

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of September 16, 2010

Members	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	
Leslie Pantin Jr. Matt Bokor	+	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	+		Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Sam Joseph	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	*	*	P		Commissioner Maria Anderson
Maria Garcia	P	P	E	P	P	E	E	P	P	A	*	*	A	Comm. Ralph Cabrera Jr.
Vivian Moré Chuck Martinez	E	A	+				P	P	E	P	*	*	P	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
David Stiefel	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	P	Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk Jr.

* No meetings

x No quorum

+ Membership discontinued

Staff in attendance:

Maria Rosa Higgins Fallon, Office of Public Affairs
Raimundo Rodulfo, Information Technology Department

The meeting came to order at 9:30 a.m.

Approval of minutes

The minutes from the June meeting were circulated for approval.

Motion: Sam Joseph motioned to approve the June meeting minutes.

Chuck Martinez seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resignation of Matt Bokor

Acting Chair David Stiefel informed members of the resignation of Matt Bokor. He inquired about the status of next appointee. Higgins Fallon replied that Mayor Slesnick appointed C.L. Conroy on Tuesday as his replacement.

Census Update

Higgins Fallon reported that at the last City Commission meeting the City received a Census Appreciation Plaque. Census representatives were thankful to the Communications Committee and to the City for their participation in the 2010 Census. Our City was well represented and members were congratulated for their contribution.

Information Technology Department

Rodulfo provided an update on the project with the City Clerk's Office that allows a public records search on the web. The City Manager approved the concept and is currently online on the webpage. The public records search uses an interactive link to the internal records management system called Trim. One can find resolutions dating back to 1925 through the City's webpage.

Chuck Martinez inquired about property records search for Miami-Dade County. Rodulfo replied that through the EDEN System a property record search in Coral Gables can be done by folio number. This Trim interaction compliments the Legistar program which allows for online search of agendas.

Rodulfo also reported about the streaming video project similar to YouTube being implemented online. It uses the same technology of streaming video which is very efficient. IT is installing this system in our web to stream the City Commission meetings together with Legistar. If you go to the Legistar program on the web, annotations or bookmarks will link you to the portion of the City Commission video. They are currently testing the program and will be online soon.

Upcoming Projects - Events

Higgins Fallon informed members that the opening of the Coral Gables Museum is set for 10.10.10 at 10:10 a.m. Her office is working with the Museum for the promotion of the event, the creation of invitations, press releases, etc. to bring public awareness. She attached a description of the planned activities and invited all members to attend. Higgins Fallon said that this project is the result of a lot of years of planning, design, fundraising and getting the community involved.

Across the street from the Museum is the Coral Gables Art Cinema which will open on October 15th. It is located on the first floor of the Museum Parking Garage. These two locations will bring a lot of cultural activities to downtown Coral Gables.

Higgins Fallon reported that the City's website is in need of a redesign. This Committee has worked in the past to improve its look. City Manager has instructed the Economic Sustainability Department, in conjunction with the IT Department and Public Affairs to work toward bringing the website to the next level and make it more user-friendly. Higgins Fallon reported that the City has contracted with vendor Vision Internet to redesign the webpage, incorporating the technology advances that we currently have. To date, there is nothing to show to Committee members as this project is still in the initial phases of gathering information and design preferences. A homepage to replicate is the City of Beverly Hill's web which has a powerful design and bold use of photographs. This process is expected to last between 6 months to a year. Once developed, Higgins Fallon will present design concepts to Committee members for their input.

Regarding the 2010-2011 budget, Higgins Fallon reported that at the first public hearing, the City Commission approved a rollback millage rate of 6.072. This rate needs to be finally approved on September 24. The Communications Division has not been asked to sacrifice additional monies, keeping its budget funding status quo. As a result of the budget process, employees citywide have been asked to give concessions in the form of pension reductions and salary freezes.

Coral Gables Television

Higgins Fallon showed two What's Happening Coral Gables segments regarding the Coral Gables Preparatory Academy and a tribute to resident Roxcy Bolton.

Martinez inquired the status of the Transportation Surtax issue. Higgins Fallon replied that the City has initiated a conflict resolution process with the county and is joining the cities of Hialeah, Miami, and Miami Beach in protest of the county's proposal to change the surtax revenue sharing formula.

Stiefel said he attended this morning's State of the City Address by Mayor Slesnick. The Mayor considered Coral Gables as one of the most informed cities, thanks to e-News and Coral Gables Television. He wanted this information to be on the record.

With no further issues to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.