

November 12, 2024

Notes from Maggie Chappellear. Attendee

Introductory Meeting at Palm Beach County Commissioner's offices
West Palm Beach, Florida of Brooks + Scarpa the lead Architects of the proposed
Milani Park.

In attendance:

- Highland Beach residents: Laura Thurston, Maggie Chappellear & Mayor Natasha Moore
- Marci Woodward: Palm Beach County Commissioner & Staff
- Jennifer Cirillo, Director Palm Beach County Board of Commissioners Parks & Rec and Staff
- Jeffrey Huber, lead Architect for park design
- Isami Ayala-Collazo Director/Facilities Development

Introduction of all attendees. Introduction of the Brooks + Scarpa firm with presentation of previous projects and experience. Used DC Alexander in Ft. Lauderdale as a comparable example.

PREDESIGN-SCHEMATIC PHASE

Discussion of Timeline: Preliminary stage at the moment.

Waiting for survey and other reports (archeological, percs, elevation, arborist, traffic, etc)

Budget for Hard Cost: \$6M. Maybe revised by Parks & Rec as needed for 2025 upcoming budget (elevator conversation with an official)

April 2026 is the shovel year. Noted topics:

- Collecting data for the next phase Conceptual DESIGN
- Discussions of the town agreed upon April 2009 Resolution 09-004R
And perhaps some modifications if allowed thru Parks and Rec
- Emphasized that the conditions of the Resolution will be included in DESIGN-
Town agreed to it. County accepted it.
- Next Phase will be Conceptual Design--should be ready in 2-3 months--I bet not
- There will be alternative designs (conceptual) based on input given at this
Meeting by town residents in attendance and the Resolution Document
- **Parking and Traffic impacts** were of the highest concern from all Highland Beach
Residents.
- Architects acknowledged that the 2009 Resolution **was 15 years ago and is dated**
- There will be an opportunity for more input at the next meeting with the Highland
Beach attendees **and Natasha emphasized she wanted to see the conceptual designs
before the presentation of this to interested public to be held maybe in April, 2025**

- **We need to follow up on the sneak peek before the public meeting.**
- Natasha was adamant that a **well-maintained park** is also a major concern of the town
- Maggie Chappelle was adamant that **less parking places and more green areas** Would be of great importance to the town
- Maggie Chappelle discussed **possible amenities such as swings, shade, shelters etc.**
- Laura Thurston was concerned **with traffic at the nearby Beach Club & Park entrance**
- Laura Thurston **emphasized a children play area and bicycle area**
- Architects: stressed they want a resilient, place making beacon of a passive park with low maintenance. Materials and landscape considered would be durable for a coastal environment.
- Architect Jeff Huber had an expression for the park would be: A place to Keep s a Place to Build
- The wetlands area would be cleaned up with a buffer as part of the park and would Be aesthetic.
- The Resolution provides for Life Guard stand, bathrooms, boardwalks, Parking attendance, and Signage is going to become part of the project...we are getting these items it looks like.
- Design Phase will take into account all the details of: MEP drawings (Mechanical, Engineering & Plumbing) as well as the site plan landscape design and structures design.
- The Resolution is the guide the Architectural Firm is using for the next phase.
There is no certainty if there will be fewer parking spaces, more open space, Structures that are not on the Resolution etc.
- The ending impression I have is that: The Architects heard our town voices as to What we would like then to consider, and we want to be part of on-going meetings and discussions about the design of the park. I gave each person in attendance two PDF PowerPoints with considerations for the park, Photos of Ideas & Inspirations From other parks, a site plan with 40 spaces and open green area with shelters, restrooms, boardwalks, bike/pedestrian paths, bike racks to consider. I observed that I was not “shined” on my these submissions and am hoping that since the town is a major “stakeholder” as the architect said, they will try to address our concerns.