

TRAFFIC ADVISORY BOARD
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2010, 5:30 P.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	APPOINTED BY:
	10	10	10	09	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
Emilio Vazquez*	P			P	P	P	E	P	P	-	-		Donald D. Slesnick, II
Larry D. Kries	P			P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	Maria Anderson
Deborah Swain	P			P	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
VACANT				P	P	P	#	#	E	-	-		William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Chris Zoller	P			P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Wayne "Chip" Withers
Donna Kupper	P			P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	Commission-as-a-Whole
Al Smith	P			P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager

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

Staff:

Glenn Kephart, Public Works Director
 Ernesto R. Pino, Assistant Public Works Director
 James Kay, Engineering Division Supervisor
 Jeannette Reyes, Clerical Assistant II
 Sergeant Garcia, Police Department
 Robert Lowman, Fire Department Division Chief

Ms. Swain called meeting to order at 5:35 pm

Ms. Swain welcomed the new member, Mr. Vazquez, to the Board.

Ms. Swain advised Mr. Smith is not present and asked for a motion to excuse him. Ms. Kupper made the motion and Mr. Zoller seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Swain stated that there were minor changes to the July 20, 2010 minutes and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Kries made a motion, Mr. Zoller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Kupper made a motion to approve the August 3, 2010 meeting minutes and was seconded by Mr. Zoller. The motion passed unanimously.

Traffic Advisory Board Meeting

October 19, 2010

Continued

Mr. Kay updated the board on the Ponce de Leon Boulevard project by saying portions of the sidewalks are being completed. He stated that once the sidewalks on the east side of Ponce de Leon are complete, they will move on to the median. The contractor has improved on the issues with traffic as well as pedestrian access.

Mr. Kries asked if the merchants know the schedule. Mr. Kay responded that since the schedule has changed, a revised schedule may need to be sent out. Mr. Kries suggested for the City to communicate with the merchants. Mr. Kephart concurred and asked Mr. Kries if he communicated with any of the merchants, to encourage them to contact Public Works if they had any questions or concerns.

Mr. Pino mentioned the Segovia Median project bids are expected next week.

Mr. Kries asked if this project will be done this winter. Mr. Kephart responded that the objective is to start construction in December 2010.

Mr. Kay reported there is no active roundabout construction at the moment.

Ms. Swain asked about the Santa Maria project. Mr. Kephart said a meeting will be held with the City Manager regarding the follow up process.

Chief Lowman asked if speed tables will be installed, south of Bird Road and Mr. Kay replied yes.

Chief Lowman said that he was under the impression that FDOT was staying away from bumps and tables because people were losing control.

Ms. Swain said that in this particular case there were different options: roundabouts, four way stop signs and speed tables. She said that the speed tables were less cost and more reasonable.

Mr. Zoller commented that Santa Maria is one of South Florida's top tourist attraction streets in, it bears local traffic as well as tour bus traffic and on Halloween night it's the most popular street in Coral Gables and because of this was surprised on the results of the votes. He stated that the minority will continue to push until they get a majority decision.

Chief Lowman asked what other alternatives are there for Santa Maria.

Ms. Swain said that Marlin Engineering made this recommendation. Those residents who voted against the bumps were because they don't want them in front of their house since they are noisy and they care for the signage. If the vote fails again, the minority may have to ask for other alternatives.

Ms. Swain suggested for the Fire Department to be present at the meeting with the City Manager.

Traffic Advisory Board Meeting

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Continued

Mr. Kephart asked if on the original design, they settled on the speed tables instead of the speed humps. Mr. Kay stated they chose speed tables.

Mr. Kephart updated the Board on the Gables by the Sea traffic circles' maintenance issue. He stated the City has looked at the area and agrees they are getting damaged. Staff has evaluated and is changing the design for future circles. The new design should hold up better over time.

Ms. Swain asked for an update on the county striping.

Mr. Kay advised that some striping has been done by the Post Office on Valencia. New driving lanes with raised paved markers were placed.

Mr. Kephart asked if there was a planned schedule for the bike striping lanes. Mr. Kay said he's waiting on the County schedule for Country Club Prado and Sevilla.

Ms. Swain asked about the stop sign over by Ponce Middle School. Mr. Kay responded that the County has not responded yet.

Ms. Swain asked Mr. Zoller if he wanted to comment on the e-mail issue regarding newspaper articles relating to discussions with Commissioner Cabrera during City office meetings. He mentioned the Sunday paper's Neighbors section regarding various letters back and forth in particular, the City Managers' elusive response. Mr. Zoller said the Board was mentioned as supporting the original design. He also stated that the Board was blind-sided by the new the design and that no one asked for the Board's recommendation.

Ms. Swain stated that the Commission and the Mayor were aware of Board's position prior to this.

Mr. Smith walked in at 5:56 and Ms. Swain advised he was excused.

Ms. Kupper has some old business regarding the Iron Man special event's traffic notice. She suggested for the City to send out a notice to all residents on the Coral Gables E-news.

Sergeant Garcia advised that he provided Maria Higgins-Fallon, Public Relations, a complete run down of what is going to happen which would be added to the next E-news.

Ms. Kupper asked about funding and how are we doing,

Mr. Kephart advised that at the next Board meeting an update will be provided. He also said there are still discussions with the City Manager to determine the amounts available for the program.

Mr. Kay mentioned since there's a new member on the board, he will provide Mr. Vazquez with a Financial Disclosure Form and anyone else who needs to update their files. Mr. Zoller was given one as well.

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Continued

Ms. Swain asked about the City maps showing all City roundabouts. Mr. Kay said that Mr. Dan Keys is working on a comprehensive map with details showing the planting.

Ms. Kupper asked what zone Mr. Vazquez represents and he said zone 7.

Mr. Kries asked if the circle on San Amaro and Miller is going forward. Chief Lowman said he's also interested in this. He mentioned that DRC is looking for the City to vacate those streets inside the campus.

Chief Lowman mentioned that the University of Miami is funding that project.

Mr. Kephart mentioned that they will provide a status of this in the next Board. He also stated that if the request moves forward, the streets inside the campus will become University of Miami streets.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm