



Artist's rendering of Grand Island development on Grand Avenue in the West Grove.

going to rent it?" said Parrish. "The answer was no one. Not with people dealing dope on the corner and people throwing bricks at cars."

Parrish weathered the bad times by focusing on developing other areas of West Grove, primarily building 15 affordable housing units.

Even as the building at Grand and Douglas deteriorated even more and the old Gil's Spot sign faded, Parrish says he had no thoughts about giving up his idea for developing the property. He says his withdrawal from the redevelopment South Beach just before it boomed gave him the stamina to hold on.

"I knew then that this corner was going

to be the center point for a new landscape someday," said Parrish. "Miami Beach had the same problems and look what it is now. I think this area is now ready to become something like that."

Several factors have made it possible for Parrish to finally build. He commends the work of community leaders for cleaning up the area and also the role of Miami City Commissioner Johnny Winton for siding with development.

The Grand Avenue Streetscape will soon be underway. Other developers are plotting big ventures. Parrish saw his own groundbreaking as a natural fixture in the momentum.

"The time is ripe," he said.