

Ocean Drive Sunshine & Community Meeting

MDPL Welcome Center

3-06-25

ART DECO NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (ADNA) SUMMARY of MEETING:

Calvin, Giordano and Associates (CGA), Ocean Drive Master Planners presentation of sidewalk and lighting options to date.

SIDEWALKS:

- Presented were 5 options for reimagining the west side sidewalk colors, materials and design or keeping the existing pink-colored cement material.
- The outer curb/infrastructure edge zone, would remain cement in all options so that future expansion and repairs/maintenance would be possible without major disruption.
- ADNA suggests a community survey of these options be done now.

CONCERNS/COMMENTS:

- Safety issues are a priority with sidewalk cafes, pedestrians and vehicle interactions.
- This was not fully discussed and needs further study and design by CGA.
- Any Master Plan option, other than full pedestrianization, should include sidewalk barriers, such as low planters or small bollards between the curbs and sidewalks for the protection of pedestrians and diners.

SUGGESTIONS:

- ADNA prefers the original pink-colored cement as the best sidewalk material option as it is the least expensive, repairable material and less of a change, which creates controversy and delay.
- The patterned sidewalk paver options proposed by CGA, compete with the Art Deco historic nature of the street and are not considered an “improvement”, especially since they will be covered up with tables, chairs and umbrellas and do not create added value or safety for the extra cost.

LIGHTING:

- Modern light pole renderings were presented and not well received. The architects also agreed that they were too close to the buildings and did not achieve the desired effect.
- More options are needed.

COMMENTS:

- Lighting is integral to traffic patterns and it is better to wait until after the traffic studies are presented to design a more appropriate lighting plan and have more lighting options, such as historically correct lamp posts.
- There are many still existing in South Beach (ice cream cone style glass) and could be re-purposed and re-wired/updated for Ocean Drive.
- Historically lamp posts were mainly on the West side of the street.
- Modern” light poles do not enhance the iconic and important historical quality, uniqueness and charm of Ocean Drive.

SUGGESTIONS:

- We suggest following the original light post forms and historical template on the west side and on the east side.
- Restore the original lighting to each building with some path lighting and accent lighting enhancements. This would bring up the ambient street light level, as opposed to what we have now, which is spot/path lighting in palm trees, that creates hot spots, with dark areas in between.
- Sidewalk path lights should have a wide beam and diffuse spread and more palm trees could be incorporated into the path downlighting scheme along with the ring up lights.
- The original mid-century glass topped poles created ambient light and could be programmed with digital controls, to change color (Empire State Building model), and modified for turtle season.
- In the meantime, the palm tree ring up lights were well received and could be done now, as the current lighting needs improvement.
- We suggest including Lummus Park palms as well as Ocean Drive to have up *and* down light rings that could be separately controlled for turtle season restrictions. This would create more of an ambient light glow throughout the street and integrate the park.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- We would like to see as much authenticity and historic restoration whenever possible especially when designing Public Works objects.
- Restoration should always be the first option for the reimagining of Ocean Drive, with modernization secondary. We do not want to lose authenticity by replacing our history with generic substitutes.
- Create a Master Plan that satisfies the County so the Commission can vote and approve *one* option for CGA that can be narrowed to a realistic, buildable design program. ADNA prefers full pedestrianization of Ocean Drive above 5th Street.
- Provide a realistic timeline and create design deadlines.
- Hold monthly community meetings with CGA for shareholder input and progress reports.
- More emphasis and discussions regarding historical design preservation.
- Reach out to Art Deco preservation specialists and Historic Preservation Board for guidance.
- Do no harm to the existing street footprint and architecture, start with property clean-ups, painting, colors and maintenance.
- Set design standards and a range of options for outdoor umbrellas, awnings, lighting, tables, chairs.

2025 DESIGN TIMELINE (with Suggested Meetings):

MARCH

Calvin, Giordano and Associates to create a stakeholder survey regarding sidewalk and material options

APRIL

COMMISSION MEETING

CIP Presents their data and reports for the 3 traffic configuration options

CGA presents Sidewalk Survey materials community feedback

MAY

CGA Community Outreach Meeting

JUNE

CGA Community Outreach Meeting

Master Plan options presented to County for approval

JULY

Master Plan submitted to Commission for vote

CGA Community Outreach Meeting



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