

Memo

To: Priscilla A. Thompson, City Clerk
From: M. Athalie Range, Chair
Virginia Key Beach Park Trust
CC: Joe Arriola, City Manager
Date: August 9, 2019
Re: 2004 Annual Report

Pursuant to City Code Sec. 2-890 (Annual report of city boards and committees) I have attached the following prepared document.

Virginia Key Beach
Park Trust

2004 Annual Report to the City of Miami

Virginia Key Beach Park Trust

Annual Report to the City of Miami

1) Whether the board is serving the purpose for which it was created.

Since its inception the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust has fulfilled its charge to restore Virginia Key Beach Park's original features and upgrade its facilities for public use. Residents from Miami urged City leadership to respond to the public's desire to save historic Virginia Key Beach Park for its cultural importance, natural environment and as recreational public space. Miami currently ranks extremely low out of the United States major municipalities in acreage of park space per capita.

2) Whether the board is serving current community needs.

The Trust has continued to serve the community's needs by developing and distributing promotional and educational materials that highlight the cultural importance of the historic park and the need for its restoration.

The "Friends of Virginia Key," a diverse group of concerned citizens, have provided invaluable support to the beach park's planning process and have continued to assist in the development of the park project whenever needed.

The Trust has continued to collect oral history testimonies from the public regarding the rich history surrounding Virginia Key Beach Park. All oral history and other memorabilia will be used and displayed in the Virginia Key Beach Park cultural center & museum complex for public appreciation and education.

3) A list of the board's major accomplishments.

Major accomplishments during FY 2003-2004:

The Trust engaged the museum planning services of LORD Cultural Resources & Planning for park site planning, cultural center & museum planning and interpretation. Community input was an important component of the planning process. A museum exhibit design team was selected to begin style and theme concepts for the cultural center & museum's interior displays. An architectural competition process has begun to select an appropriate architect for the building design by late 2005.

The construction phases of the renovation and repairs of the existing historic buildings on the park property were completed setting the stage for phase two, new construction.

The Army Corps of Engineers began a shoreline re-nourishment project that will transform the old beach shoreline into a new beach; adding sand and new groins. This project is scheduled to be completed in late 2005.

The construction of a sanitary sewer system and force main will connect the entire beach park to Miami-Dade County's existing sewer system infrastructure. This project is scheduled to be completed in late 2005.

4) Whether there is any other board, either public or private, which would better serve the function of the board.

The Virginia Key Beach Park Trust has continued to gather support and praise from community members and local leadership. Partnerships with neighbors on Virginia Key and surrounding communities are a testament to the Trust's ability to provide leadership and its appropriateness as the only entity that should lead this project.

5) Whether the ordinance creating the board should be amended to better enable the board to serve the purpose for which it was created.

Changes to Sec. 38-231 of Ordinance No. 12003 are provided below. The change would allow the Trust to operate with some ownership of the land as "lease holder" and increase its ability to negotiate fully with partners and supporters.

Sec. 38-231. Jurisdictional authority.

The Trust shall exercise the powers and duties set forth in the Chapter over the land area described in "Attachment A," ***through a lease from the City of Miami for a period of 50 years, at a cost of \$1 per year, with optional 10 year lease extensions pending commission approval***, attached here to and incorporated herein.

6) Whether the board's membership requirements should be modified.

The existing membership eligibility requirements for Trustees Should remain unchanged at this time. The criteria set forth by the ordinance that created the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust have served the Trust well.

7) The cost, both direct and indirect, of maintaining the board.

(See attached audited financial statements – September 30, 2004)