

City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.coralgables.com



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 7, 2024

8:30 AM

Communications/Public Affairs Conference Room

Mayor's Citizens Advisory Council

Board Member Alexander Bucelo
Board Member Rudford Hamon
Board Member Jeffrey Kurzner
Board Member Sergio Leymarie
Board Member Sean McGrover
Board Member Mary Snow
Board Member Dorothy Thomson

TO JOIN VIA ZOOM:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://coralgables.zoom.us/j/81201547235>

Meeting ID: 812 0154 7235

CALL TO ORDER

Present: 6 - Board Member Bucelo, Board Member Hamon, Board Member Leymarie, Board Member McGrover, Board Member Snow and Board Member Kurzner

Excused: 1 - Board Member Thomson

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERS SHARE INPUT FROM RESIDENTS

Chair brings up resident feedback about Sears development complex which borders the city on Douglas Road and SW Coral Way, located in the City of Miami.

SB1102 - Sponsored by Florida Senator Calatayud - She will host an information session. Bill is currently a work in progress. Senator is open to feedback.

UPDATES FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON CURRENT PROJECTS

Member Snow will share results of the Community Needs Survey in January.

Mayor's Office will reach out to City Attorney's Office to determine possibility of putting together a funding mechanism for Mayor's Council.

Member Snow - City has a charitable fund through the Community Foundation with the Economic Development department that is used for tax deductible projects.

Member Kurzner met with Coral Gables Senior High contacts - Anthony Balboa, Principal Coral Gables High School (CGHS), Juan C. Martin Coordinator III, Safety & Emergency Management MDCPS and Alejandro Perez, Financial Services & Business Practices Administrative Director regarding school zones and cross walks. Funding for these items is often a barrier to accomplishing project. Top three issues that came from

Community Needs survey would be Bike Lanes and Walkability.

UPDATES ON CITY INITIATIVES

- Halloween is a big resource night for Police Department and builds on momentum of upcoming special events including Thanksgiving and holiday events, including tree lighting.
- Police will select a group to help assist with presidential inauguration and a contingent of officers recently went to help secure areas devastated by recent storms.
- Lots of intelligence gathering during early voting and election day.
- Police is working toward Junior Orange Bowl parade and tree lighting on December. 6.
- Coral Gables Department is accredited nationally and part of the top 1% of departments.
- Asked about Teslas - There is a limited range on Teslas due to limited mileage for next charge. There are also contractual issues since officers take vehicles home.
- Neighborhood Safety Aides - They work under Neighborhood Team leaders and have ability to talk to residents, city departments and neighborhood team leaders. They are the eyes and ears of the department. When they see things in regards to public works, sanitation violations, they let leaders know or contact departments directly. NSAs are rotated on a regular basis.
- Regarding short term parking, it is not illegal to block the street, if you are actively loading and unloading. Police is writing hundreds of citations downtown.
- There are 12 patrol zones within city boundaries - At all times, there are 12 officers patrolling and working shifts not including supervisors, 5 different agencies that city works with through their borders. 189 streets, 700,000 cars that pass through the city on a daily basis.
- Crime rate - Average 13% downward.
- Code Enforcement is going through a revitalization where Code Enforcement Officers also have body cameras.

Mayor Lago -

- Camillus House has tripled the cost per bed.
- Human trafficking ordinance - City of Coral Gables was the first municipality to prohibit hourly motels.
- Encourages council to find a project and to work with Gables Foundation.

OLD BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ends at 9:35 a.m.

NOTE