

BOARD OF ARCHITECTS **RULES OF PROCEDURE**



THE BOARD

The Board of Architects (the “Board”) is a decision-making and recommending board comprised of at least seven (7) members. All members are appointed by the City Manager and subject to the City of Coral Gables’ (the “City”) City Commission approval. Each member of the Board is a registered architect or landscape architect with at least ten (10) years’ experience and numerous design and construction projects within the City. (*See* Sec. 2-302, City of Coral Gables Zoning Code.)

REVIEW OF PLAN(S) BY PANEL

Any case brought before the Board will be heard by a three (3) member panel (the “Panel”) of the Board. A quorum of the full Board is not necessary to convene a Panel and a Panel of two (2) is permissible if there are insufficient members present to convene a Panel of three (3). Any decision of the Panel must be by both members for a two (2) member panel or majority of a three (3) member Panel. In the case of a tie vote for a two (2) member panel, a third member shall participate to hear the case and break the tie. If a third member is not available, the matter will be continued to the next meeting. The City Architect or two (2) members of the Panel may determine that the Panel should be expanded to include all Board members present, in which case all Board members present will serve as the Panel, with a majority vote of the expanded Panel required for any action. A matter heard by a Panel comprised of all Board members present, similar to a Panel of two (2) or three (3) members, is not quasi-judicial and does not replace the quasi-judicial hearing of the full Board that may be requested by the Applicant or an Aggrieved Party following a Panel’s decision.

The Panel, when reviewing the submitted plan(s), can approve, continue, continue with comments, or reject the plan(s). An approval is a prerequisite for the issuance of a permit. A continuance, which may be accompanied by comments from the Panel, will allow the Applicant to revise the plan(s) based on the comments and suggestions made by the Panel. The revised plan(s) may be presented at a subsequent meeting and the Applicant may request that said plan(s) be reviewed by the same Panel that conducted the initial review. Said request will be accommodated if the same Board members are present and available. If the Panel rejects the Plans, the Applicant may resubmit the Application along with materially different plans, as decided by City Staff, and with prescribed application fee(s).

Although the Board of Architects meeting convened for Panel members is open to the public, it is not a public hearing. The member serving as the Chair of the Panel has the discretion whether to allow public comments. If public comments are made, they should be limited to three minutes per presenter.

QUASI-JUDICIAL REVIEW BY ENTIRE BOARD

The Applicant may request that the full Board review the Panel's decision. Said review, which shall be a quasi-judicial hearing, must be requested no later than noon on the Monday following the Panel's decision. The quasi-judicial hearing is a *de novo* hearing, which means that the matter is heard anew; the same as if it had not been heard before and as if no decision had been previously made. The quasi-judicial hearing is a public hearing. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board members present shall be necessary for any action.

In addition to the Applicant, an Aggrieved Party also may seek a review of the Panel's decision at a quasi-judicial hearing. An Aggrieved Party is defined as any property owner residing or owning a place of business within a one thousand (1,000) foot radius of the subject property or a property owner with a "special injury." An Aggrieved Party must also seek a review by no later than noon on the Monday following the Panel's decision by filing a written request, addressed to the board, with the Board's staff.

A full verbatim transcript of the quasi-judicial proceedings shall be the responsibility of the party requesting the quasi-judicial hearing. Quasi-judicial hearings are public hearings and shall be held in accordance with the City of Coral Gables Zoning Code at Sec. 3-304.

APPEAL TO THE CITY COMMISSION

After the decision of the entire Board, the Applicant or Aggrieved Party may seek an appeal before the City Commission. The party requesting the appeal must file a written Notice of Appeal, with the City Clerk, within ten (10) days of the Board's decision. The appeal shall then be heard by the City Commission at its next meeting, if the Notice of Appeal was provided at least ten (10) days before the meeting. If the next meeting is less than ten (10) days from the filing of the Notice of Appeal, the City Commission will hear the case at the following meeting. Applicable appeal fees shall apply (i.e. court reporting, transcript costs). (*See* Sec. 3-606, City of Coral Gables Zoning Code.)

LOBBYIST REGISTRATION FOR QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARING OR CITY COMMISSION

Any person, who acts as a lobbyist pursuant to the City of Coral Gables Ordinance No. 2006-11, must register with the City Clerk prior to engaging in lobbying activities or presentations before City Staff, Boards, Committees and/or the City Commission. A copy of the ordinance is available in the Office of the City Clerk. Failure to register and provide proof of registration shall prohibit your ability to present to the Board or the City Commission.

Lobbyist is defined as “an individual, corporation, partnership, or other legal entity employed or retained, whether paid or not, by a principal who seeks to encourage the approval, disapproval, adoption, repeal, passage, defeat, or modifications of

- (a) any ordinance, resolution, action or decision of any City Commissioner;
- (b) any action, decision, recommendation of the city manager, any city board or committee, including but not limited to Quasi-Judicial, Advisory Board, Trust, Authority, or Council; or
- (c) any action, decision or recommendation of city personnel during the time period of the entire decision-making process on the action, decision or recommendation which foreseeably will be heard or reviewed by the City Commission, or a city board or committee, including but not limited to Quasi- Judicial, Advisory Board, Trust, Authority, or Council.”

MEMBER OF BOARD OF ARCHITECTS PRESENTING BEFORE THE BOARD

On occasion, a Board member, in the capacity of an architect serving a private client, will present an application before the Board. In that case, Section 2-11.1(m)(2) of the Code of Miami-Dade County and Section 2-232(b) of the Coral Gables Code make specific provisions that allow a Board member to make private representation to an architectural review board on which the Board member serves. Also, Florida Statutes Section 112.3113(7)(b) makes provision for the Board member to practice his or her profession when the Zoning Code requires such Board member to be a licensed architect.

When this occurs, the Board member shall disqualify him/herself from speaking as a Board member and cannot vote on the specific application, but may represent the case before the Panel or Board as the Applicant’s representative. In this case, the Panel or Board is expected to treat the Applicant no differently than it would any other Applicant.