

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: February 21, 2025

TITLE: DISCUSS THE DESIREABILITY, FEASIBILITY, AND COST OF CONSTRUCTING A CHILDREN'S PARK AT THE EUCLID CIRCLE ON LINCOLN ROAD

RECOMMENDATION

The City Administration recommends that the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee (FERC) considers moving forward with the installation of a children's park at the preferred location, subject to future funding.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

On June 26, 2024, at the request of Commissioner David Suarez, the Mayor and City Commission (City Commission) approved the referral of item C4 M to the FERC to discuss the desirability, feasibility, and cost of constructing a children's park at the Euclid Oval on Lincoln Road (Exhibit A).

At the July 26, 2024, meeting of the FERC, the item was deferred to the September meeting. This item was included on the agenda for the September 20, 2024 and October 18, 2024 FERC meetings, but was not heard.

ANALYSIS

On September 10, 2014, the City Commission awarded an agreement to James Corner Field Operations, LLC (JCFO) to complete the Master Plan for the Lincoln Road District. On March 9, 2016, the City Commission also awarded JCFO the contract for Architectural and Engineering Design Services for the Lincoln Road Redevelopment Project. The project limits include Lincoln Road from Washington Avenue to Lennox Avenue and connectors on Drexel Avenue and Meridian Avenue.

The improvements proposed for Lincoln Road include enhancement of pedestrian walkways, café zones, planters, water features, landscape and irrigation, and cosmetic repairs to the historic Morris Lapidus structures, among other things. Improvements to the Euclid Oval were included in the project, however a children's park was not envisioned as part of this scope.

On June 22, 2022, the City Commission approved Amendment No. 3 to the Agreement with JCFO, for the reduced scope of work, as proposed at the January 13, 2021, City Commission meeting, but included exploring the installation of a children's park south of the Euclid Oval on the Euclid Avenue right-of-way, contingent on finding funding. Two (2) concept plans along the Euclid Avenue right-of-way were developed by JCFO.

The Euclid Oval is a raised area measuring approximately 75' in length by 35' in width, located on the 600 block of Lincoln Road at the intersection of Euclid Avenue. Currently, the Euclid Oval is used as a multi-function activity area for such events as Family Game Day on the first Saturday

of each month, yoga classes, holiday displays, and as a viewing area for performances taking place at the adjacent Morris Lapidus shade structure. In the past, the City's Parks and Recreation Department has also deployed "Imagination Playground", a portable pop-up playground for young children to use in this area.

On November 8, 2024 at the FERC meeting, the Facilities and Fleet Management Department, presented three (3) options for the development of a children's park (Exhibit B). Option three (3), implementing the playground structures at Euclid Avenue's right-of-way was the preferred option. City staff was directed to explore the feasibility of the area taking into consideration existing constraints, the preservation of the existing trees and that it should be designed by JFCO.

City staff requested that JFCO re-evaluate possible locations to install a children's park along Lincoln Road. JCFO prepared an analysis of potential locations, concepts, case studies, and probable costs (Exhibit C). The analysis identified three (3) potential locations within Lincoln Road. The first location is the 900 Block, the second location is the 500 Block, and the third location is the area south of the Euclid Oval, within the Euclid Avenue right-of-way. Two of the potential locations, the 900 Block and the 500 Block, currently host a large number of outdoor cafés, making these locations challenging. The third location, south of the Euclid Oval, remains JCFO's preferred, recommended location for the children's park. This location sits in a more secluded, less trafficked area, away from storefronts and outdoor cafés. JCFO also evaluated other areas of Lincoln Road which were found to be too small for a playground and would require the removal of historically designated planters, follies or water features in order to accommodate a playground. JCFO provided two concepts for the children's park, south of the Euclid Oval, within the Euclid Avenue right-of-way, with an approximate cost estimate ranging between \$4.4M and \$6M.

Should the committee recommend the implementation of the children's park at the preferred location, it would require an amendment to the JCFO agreement. The construction could be implemented without impacting the progress of the Lincoln Road project, subject to future funding.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The anticipated cost to develop a children's park ranges between \$4.4M and \$6M.

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate? (FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

The Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on .

See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notice/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

N/A

CONCLUSION

In consideration of the foregoing, the Administration recommends the Committee consider moving forward with the installation of a children's park at the preferred location, subject to future funding.

Applicable Area

South Beach

**Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item,
pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?**

Yes

**Is this item related to a G.O. Bond
Project?**

No

**Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481,
includes a principal engaged in lobbying?** No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

Capital Improvement Projects

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner David Suarez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Children's Park at the Euclid Circle on Lincoln Road