft from the original depth of 20ft.

The contractors have agreed to work in coordination with the Trust during the Trust office move to VKBP and the construction of the Trust office by shifting construction and demolition schedules to accommodate our needs.

Guy Forchion, VKBPT