

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, Interim City Manager

DATE: June 26, 2024

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE (PSNQLC) AT ITS JUNE 5, 2024, MEETING AND DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO DEVELOP A DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT THE INSTALLATION OF SIGNS OF POSITIVE AFFIRMATIONS AT BAYSHORE PARK, CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH YOUTH COMMISSION.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Mayor and City Commission adopt the resolution.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

On May 15, 2024, the Mayor and City Commission referred item C4 D (Exhibit A), sponsored by Vice-Mayor Laura Dominguez, to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC), to discuss the installation of positive mental health affirmation signage at Bayshore Park.

On April 16, 2024 the City of Miami Beach Youth Commission unanimously passed a motion recommending the Mayor and City Commission create signage with positive mental health affirmations along the jogging trail/butterfly garden in Bayshore Park to coincide with the park opening in fall 2025.

Bayshore Park is approximately 19.4 acres and is located at 2300 Pine Tree Drive. The park is located between Miami Beach Senior High School and the Scott Rakow Youth Center and will host many youth who reside in Miami Beach.

The new park will include a children's playground for different ages, exercise station, sports tennis courts, pathways, jogging trails, and a dog park. The park will also include a bathroom/office building, site furnishings, lake with infrastructure for future connection to the neighborhood drainage system, lake circulation and ozone water treatment system, and lake littoral zone. In addition, the park will feature entrance and park identification signs, a parking lot, lighting system, landscaping including the butterfly garden, an irrigation system, and connection to the utilities and FPL system.

On May 19, 2016, the City executed an agreement with Savino Miller Design Studio (SMDS) for the Landscaping, Architectural, and Engineering Design Services for the Bayshore Park Project. The park's design was presented at many public meetings including the Design Review Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Sustainability Committee, and the Bayshore Homeowner's Association.

On December 14, 2022, the Mayor and City Commission approved the award of a contract to Buslam Company Partners Inc., for the construction of Bayshore Park. The City hosted a

groundbreaking ceremony for the project on September 19, 2023.

Bayshore Park is currently under construction, and is approximately thirty percent (30%) complete, with an anticipated completion of fall 2025.

ANALYSIS

The City of Miami Beach Youth Commission has expressed that one of the biggest problems faced by teens in our City is mental health. The Youth Commission's initiative of creating positive affirmation and mental health signage in Bayshore Park aims to help tackle this prevalent issue in our community.

Bayshore Park will have an expansive jogging trail circling and bordering different parts of the park, including the butterfly garden. The Youth Commission believes that the butterfly garden can provide calming places where people relax, meditate, and enjoy nature, and their proposal is to install positive affirmation and mental health signage along the jogging trail in the portion of the park where it borders the butterfly garden. The signage could serve as a validating and educational tool, raising awareness about the importance of mental health and destigmatizing conversations surrounding mental health struggles and burnout. Through carefully crafted messages, visitors may gain insights into coping strategies, mindfulness practices, and resources available for mental health support within the community. Examples of positive affirmation and mental health signage artwork can be seen in Exhibit B. If implemented, such signage would be the first of its kind in City parks.

This initiative proposes that the artwork for the positive affirmation and mental health signage be created by local Miami Beach artists and art students at Miami Beach Senior High, thereby highlighting Miami Beach artists and youth while achieving the goal of improving mental health throughout the City.

Messaging for the signs could be implemented from the Poetry Project, a social experiment originating to promote mental health awareness and well-being within the London Underground. The Poetry Project has experienced considerable growth over time and there would be no cost for using quotes from this project.

The inclusion of signage featuring positive mental health affirmations in Bayshore Park aligns with the City's commitment to promote the well-being of community members, especially our youth. Creating a supportive and uplifting environment within the park can empower individuals to prioritize their mental health and foster a sense of belonging.

The Youth Commission's vision for this initiative would include 12 to 16 different, double-sided signs, using a typical size for traffic signs of approximately 12" x 18", with an introduction sign stating information about the initiative, how it was created by the Youth Commission and listing accessible mental health resources. The colorful signs would be installed on poles that would border the jogging trail in the area where it borders the butterfly garden.

City staff has shared the Youth Commission's proposal with SMDS who expressed a preference "to keep the park virtually sign free, allowing the user to curate his/her own feelings for the park experience." Concerned that the signs could be distracting to park views, and subjected to vandalism, the consultant suggested that similar results could be achieved through the use of fewer and smaller signs with QR codes, allowing for varying messages and greater flexibility.

On June 5, 2024, the PSNQLC discussed this item, and asked that staff provide a rough estimate of the cost required to implement this plan. Since the meeting, staff has discussed this project with SMDS, the design consultant for Bayshore Park, who again expressed concern with potential

sign pollution concerns, and interference with the park experience. The consultant has provided a proposal to design up to three alternate sign/message types for review and approval, more closely integrating park design materials and concepts, while allowing for the incorporation of sign graphics as described by the Youth Commission. Design concepts would ensure that the following concerns are addressed:

- Sign messages are incorporated into park design at various individual locations, not grouped together.
- Sign “base structure” limited to 2’-6” in height and width and 2-0” depth, using durable, non-frangible material, such as stone or metal.
- Sign message “panel” should be replaceable material, such as stone, metal, or clear polycarbonate (no poles).
- Possible inclusion of QR Codes.
- Final Permit drawings and sign material would also need to be developed once sign design and materials are selected.

Should the Mayor and City Commission elect to implement this initiative, City staff will need to engage the design consultant, coordinate permitting, including the preparation and approval by the Building Department of a sign permit, and explore potential zoning restrictions and the design of the signs.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The cost to implement this initiative is approximately \$70,000. Funding will have to be identified and appropriated through the annual budget process.

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

CONCLUSION

Pursuant to the recommendations by PSNQLC, at its June 5, 2024 meeting, the Administration recommends that the Mayor and City Commission adopt the resolution. Funding for the project would need to be identified and appropriated through the annual budget process.

Applicable Area

Middle 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?

Yes

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 Laura Dominguez

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner Alex Fernandez