

1 ask Mr. Horgan to share some of the conversations he's had with  
2 officials at the county.

3 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: At the last meeting I had asked for  
4 minutes, I think Mr. Thomas asked for them too. I haven't  
5 received them. So can we know more, can we know exactly what's  
6 been going on, please; who you've been speaking with?

7 MR. HORGAN: Hi. I'm Harry Horgan. I'm the founder and  
8 executive director of Shake-a-Leg Miami. And I'm proud to be  
9 here with you to help share the wonderful magic of the water  
10 with all your citizens. And I think together you with,  
11 Mr. Brown, and all of your enthusiasm, we can make your project  
12 a reality.

13 When Mr. Brown asked me to help develop this concept, it  
14 was the Palm Beach County Parks was one of the first groups that  
15 we went to, because in order to properly utilize these resources  
16 that are available to us, and understanding the type economic  
17 challenges that we're all facing, where money is tight, the  
18 priority is to do a program now and get people on the water. We  
19 figured we should go talk to the people that have access to the  
20 kids, have access to the water, and access to resources.

21 Peanut Island is one of the finest natural resources that  
22 all of us here in this state have available to us. Lake Worth  
23 Lagoon is a treasure. And Palm Beach County Parks is full of  
24 talent. They have experience in running aquatic programs.

25 And with the concept here of being a world class community

1 boating center, it's going to take all of us working together as  
2 a community to make this happen. So the discussions with county  
3 parks, I met with both the planners, Jean Matthews and her team,  
4 and also met with the therapeutic programs also. The first goal  
5 was to understand how Peanut Island was run, what access is  
6 available. And it's ideal for children; there's the beaches,  
7 there's the snorkel park, there's fishing. From a boating  
8 expedition standpoint, just driving around the island itself.  
9 You have the Coast Guard Museum, and you have other amenities  
10 out there that are very attractive.

11 We talked about collaborations. And they were very proud  
12 of their collaborations with Riviera Beach. They welcomed this  
13 community boating program. They don't have a community boating  
14 program in this county. They do have a small program out on the  
15 lake, west; but there is nothing. Most of them are boaters,  
16 they appreciate the value of it; so I think we have a partner in  
17 Palm Beach County Parks.

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: Mr. Horgan has completed a  
19 community contact report and, Madam Chair, per your request and  
20 we'll circulate that to the members of the board.

21 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Are they willing to provide any  
22 funding?

23 MR. HORGAN: Well, for them, like all of us, funding is  
24 tight.

25 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Extremely tight for us, especially.

1 MR. HORGAN: Right. But the funding is there, there's  
2 money. You have one of the most valuable waterfronts in the  
3 world.

4 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: I know. Everyone wants a piece of it,  
5 trust me.

6 MR. HORGAN: Right. And I commend you for putting the kids  
7 first. You're putting the kids on the water first. In all our  
8 discussions and with our committee, how are we going to fund  
9 this? We believe it's going to be funded -- the seed money will  
10 come through philanthropy. And we're going to reach out to the  
11 community, we're identifying the groups that serve the kids.  
12 And as you saw, Mr. Brown brought together a great group. So  
13 we're targeting these different service providers. And they're  
14 all pushing, we want the kids, we'll deliver them there. So by  
15 working together and coming up with a comprehensive plan that  
16 demonstrates that this is a world class center, you're going to  
17 target the local residents and we're going to get them first.  
18 That's going to happen immediately.

19 How do you sustain a program where you're serving people  
20 that don't have the resources and will never have the resources?  
21 Well, we have to serve those that have the resources. One way  
22 we can do that is tourism. We're already the tourism capital of  
23 the world. So let's target these environmental groups that do  
24 this environmental travel, those volunteer travel. There's  
25 tourism, there's disability tourism; that's something we're

1 doing down in Miami, it's 20 percent of the population, huge.

2 The other big need is the wounded soldiers returning from  
3 the wars. It's a serious national issue. We truly believe that  
4 the water has healing qualities. With the VA right down the  
5 street, we're going to work out a deal with the VA and they're  
6 going to become a partner in this. We haven't been able to meet  
7 with them. All my discussions have been down in Miami. And  
8 we're developing a model program, we're figuring out how to get  
9 paid for these services, how to reach and service the soldiers.

10 The attraction is the waterfront. And your passion and  
11 your interest in putting this first, number one, has set the  
12 tone.

13 Commissioner Lowe, you've been working on this for years.  
14 And your commitment to the kids is setting the direction by  
15 which we all need to follow.

16 And I truly believe, I'm proud to be able to look back at  
17 what we've been able to create in Miami. Now it's running on  
18 its own. It's running by the smiles and the enthusiasm of the  
19 kids that are coming through the program. And then the people  
20 that are contributing to help make that happen, this same thing  
21 will happen here.

22 And you've got my commitment to work with you to make this  
23 the finest center. And I'd like to meet with every one of you  
24 and understand what your desires are, what do you want, what do  
25 you see, so that this community boating center is a proud

1 element of your marina; and will be the shining star, hopefully,  
2 of the marina. And that marina is going to bring business to  
3 this community.

4 VICE CHAIR DAVIS: Madam Chair. I happened to meet the  
5 gentleman in San Diego who taught you everything that you know.  
6 And that was pretty neat, as far as I was concerned. And I  
7 think that the boating program, the now boating program, I think  
8 it's going to be a hit. Okay? I know I had some doubt about it  
9 sometime ago, but I think if we start this it's going to grow,  
10 it's going to continue to grow. And I know that all of those  
11 people who contribute to the Boys and Girls Clubs and school  
12 districts and, you know, this would open up a whole new venue  
13 for them. So I'm pretty confident that once we get to that  
14 point, the dollars will come. Because I've made it very clear  
15 to Mr. Brown, also, that my concern was the dollars; and in a  
16 conversation I had with you. At this point in time we can't  
17 afford to run any boating center, you know, right now. But I  
18 know that there are partners out there, you know, who will help  
19 us get it off the ground. But I like the idea of the things  
20 that we're looking at starting right now.

21 Also, the sails, those are sails I'm seeing in the  
22 rendering here, aren't they?

23 MR. HORGAN: Well, that concept is a concept of utilizing a  
24 sail type cloth as a --

25 VICE CHAIR DAVIS: And the reason I'm saying is because I

1 thought it was really, really neat that we're tying -- that if  
2 that was something that was going to be considered, that it's a  
3 tie in to our public beach. Also, maybe for the entry into the  
4 marina. But I'm excited about it, so thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: At this time we'll go to public  
6 comment. Gerald Ward.

7 MR. WARD: Good evening again. Gerald Ward, 31 West 20th  
8 Street.

9 This is an approved concept of 30 January 2008. The  
10 citizens' charrette plan clearly defined this. It's been a  
11 three-year delay by at least four of you.

12 I would then go to the second item, which is the committee.  
13 If you're going to have something in Riviera Beach, now this  
14 committee doesn't have anybody from the city marina on it. The  
15 marina manager is key to this facility.

16 Number two, rec and parks, John Williams, director of that,  
17 needs to be part of it. You've got to have this interplay  
18 between the city and the CRA.

19 Number three, Viking, you hired them for the developer.  
20 They're a boat builder on the north side of this area. They are  
21 a good source of both boating and funding. So it's just amazing  
22 they are not part of this deal.

23 The three or four concepts, you really need to focus on  
24 concept two and concept three, a community boating center is a  
25 place where unified bodies of individuals with common interests

1 in the water come together and participate in positive  
2 recreation and community service activities. Then the community  
3 advisers agreed that an accessible water sports and boating  
4 program. You don't need the center. So you're way ahead of it.  
5 But the concept of 2008 was, get it going.

6 You also need to remember that the U.S. Department of  
7 Interior needs to be -- its criteria of 1976 needs to be  
8 honored, but the citizens' charrette plan considered that and  
9 said this is a facility that they would probably approve.

10 Parking. Get this group interplayed with the shared  
11 parking and the Port of Palm Beach.

12 Huizenga, Rybovich, an industrial boat yard at the city  
13 marina, is incompatible with this type of activity. Do you want  
14 to have a public facility marina, public access to public  
15 waters?

16 Further, get the CDEC involved. We have an extensive city  
17 code process that needs to be followed. Otherwise you'll be  
18 back of the power curve.

19 Talk to the director about how this marina project is maybe  
20 adversely affecting this operation.

21 I've covered about as many things as needed, and got ten  
22 seconds left.

23 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Thank you. Bonnie Larson.

24 MS. LARSON: Bonnie Larson. We talked about things that we  
25 are going to get started right now, but I didn't really

1 understand what is it that we're going to be doing right now? I  
2 didn't get anything concrete. Just, we're going to get started  
3 now. What does that mean?

4 Couple questions. Community boating program. I've never  
5 heard the term before, and neither had Mr. Horgan. He looked it  
6 up himself. Because community boating is not the same as what  
7 Shake-a-Leg is. Shake-a-Leg is a nonprofit for disabled people,  
8 teaching people to get out of the water, training them how to  
9 use the boat even with their disability, so they can get out and  
10 enjoy the water like the rest of us do. Is that what we're  
11 talking about? Or are we talking about a program where kids in  
12 Riviera Beach learn how to use boats that we purchase, and we  
13 just teach them how to go boating? So is it just for kids in  
14 Riviera Beach to learn how to boat? Or is it incorporating what  
15 they have at Shake-a-Leg, which is the disability factor?

16 Couple other questions. Where is this thing going to be?  
17 That beach is very small there, with that Bicentennial Park  
18 there, we're going to have the Newcomb Hall there. I haven't  
19 seen any pictures like where this thing is going to be  
20 logistically. You're talking about a building. Where is that  
21 going to be? Who is going to fund all of this?

22 Insurance. Even if it's just for kids, like kids that go  
23 to the Boys and Girls Club, or people with disabilities,  
24 tremendous liability insurance. Who is going to pay that?

25 Parking. There you go again with the parking. If it is



1 for disabled people, they come with vans, they have to have  
2 special parking and it has to be near the facility. So these  
3 are just things that we need to talk about.

4 But I still am not clear if this is just for the kids in  
5 Riviera Beach or if it's people from all over the state.  
6 Because Shake-a-Leg services anyone in Palm Beach -- excuse  
7 me -- in all of Florida, all around the world, they can go to  
8 Shake-a-Leg. And it is the only facility of its type, and thank  
9 goodness that was started down there. If we start one here in  
10 Riviera Beach, people will be coming from all over the state to  
11 use it, so it's not going to be just Riviera Beach people, it  
12 will be people from all over. And we talk about, you don't want  
13 to provide things for people from other counties, you talked  
14 about the boats and stuff, they come here from West Palm Beach  
15 or whatever, well, these are people from all over, everywhere,  
16 and that's a huge, huge liability factor, insurance.

17 So we need to think about all these things.

18 But where are those sails going to go? I don't understand.  
19 We can't put them in the park.

20 Boat storage. Who is going to buy boats? Where are they  
21 going to be stored?

22 We have to think about a lot of things. And I didn't get  
23 it clear tonight what we're going to start now; so if you could  
24 just tell me that before I leave. Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Thank you. Charlie Isminger.

1 MR. ISMINGER: Charlie Isminger, 717 Kittyhawk Way, North  
2 Palm Beach.

3 I would just like to support the concept of this program.  
4 And I have said it before here, but I would again say that  
5 anybody who has not been down to Snake-a-Leg in Miami should go  
6 down and see it. And I would recommend you go down there on a  
7 school day about 3:00, when the school buses get there and the  
8 kids unload and they are just running and giggling to the  
9 center. It's a great place.

10 I think Mr. Horgan can explain maybe a little better, but  
11 to answer some of the questions of the lady preceding me, the  
12 idea of the community boating center is to have the activity and  
13 the fund raising by people who can afford it, in order to  
14 provide access to the water to the people who cannot afford it.  
15 It would be very expensive if you only served people who could  
16 not afford it. Therefore you bring in people for funding and  
17 volunteering and paying, who can afford it, to help raise those  
18 funds, along with the philanthropy. So I very much support this  
19 concept. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Thank you. Lynn Hubbard.

21 MS. HUBBARD: Lynne Hubbard. I would just like to say that  
22 I definitely support this concept and I want to commend Mr. Lowe  
23 for keeping it in the forefront of our minds. Mr. Horgan, we  
24 met with him years ago. And this is something disabled and  
25 disadvantaged, I think that both should be able to use this.

1 Whether people come -- we are a state, a community of tourism;  
2 people come from everywhere, people will come from everywhere to  
3 use everything that we have. And that can only be a good thing.

4 I guess when we develop the parameters of everything, that  
5 anybody that we know countywide or whatever is going to use it,  
6 those people participate, they would be more willing to  
7 participate in the funding of it. So I know that, you know,  
8 there's -- we have people that everything is a liability, and  
9 that's why we have our insurances; and if anybody come from any  
10 where and they trip and they fall and they get hurt, here at  
11 city hall, we're going to be liable. So I don't want us to get  
12 so scared and so afraid of being sued. We of all people have  
13 been sued for everything in Riviera Beach. The City of Riviera  
14 Beach will be well familiar with that. So I don't want us to  
15 get so afraid and start to stifle our growth and our acceptance  
16 of people coming in because we don't want to be sued.

17 One thing, you know, I was well grown before I was familiar  
18 with what was going on down at the marina and the port areas.  
19 And it's a shame. You were never encouraged, invited, or felt  
20 welcome across Broadway. My younger sisters and brothers were  
21 welcome at Newcomb Hall. However, I didn't go to Newcomb Hall  
22 until I came back from college. So I don't want that for the  
23 children here in Riviera Beach.

24 I want them to learn how to swim. I want them to know  
25 whether they like the water, whether they like boating. And I

1 think this is something that regardless of their economic  
2 status, that they can have access to; and I think that all of  
3 the parents that are listening should encourage them.

4 And this is one reason, and another speaker pointed this  
5 out, this is why we must vote no on March 8th, because we won't  
6 be able to have nice things like that if we have a repair boat  
7 center, boat yard by Rybovich and Huizenga down there. So I do  
8 take this opportunity to encourage all the listeners to vote no.  
9 Vote no, do not repeal your vote, so that your children can  
10 learn and won't have to go to college and come back before they  
11 know what's going on at the waters of Riviera Beach. Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Anything else from the board?

13 COMMISSIONER LOWE: Yes, ma'am. Thank you for your  
14 presentation, Harry, and for still answering my calls. We've  
15 been talking to each other for I guess four years or more, I  
16 know my entire time up here on the council. And this might be  
17 my very last CRA action on the council, depending on how things  
18 go next week. But in that same vein, just to know that these  
19 kind of conversations are happening -- because this is the seed.  
20 I think I was 16 before I knew what was happening, and I grew up  
21 in Federal Gardens and we could have rode our bikes over there  
22 to the marina but, you know, I just didn't know what was going  
23 on; didn't know about boating, didn't know about the water,  
24 didn't know about the riches that are right here in our own back  
25 yard.

1           You know, they're talking about a marine sanctuary. I want  
2 to, you know, I would want to see all of those beautiful  
3 tropical fish that are right under the bridge; or be able to go  
4 to Peanut Island when I want to, not to ask somebody to give me  
5 a lift or can I ride on your boat; you know, those kind of  
6 things. And then I would want my offspring or generation to see  
7 Riviera Beach for what it is, you know, when you see it on a day  
8 like today, where the sun is kind of going down and you're on  
9 the water and you know, man, this is right within reach for me.  
10 And this is something, you know, that people come from all over  
11 the world to enjoy.

12           And I guess that's why people are angry, they see all of  
13 the riches and all of the things that we have in Palm Beach  
14 County. And, you know, when you're locked in housing  
15 developments and inner cities and stuff, and don't know about  
16 the beauty of your area, that's not living. And that might be  
17 one of the reasons why we have the kids that we have in -- you  
18 know, their minds are just wasting because they don't even know  
19 what's around them.

20           But this is the seed, this the seed that you plant. And 25  
21 years down the line, you know, we may have black boat captains  
22 and black divers and explorers. You know, you got kids sailing  
23 around the world at 13 years old. Just imagine having that kind  
24 of confidence in yourself. That had to be built in a kid, to  
25 navigate, to go around the world in a sailboat. We have kids

1 here that can do that. And you talk about planting a seed,  
2 that's what we want to do.

3 You talk about business, you're talking about people, what  
4 better opportunity, what better nugget to have in your hand than  
5 this? Because kids bring parents, and parents bring business,  
6 and so forth and so on. That's the cycle.

7 But we're having the conversation, and that's a good thing.  
8 We're doing the workshop. We're designing a program. You know,  
9 we talk about a center, don't get too bogged down on the center.  
10 What we mean by wanting something now, is we want the programs  
11 now. Harry can pull up a boat and do a program out of a boat.  
12 It's just as simple as that. But it's the hardest thing to do  
13 when you ask why.

14 Then you ask how does this thing get funded? We've got  
15 billionaizes that's chomping at the bit, trying to get our  
16 marina, and we're worrying about how we fund a program for kids?  
17 Something is wrong with that picture. I just, I cannot put it  
18 together. I just cannot, I cannot put it together.

19 But thank you, thank you, Mr. Brown. And thank you, Harry,  
20 for being my friend. And I'm glad to know you, because the  
21 accomplishments that you've made in your life inspire me. You  
22 know, being a transplant patient myself but, you know, we all  
23 know the struggles. But we all deserve access to this beautiful  
24 paradise that we have within our midst. So thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Mr. Thomas, do you have anything?

1 COMMISSIONER THOMAS: No.

2 CHAIRPERSON FARDO: All right. Ms. Brooks.

3 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: I just want to say it was nice  
4 meeting you, Mr. Horgan, by phone today. Since 1999 I've been  
5 working with people with developmental disabilities, and so it  
6 is truly a population now that does travel, and I think this  
7 would be an ideal market for us to tap onto, bring into our  
8 city. And tourism is an area that I'm interested in, because  
9 I've had experience in it. I do know if we market to specific  
10 populations, we will have them coming in streams to our area.

11 And to my colleague I want to say too, Mr. Lowe, you know,  
12 when you have a vision, it takes patience sometimes. But just  
13 believe it, have faith in it, and when the season is right it  
14 will come to fruition.

15 And to Mr. Ward, you made the comment about delay being  
16 responsible by the four of us. But this matter has never been  
17 brought during my term.

18 Anyway, but we're just glad to know that it is happening.  
19 And again this is something that as a community we can be so  
20 excited about. And this again is bringing us together, and  
21 that's what I like to see happening in our community.

22 VICE CHAIR DAVIS: And I would also like to piggyback on  
23 that and say, Mr. Lowe, thank you for keeping it in your life;  
24 you kept pushing for it, and it's finally going to happen. So  
25 thank you for that. And I think it's going to be a wonderful,

1 wonderful opportunity for this community and others who might  
2 visit our city. Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Okay. Well, thank you for the  
4 presentation.

5 Unfortunately, I'm going to be the killjoy. I just want to  
6 make sure that not one penny -- you know, bad enough we had to  
7 spend \$10,000 on a consultant to help us get to this point, but  
8 I really am not going to support this being on the back of the  
9 taxpayers; especially when we're looking at a five million  
10 dollar deficit, when we have employees on furloughs, when we're  
11 looking to lay off fire and police. So if you guys can figure  
12 out how to get the funding for this, great.

13 And I just want to say I really wish that we had worked  
14 just as hard to bring new businesses in this city as we do for  
15 these recreational activities.

16 All right. With that, we will go on to -- where are we  
17 now? All right. Discussion by the board? Does the board have  
18 anything else to add?

19 COMMISSIONER LOWE: Yeah, I do have something to add. One  
20 thing I want to say, you know what, there's plenty of jobs in  
21 Riviera Beach, they just don't stay in Riviera Beach. And if  
22 you know how many jobs we bleed out of Riviera Beach, it's  
23 astounding. So the business is here. We have Fortune 500  
24 companies here. You're looking at the property values that the  
25 business brings in here. But look at the work of these



1 companies that are in Riviera Beach. It's astounding. And  
2 that's the number you need to really focus on, the work that the  
3 businesses that are doing business in Riviera Beach and the  
4 amount of jobs that are walking out of Riviera Beach every day  
5 at five p.m., getting on I-95 and going somewhere else. It's  
6 all right here. We have it here. It's all right here.

7 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Yeah.

8 COMMISSIONER LOWE: And why this picture of doom and gloom,  
9 and we're the worst place to be in in the world, I just don't  
10 get it.

11 But the sun is going to come up tomorrow. And that's my  
12 message today. That's my final comment.

13 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: All right, that's great, and I hope we  
14 can turn around and tell the people that own all of that vacant,  
15 the hundreds of thousands of square feet of vacant space sitting  
16 around the city.

17 All right. I have one thing for staff. I got a call from  
18 the county today. I guess there was an ICW working group  
19 meeting yesterday, and they were expecting the city to attend.  
20 The city was not there; and they were expecting some pictures of  
21 our waterfront. Is there a reason why we didn't have staff at  
22 that meeting?

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: We are the Riviera Beach CRA. I  
24 have no idea why the city was not present.

25 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: No, the CRA was supposed to be present.

1 Mr. Evans, you don't know about it? Or Toccarra? I  
2 thought Toccarra was going to be there.

3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: We were preparing for this  
4 meeting and so I told Ms. Thomas to miss the meeting and to help  
5 me prepare for tonight's meeting.

6 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: So, you know, at the very least, I'm  
7 sure, I'm hoping someone was at the prior meeting and they heard  
8 the county say, they asked every municipality along the  
9 waterfront to bring in the photographs of the waterfront. So  
10 everyone else was there, Boca, Boynton, West Palm, Jupiter,  
11 Lantana, the CDC was there. So you know, the next time, if CRA  
12 staff can't go, I am more than happy to attend that. That is  
13 something that's very important. And here we are in the CRA,  
14 we're trying to redevelop the waterfront, we're trying to get  
15 this public marketplace going, and the whole bit and, you know,  
16 I just, I don't understand.

17 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BROWN: I take responsibility for that.  
18 But we have a small staff, and I felt it was more important to  
19 have all hands on deck to prepare for this meeting. I did not  
20 know the importance of what was expected of us, but we needed to  
21 prepare for tonight's meeting.

22 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: If you guys can't attend something that  
23 important, again, feel free to contact me, I'm more than happy  
24 to go. Or I'm sure we could send another staff person. We have  
25 a lot of people over in Mary McKinney's office, who's also taken

1 an interest in it.

2 Anything else from the board?

3 Is there a motion to adjourn?

4 VICE CHAIR DAVIS: So moved.

5 CHAIRPERSON PARDO: Thank you.

6 (Proceedings concluded at 8:33 p.m.)

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

## C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
2  
3 THE STATE OF FLORIDA     )  
  )  
4 COUNTY OF PALM BEACH     )

5  
6 I, Claudia Price Wittors, Registered Professional Reporter,  
7 certify that I was authorized to and did report the foregoing  
8 proceedings at the time and place herein stated, and that the  
9 foregoing is a true and correct transcription of my stenotype  
10 notes taken during said proceedings.  
11

12 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st  
13 day of March, 2010.  
14

15  
16 

17  
18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 CLAUDIA PRICE WITTERS  
20 Registered Professional Reporter  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 P.M. The minutes were approved by the Board of Commissioners on \_\_\_\_\_.

---

Dawn S. Pardo, Chairperson

---

Executive Director Tony Brown

/cw  
Florida Court Reporting