

Light Up Miami step away from tower management

By LINDA RODRIGUEZ BERNFELD

The Bayfront Park Management Trust's executive committee has once again put off signing a contract with Light Up Miami for management of the Laser Light Tower.

The proposed contract calls for the trust to pay the non-profit agency \$1 a year.

Light Up Miami Executive Director Carlos Batista said the executive committee gave it strong support

Tuesday, but continued the motion until some legal language is worked out.

Once the executive committee OKs the deal, the contract can take effect.

At last week's regular trust meeting, Mr. Batista told trust members there's a difference between operating the tower and managing it.

The company that operates the

tower turns it on and off each night but doesn't deviate from the programs already on hand, he said. As manager, he'd go out and sell use of the tower. The trust would get 50 per cent of any profits.

He told the trust the tower's an important downtown component. "It sits in the center of the city. It's really a link in the community."

The proposed contract stipulates

Light Up Miami will be able to set fees for the tower with the trust's approval.

"Will you be managing Tom Harmon?" asked trust member Rodney Barreto. Mr. Harmon's company, Laser Productions, has the contract to operate the tower.

"In a matter of speaking, yes and no. If he deviates from the programs, it'll be through us," Mr. Batista said.

Laser Productions and Light Up Miami early this year had tried to work out a joint contract with the city but had to sign separate deals because of time constraints.

There are still legal questions to answer before the first new program can be done by the laser tower. They relate to a contract with Dick Sandhouse, who did the 93 laser programs that are run nightly from the tower.