

CITY OF CORAL GABLES/UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009
Coral Gables Police Department Community Meeting Room
Coral Gables, Florida

MEMBERS:	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	APPOINTED BY:
Robert Berman	+	+	P	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick, II
Tamara Hartnett	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	A	Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Rick Munarriz	+	+	P	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	Comm. Maria Anderson
Elizabeth Kakouris	+	+	P	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	-	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Bruce Steinberger	+	+	P	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Sydney Josepher	+	+	P	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	City Manager David Brown
Dr. Patricia A. Whitely	+	+	P	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	E	Vice President, Student Affairs, UM
Rudy Fernandez	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	Vice President, Community Relations, UM
David Rivero	+	+	P	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	Director of Public Safety, UM
Shawn Kacker*	+	+	P	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	Student Government President, UM
Brandon Gross	+	+	P	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	+	P	Interfraternity Council President, UM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Edward M. Weller, Building and Zoning Department
Ricardo Herran, Building and Zoning Department

A = Absent
E = Excused
P = Present
+= No Meeting
*** = New Member**
- = Resigned Member

GUESTS: Margot S. Winick, Assistant VP, Media and Community Relations, UM; Alicia Corral, UM Campus Planner; Vivian Miller, UM Director of Community Relations; Tony Link, University of Miami.

Recording Secretary:

Nancy C. Morgan, Coral Gables Services, Inc.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Berman at 5:00 p.m. Committee members introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 6, 2008:

Mr. Steinberger made a motion to approve the October 6, 2008 minutes. Mr. Rivero seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON U.M. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION INITIATIVES:

Ms. Winick and Ms. Corral updated the Committee on campus initiatives as follows:

- The Alex Rodriguez Stadium will be completed February 18, with the first baseball game scheduled for February 20.
- The Alumni Center construction will be completed in July 2010.
- Brescia parking lot renovations will begin in April 2009.
- The campus bicycle program is moving forward. Bike racks were installed throughout the campus, walkways and pedestrian paths were improved to accommodate bikers and walker, and biking amenities will be included in all future projects.

- The internal road has been submitted for permitting. Construction documents are currently under review by the City. Construction will occur during one or two summers (2009 and 2010), though it is possible that it will occur only in 2010.
- Plans were submitted for permitting for the Miller Road entrance to the campus, but modified the original plans to include a roundabout at the intersection rather than a traffic signal.
- Regarding the pedestrian signal at San Amaro, University consultants conducted a pedestrian signal study, submitted the results to the City, after which the City sent a letter to the concerned neighbor advising him that a signalized pedestrian crossing was not warranted. The intersection will continue to be monitored by the University.
- The U-Bike Program is very successful. Three hundred bicycles were ordered by the University and sold in the first 10 days. Of 300 additional bikes ordered, 100 are already sold.
- The Zip Car Program (worldwide cars on demand program via car sharing memberships) is also highly successful. Two new cars were added to the fleet, students are taking advantage of the program, and neighbors are welcome to become join at Zipcar.com.
- Announcements: Free Jazz on the Green concerts, open to the public; Romance in a Can film festival; a new Collegetown newsletter was published; the Cosford Cinema will be open to neighbors for free family-friendly films in the Spring; Walk for the Animals event (not a campus event, but one recommended by President Shalala); the Collegetown program secured a special discount for campus neighbors to attend the Miami International Film Festival events.

Mr. Steinberger, after querying basketball arena seating accommodations, expressed concern that supposedly family-friendly basketball games included student body cheers that were not appropriate for non-adult audience members and for national television. Mr. Fernandez said this concern would be relayed to Dr. Pat Whitely. Chief Rivero added that nearly 200 high-definition cameras were installed on campus and have already facilitated numerous arrests. The BankUnited Center installation included five cameras, which record action at all viewer stands. Mr. Gross commented that the Student Government is trying to create a better atmosphere in the student section and is encouraging students to attend.

IV. UPDATE/PRESIDENT OF INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL: SHAWN KACKER

Mr. Kacker reported the following:

- The Council is in the midst of Spring recruitment, which will end February 5th.
- The SAE fraternity house, currently under construction, will open in Fall 2009.
- Pi Kappa Phi, a new fraternity is currently colonizing on campus, recruiting 40 new members in Fall 2008.
- Alpha Epsilon Pi will return to campus in mid-February.
- Greek Week will be held the first week of March. All proceeds will be given to the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation.
- Greek Earth Day will be held April 18th. All fraternities will participate together in community service activities in the City.

V. UPDATE/PRESIDENT OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT: BRANDON GROSS

Mr. Gross reported as follows:

- A new recycling program was launched on campus, with recycling bins next to each trash can.
- During the presidential election campaign, guests on campus included representatives of both parties, large student and community responses and high student voter turnout.

- The Student Government is in process of scheduling Mayor Slesnick to give a City report to the Student Senate.
- A Student Government reception at City Hall will be held this semester.

VI. MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Chief Rivero made a motion to excuse Dr. Whitely's absence at today's meeting. Mr. Steinberger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

A decision regarding Ms. Hartnett's absence will be made at the next meeting.

VII. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR:

City Cooperation: Mr. Fernandez expressed appreciation to the City of Coral Gables for its cooperation during all the pre-election political events held on campus. The University will continue to include and invite members of the community to campus events, and has been approached by candidates for similar events prior to the April City election. Members of the Committee will be notified when event plans are finalized.

Final Meeting for Mr. Gross: Mr. Gross, who graduates this Spring, thanked the Committee for its support and encouragement to the Student Government.

VIII. SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next scheduled meeting shall be Monday, May 4, 2009; subsequently, the Committee shall meet on Monday, October 5, 2009 (unless a meeting is necessary prior to scheduled meetings).

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward M. Weller
Secretary to the Community Relations Committee