

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
 CORAL GABLES POLICE DEPT.
 (4TH FLOOR CONFERENCE RM)
 2801 SALZEDO STREET
 CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33134
 TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2017 @ 5:30 PM

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	APPOINTED BY:
	₁₆	₁₆	₁₆	₁₆	₁₆	₁₆	₁₆	₁₆	₁₇	₁₇	₁₇	₁₇	
Ignacio G. Borbolla	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	+-	P	P	+-	P	Jim Cason
Gordon Sokoloff	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	+-	E	P	+-	P	Patricia Keon
Deborah Swain	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	+-	P	P	+-	P	Vince Lago
Courtney Thompson	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	+-	P		+-	P	Jeannette Slesnick
Albert Corrada	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	+-	P	P	+-	P	Frank C. Quesada
Chris Morrison	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	+-	E	P	+-	E	Commission-as-a-Whole
Al Smith	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	+-	E	P	+-	A	City Manager

P - Present
E - Excused Absence
A - Absent
*** - New Member**
+ - No Meeting
(#) Resigned

STAFF:

Yamilet Senespleda, Public Works City Engineer/Senior Traffic Engineer
 Bob Wheeler, C. G. Police Sergeant
 Tiffany Hood, Administrative Assistant-Support Staff

GUEST:

Kevin Kinney, Parking Director

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUCEMENTS:

Mr. Thompson asked that the Board as a whole bring suggestions of a mission statement to the next meeting. Mrs. Swain stated that the Board has a purpose that we want to accomplish which is listed in the resolution and that would be a starting point.

Mr. Sokoloff made a motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Thompson and Ms. Swain seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

***February 21, 2017 meeting minutes* – Ms. Swain made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Sokoloff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

Yamilet stated to the Board that there will roadway improvements (Sevilla Avenue project) between Red Road and Anastasia Avenue providing an eastbound/northbound lane on North Greenway, additional signage and roadway markings which is scheduled for construction in May 2017. We brought the plans before to a previous meeting for your review.

Kevin Kinney updated the Board that the City Commission did approve the Hometown Trolley Service on holidays. He stated that we will provide trolley service on nine out of the eleven typical municipal holidays and we will look at that possibility of Saturdays being added during the summer. Mr. Kinney stated that historically there would be no trolley service on a holiday; however, on President’s day there were thirty-five hundred 3500 passengers utilizing the trolley. He also stated that there was a decrease of about thirty percent of the normal passengers on normal trolley service, so it was well worth it to provide service on the holiday. He then updated the Board that the Mediterranean Village project went back before the City Commission and the size of the project was decreased and so was the public transit. Mr. Kinney commented that in the original agreement there was an annual payment over the twenty year time period; this time they are providing all of the funds upfront roughly two and three-quarters million dollars which will decide on how to spend it. He stated that primarily it is most difficult for transit to get operating funds, so we are going to try and spend the money over time. He then stated that in the last ten to fifteen years of the contract that they will try to enhance the service by adding another trolley which would reduce the headways. He stated that there are two possible enhancements to the trolley service which are running the service on Saturdays and also extending the hours of the weekly service that we currently provide.

Mr. Kinney stated that the City of Coral Gables Museum garage is the most popular in the city and we will do almost half a million trips to the garage this year. He then stated that at the location of the new Public Safety Building we are building a garage next to it with the plan of bringing some of the people that are parking in the museum garage to this new one to reduce the

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Continued

traffic. He commented that people will be able to enter the garage from Minorca Avenue or Alcazar Avenue. Mrs. Swain stated that the City of Coral Gables owned and operated garages are such a great value for people to utilize, I always use them. Mr. Borbolla remarked that the City of Coral Gables will be contracting with the company "Freebee" to offer free rides to people within the central business district. Mr. Kinney replied that the company has a model and application (app) that works and people are pleased with it; it's not the same as our transit service, this service is more of a customer amenity. He stated that during down times the drivers will also go by the City of Coral Gables parking garages and provide rides to people that have parked their vehicles. He commented that we have a twelve month contract with Freebee which equates to about three hundred thousand dollars, we are subsidizing the service and we will pay one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars and they will recoup the balance on advertising. Mr. Borbolla mentioned that this program has been implemented in Miami Beach without a contract and one of the problems has been issues with insurance. He further stated that if there is an accident that there will be a lot of damage and with us having a contract with them that we as a City of Coral Gables are basically taking on that responsibility. Mr. Kenny responded that we are now requiring them to show us how we will be protected, this hasn't all been resolved yet, but they are saying that they can make it happen. Mrs. Swain inquired as to how many vehicles would be in active use. Mr. Kinney replied that there will be three in operation during the day and as the need requires we will ramp up, also one of those carts will be required to be American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant at all times.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Thompson revisited the Workplace flexibility item and the request for more research. He then stated that Chief Hudak mentioned that a few minutes of change in traffic would help things a great deal. He further stated that if we can make a difference in ten percent of the traffic flow it would be great impact on traffic, could we agree to move this item forward. He commented that we would like to go to the business community and start having meetings with business leaders in the area and business managers to discuss how they can help ease the traffic problem people become more productive there is no loss of productivity there will be a gain by allowing this proposal. Mr. Borbolla stated what incentives the small business owners would receive. Mr. Thompson stated that worker productivity increases and also as a civic duty.

POLICE UPDATE:

Bob Wheeler sat in for Sergeant Aleman. Mrs. Swain commented about the De Soto Fountain Circle and the lack of stop signs on Granada at the traffic circle and inquired about accidents that may take place there. Officer Wheeler stated that we do not have accidents there due to the wide streets and there is also great visibility. Mr. Thompson inquired as to whether any of the traffic circle incidents have increased. Officer Wheeler replied that he believes that the traffic circles have slowed down drivers and feels that the circles should have been made tighter.

ADJOURNED:

6:10 pm