

Boynton's MLK renewal project dies in dispute

By Erika Pesantes
STAFF WRITER

The Heart of Boynton's major redevelopment project along its main artery of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard collapsed Tuesday.

Boynton Beach commissioners, in their capacity as Community Redevelopment Agency board members, dropped negotiations with Delray Beach developer Auburn Group on a 3-2 vote. Vice Mayor Jose Rodriguez and Commissioner Ron Weiland opposed the move.

Officials have been dealing with developers to revitalize 26 acres along the Martin Luther King Jr. strip since August 2006. Auburn jumped into the picture after commissioners dropped previous developer Intown Partners.

Auburn most recently proposed a scaled-down \$100 million project with a mix of 357 senior rental apartments, townhouses and condos, a grocery store and a senior center that required a total of \$11 million in subsidies. The original plan had required \$23 million in public money for about 700 residences.

Before Tuesday's vote, the parties had reached a stalemate when Boynton Beach officials would not agree to sign a contract without having the developer pay for a financial review of both the redevelopment agency and Auburn's finances. Auburn did not want to shell out money for the review without first signing an agreement.

"We had no problem doing the financial review,"

said Auburn Vice President Cito Beguiristain, adding that he offered paying up to \$10,000 for a financial review Tuesday. "I just think maybe they had a different vision."

Beguiristain said his company had all properties under contract for the project's first phase of senior rentals, requiring \$1.9 million in redevelopment agency funds.

"Everything they asked for, we did it. It just sounds like they have other things

"It just sounds like they have other things they'd like to do."

Cito Beguiristain
vice president
Auburn Group

they'd like to do," Beguiristain said.

The board directed CRA staff to hold a community meeting with the 77 affected property owners and to "reconstruct the MLK corridor with the funds allotted," redevelopment agency marketing and communications director Margee Walsh said.

She said Commissioner Woodrow Hay, who made the motion to cease negotiations, said the community was mostly interested in getting rid of crime in the impoverished neighborhoods first.

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Sculptor mixes physics, art in his creation for Scripps

By Kit Bradshaw
THE JUPITER COURIER

JUPITER » *Angel of the West* is the culmination of three years of physicist-turned-sculptor Julian Voss-Andrae's life.

The 12-foot-tall stainless steel sculpture weighs 1,500 pounds and is the centerpiece outside Building B of the Scripps Florida complex in Abacoa. It was the focal point at the Feb. 27 opening of Scripps Florida.

Voss-Andrae's piece was inspired by the human body's "antibody" and is reminiscent of da Vinci's famous *Vitruvian Man*.

Three years ago, Voss-Andrae was approached to create the signature sculpture for Scripps Florida based on the human antibody, the central molecule of the immune system.

For Voss-Andrae, the synthesis of physics and art is not extraordinary.

"For me, physics and art are correlated," he said. "It is finding the sublime in nature, and being in awe of nature. It is this miracle. We human beings have

this wonderful functionality, and this is where science and art intersect."

A native of Germany, Voss-Andrae was first a realistic painter, creating portraits of his friends, before attending college to become a physicist. He pursued his graduate research in quantum physics.

"I was always interested in physics. Scientists have a lot of weird questions and all these kinds of questions can only be answered in physics. It was intuitive that I pursue physics. I had the feeling I needed to do that before I got old. And I didn't see painting as fascinating enough at the time to just do that," he said.

In 2000, he moved to the United States, after meeting his wife, Adriana, in Italy, where her father, a physicist, was leading a workshop.

"I fell in love with her, completed my degree and moved to Portland, Ore.," Voss-Andrae said.

Once he arrived in the United States, his love of art was rekindled, and he studied at the Pacific Northwest College of Art.



LeeAnn Gauthier, courtesy

Julian Voss-Andrae created *Angel of the West*, a stainless steel sculpture that was inspired by the human antibody.

"We were given a piece of lumber and told to create a sculpture from it. It is much the same as you do in science. You are given a one-dimensional concept and then research in three dimensions," Voss-Andrae said.

He was led to sculpting because he wanted to work with his hands, he said.

"In the scientific world, you build and experiment, and now I go to my shop and I start building," he said.

Once the concept was approved by Scripps Florida, it took six months to custom-make software, then to have the material cut by a computer-controlled laser.

"Once the pieces were cut, they had to be welded and ground, and then it took another year for the ring and assembly. It is the most complex thing I've done so far," Voss-Andrae said.

He was pleased to be part of the official opening of Scripps Florida.

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Suspect arrested after failed kidnap

By Erika Pesantes
STAFF WRITER

An armed man who allegedly kidnaped his ex-girlfriend and fled after she escaped was apprehended Tuesday night near the Ritz-Carlton in Manalapan.

The approximately two-hour ordeal started at the victim's house on Plantation Boulevard west of Lantana when Jermaine Vanbuskirk forced the woman into her blue Volkswagen Jetta shortly before 7 p.m. when she arrived from work, authorities said.

Vanbuskirk had her at gunpoint, but the victim was able to jump out of the car in the 200 block of Lantana Road and called police. She suffered minor injuries, said Palm Beach County sheriff's

spokeswoman Teri Barbera.

The victim's name was not released because she is considered a victim of domestic abuse, Barbera said.

Vanbuskirk, 22, then ran away and was finally found at about 9:10 p.m. He is thought to be the father of at least one of the victim's children, according to *The Palm Beach Post*.

"We found the weapon and then we found him a few yards later," Barbera said. "He gave up with no fight."

More than 70 law enforcement officers including police from Lantana, Manalapan, Palm Beach, South Palm Beach and Ocean Ridge assisted in the search.

Charges were pending for Vanbuskirk.

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