

CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

Economic Development Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

Wednesday | April 3, 2024 | 8:00 a.m.

Location: Zoom and Economic Development Department
2506 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Coral Gables, FL 33134

EDB MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTING ENTITY
	'24	'24	'24	'24	'24	'24	'24	'24	'24	'24	'24	'24	
James Kohnstamm, Vice Chair	P	P	P	A									Mayor Vince Lago
Timothy Heffernan	P	E	E	P									Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Derrek Space	P	P	E	P									Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez
Nguyen Castilla Cabanilla	P	PZ	E	P									Commissioner Melissa Castro
Scott Shuffield	P	P	P	E									Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Barbara Perez	P	P	P	P									City Manager Peter Iglesias / Amos Rojas Jr.
Thad Adams, Chair	P	P	P	P									Chamber of Commerce

A=Absent E=Excused Absence P=Present X=No Meeting PZ=Present by Zoom Z=Zoom -=Former Board Member

Staff and Guests:

Belkys Perez, Director, Economic Development Department

Leticia Perez, International Business Development Coordinator, Economic Development Department

Yenisis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department

Raimundo Rodulfo, Director, Innovation & Technology Department

Chairman Mr. Thad Adams brought the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

1. Review and approval of March 6, 2024, Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes. Ms. Barbara Perez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Ms. Castilla Cabanilla seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. There was no discussion regarding the minutes.

2. Smart Technology Initiatives

Mr. Raimundo Rodulfo provided a presentation to the Board regarding Smart Cities Initiatives and the city's digital transformation journey. He explained the process for building Smart districts throughout the city and the infrastructure needed which includes public wi-fi in the downtown and parks, traffic, air quality, pedestrian and environmental sensors, license plate readers, and others. He also incorporated intelligent infrastructure such as digital kiosks. Mr. Rodulfo explained how the Smart City journey started many years ago with extra funding he identified through cost savings and a concerted effort to hire highly skilled talent which would reduce the need for costly consultants. Most

of the engineering, design, planning, integration, and security components are done by the in-house team.

3. Economic Development Activities

a) Blue Missions Art Exhibit

Mrs. Belkys Perez invited the Board to attend a ribbon cutting for a new public art project in collaboration with Blue Missions, a non-for-profit organization that creates clean water infrastructure in Latin America for underserved communities. Blue Missions partnered with a local artist to create an augmented reality art exhibit which is on display on Giralda Plaza. The ribbon cutting will be held today at 5:00 p.m. It will be on display until May 22, 2024.

b) NACTO Conference

Mrs. Perez informed the Board that the National Association of City Transportation Officials will be hosting their conference in Downtown Miami. Miami-Dade County lobbied to host the conference for several years. The county has reached out wanting the city to participate. The city will be showcasing Miracle Mile and Giralda Plaza on May 8-9th.

c) Emerge America

Mrs. Perez informed the Board that on April 18th and 19th, the city will be participating in Emerge America in partnership with our IT department.

4. Business Tax License Report

Mrs. Belkys Perez updated the Board on the new and soon-to-come businesses in Coral Gables.

5. Open Discussion

Mr. Adams informed the Board that Quest Workspace will hold a ribbon cutting on Thursday, April 4th from 4:30-7:30p.m. This will be creating 100 jobs with high salaries.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Yenisis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department.