

OF BROKEN PROMISES

Out of sight, out of mind – Parcel B

Even if you have seen it you would consider it just a valet parking lot for Heat games since it's behind the American Airlines Arena.

Of late the public awareness has escalated. They want what was promised 19 years ago – a waterfront park. That was part of the package when the Miami Heat received the ok for the Arena.



This summer Community Organizations, Park-advocates and residents in general came together to demand from the County and Miami Heat to fulfill that promise to build a park. And they came up with a name.

Dan Paul Park is now the unofficial name for Parcel B. Dan Paul who passed away in 2010 left a Miami legacy as an activist who worked to protect waterfront parks. As a lawyer his impact was on viewing the city and county's projects in order to protect the residents.



County Commissioners Xavier Suarez (District 7) and Daniella Levine Cava (District 8) and City Commissioner Marc Sarnoff (District 2) have spoken in favor of building Dan Paul Park. Other Commissioners may also be in favor, but BNA is not aware of any others expressing their support.

Earlier this year the county asphalted most of Parcel B to accommodate the Formula E1 race through downtown. The organizers of that event that promised it would return every year decided that it will not because it was not the success that they anticipated.

Currently the Heat uses this County owned land for valet parking. They have had almost twenty years to give this parcel back to the community but instead, rent is paid to the County by the Arena which allows the Arena to make money using it.

This is not what was intended to happen.

Miamians are still waiting for that promised Park.

Andres Althabe
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