

December 19th, 2007

Ms. Marcia Martin, Director
Office of Safe Neighborhood Parks
South Dade Government Center
10710 SW 211th Street, Room 109
Miami, FL 33189-5060

Dear Ms. Martin:

By means of this letter, we respectfully ask to be added to the January agenda for the Safe Neighborhood Parks Citizens' Oversight Committee meeting. The purpose for our request is so that we may ask for a change in the scope of work for \$260,000 of the remaining \$314,424 from our 2005 SNP allocation. These funds were originally earmarked for the design and construction of an environmental education center, (Nature Center), at Historic Virginia Key Beach Park.

One year ago the Citizens' Oversight Committee approved a scope change that allowed the Trust to complete the first phase of ecosystem restoration (exotic vegetation removal) on the beach park. A smaller, final phase is currently underway and scheduled for completion before the reopening.

Today, I am requesting a scope of work change to assist with the mini train track installation and other project restoration and improvements. With the Park scheduled to reopen in February 2008 it is important to reopen the mini train as a safe, efficient public attraction. The scope of work related to this is as follows:

The project will include site prep and civil work required to install approximately 2,500 track feet of 16-inch gauge rail, compacting, fill and ballast; design and construction of two at-grade crossings; design and install a rail "turnout" of approximately 300 feet of maintenance track; coordinate with the Trust on any significant revisions; design and build proper drainage; provide general clean up of materials and debris. It may include fencing or other barriers for public safety where appropriate, related maintenance equipment and accessories, restoration of the mini train depot platform and awning.

With this realign of funds the Trust will be able to provide the public with one of the most fondly remembered attractions on Historic Virginia Key Beach Park in a safe and timely manner.

Sincerely,

David Shorter, Executive Director
Virginia Key Beach Park Trust

cc: Board of Trustees, VKBPT
Board SNP Citizens' Oversight Committee
Ernest Burkeen, Dir. COM Parks & Recreation
Maria Perez, COM Parks & Recreation
Maria de Cardenas, COM Parks & Recreation