

TRAFFIC ADVISORY BOARD
 CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER
 CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA
 MARCH 18, 2008

MEMBERS:	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Ian Martinez	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	E	*	E	P	P
Larry D. Kries	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	*	P	P	P
Douglas Yoder	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	*	P	E	E
Frank Quesada	-	-	-	-	P	P	E	P	*	P	P	E
Christopher Morrison	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	P
Bertram Goldsmith, Jr.	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	*	P	P	P
Ramon Irigoyen	E	P	E	E	A	A	A	A	*	P	P	P

APPOINTED BY:

Donald D. Slesnick, II
Maria Anderson
Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Wayne "Chip" Withers
Commission-as-a-Whole
City Manager

(*) Board recommended not holding a meeting due to holiday vacations

A - Absent
E - Excused
P - Present

STAFF

R. Alberto Delgado, P.E., Public Works Director
 Lt. A. Diaz, Police Department
 Capt. John Curry, Fire Department
 Esther Zabalo, Civil Engineer
 M. Francomacaro, Central

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. The draft minutes of the February 19, 2008 were distributed. Upon a motion made by Mr. Goldsmith, seconded by Mr. Martinez, the minutes were approved with two small typographical corrections pointed out by Mr. Kries. Upon a motion made by Mr. Martinez, seconded by Mr. Goldsmith, Mr. Quesada's absence was approved as an excused absence.

Mr. Morrison asked that a new zone map, showing the reduction of nine (9) zones to seven (7) zones, be sent to Maria Rosa Higgins-Fallon to be made part of the City's website. The zone map that appears on the Traffic Brochure is the old one, but since we still have a lot of brochures, Mr. Morrison suggested we bring them to our public meetings to distribute.

Capt. John Curry: Informed the Board Members that they are under the direction of the new Fire Chief. Capt. Curry met with Chief Reed and the Chief noted that he was not opposed to traffic calming circles but that he is opposed to diverters, since they do not work for the fire apparatuses. The Board Members duly noted the report.

Referring to previous meetings, Mr. Morrison noted that the Board should hold its annual meeting in July, because new appointments to the Board usually take place in May, and sometimes later in June. Since the Board's work usually starts in August, preparing our recommendations for the budget year beginning October 1, he noted that he would recommend to the Board in future we have

an annual meeting in July. He asked that the recommendation be reflected in the minutes. Mr. Morrison further commented that since we have not had an annual meeting in a while he had thought to schedule one today, but since Dr. Yoder had sent an e-mail saying that he would try to attend tonight's meeting, but that may be late, Mr. Morrison recommended we wait until later, in case Dr. Yoder was able to attend, since he is the Vice-Chairman.

"To finish the thought, Mr. Morrison continued, I was going to recommend that whatever we do tonight, would stand until July and then we will have our regular annual meeting at that time ". All Board Members agreed.

Public Works Director Report

The Parking Director, Kevin Kenny, could not make the meeting tonight, but he would like to address the situation in Lisbon and he is already taking some actions. He would like to report the plans he has for that area at the Board's next meeting, April 15. Mr. Kenny wants to share those plans/actions with both, the Parking Advisory Board, since there are some parking-related issues as far as signs, etc., and the Traffic Advisory Board and that he may need some guidance from both boards. Mr. Morrison will contact Mr. Font who had requested our help in relieving the parking problem and informed him that Mr. Kenny's presentation has been delayed.

Dr. Elbadrawi was supposed to discuss the proposed plan for Galiano at this meeting as well, but he had to go out of town due to a family issue. He will be here for the April meeting. Since Mr. Quesada had an interest in this item we informed him that Dr. Elbadrawi was not going to attend the meeting tonight.

As to the subject of the diverters that Capt. Curry talked about earlier, Mr. Delgado noted that last week he met with David Plummer & Associates, Inc., the traffic consultant and Marc Stoltenberg, Deputy Fire Chief, on the issue of the little splitters (diverters.) He made it clear that the Fire Chief is opposed to the installation of such diverters because they affect the circulation not only of the fire trucks, but of the rescue vehicles (ambulances) which carry special equipment (and often times patients). At the insistence of one resident, those diverters were installed at only one intersection on Salzedo, but they have not proven to be good for vehicular traffic, because cars drive over them. Although some residents feel they are effective because they make the cars go around the circles. Public Works has instructed the contractor to leave future planned diverters out for now. If necessary, the diverters can be installed later.

Mr. Morrison noted that the diverters at the circles on Maynada and Hardee are quite effective, but Mr. Delgado commented that they were a different thing because they are roundabouts. The Fire Department's only objection is to the diverters on the small traffic circles.

Mr. Kries asked that if they were like the ones in Hernando that were installed and “uninstalled”. He also noted that they slow the traffic down. Mr. Delgado agreed that they do slow traffic down and noted that those are the ones that the consultant is completely in favor of.

Mr. Morrison asked if the Fire Department would like us to remove the ones at the one intersection on Salzedo.

Mr. Delgado: “No, not that one, because Salzedo is not a major thoroughfare for the Fire Department to use when responding to a call, but Hernando is.”

Mr. Morrison: “So basically, the message going forward is: Don’t do it?” Mr. Delgado confirmed that Public Works is not going to install them. There are no others to remove.

To a Board Member’s suggestions of painting as if they were there, Mr. Delgado informed them that the contractor will be installing RPM’s. The last thing they discussed was the possibility of making them (diverters) smaller so that the rescue vehicles could be able to go in between and could make the turns. Public Works will be looking into that.

Mr. Kries noted that they also deter people from not going around, when making turns.

Mr. Morrison asked about the buttons that people have been installing in their yards for years, so people could not drive on the swale, if two or three of those could not work there. Mr. Delgado reiterated that if the diverters are made smaller, the trucks will be able to make the turns. Public Works is still addressing this issue, but in the meantime it has instructed the contractor to pave the area, without installing the diverters. He further noted that it is easier to come back and install the diverters, if necessary, because otherwise since asphalt would have to be removed, it would look like a patch.

Hardee Bridge:

Mr. Delgado continued with his presentation – The County does not want to remove the flashing lights because they claim the bridge is substandard in width and the flashing lights alert the drivers.

Mr. Morrison: “So Maynada Bridge and Granada Bridge are standard?”

Mr. Delgado informed him that yes, they are standard. At the Hardee Bridge the width of the lanes are substandard. Mr. Delgado will verify this information. The flashing light is not to slow down the traffic but to forewarn the drivers that it is a substandard bridge. Mr. Delgado read the letter Public Works had received from the County. Discussion ensued.

Crosswalk signs: Mr. Morrison questioned whether the crosswalk signs had been removed and Ms. Zabalo noted that we had received notice that they had been removed. Mr. Morrison confirmed that he believed not all of them had been removed. Public Works to check with the County.

Burger King then/Bacardi now:

The Board had requested information on the minutes/notes taken at the community meetings held with the area residents and the developer. This information was requested from attorney Jose Gonzalez.

He in turn referred Public Works to attorney Kolleen Cobb, who is handling the legal issues for this developer. Those meetings were informal and there may not be any notes, but if there are, they will be made available to the Board. Minutes of the meetings attended by Tim Plummer, David Plummer & Associates, Inc., traffic consultant for the developer, were sent to Mr. Paul, per his request.

Mr. Kries inquired as to whether there had been any communications with the community group or with the consultant since our last meeting. Mr. Delgado noted that we had received copies of e-mails exchanged between Rhonda Anderson (copy to Wendy Cook) and Mr. Paul, about a meeting, but Public Works had not been included. At some point, Mr. Kries reminded Mr. Delgado that the Board had requested to host a community meeting with this group.

Mr. Morrison requested that Mr. Kries be made aware of all correspondence regarding this project since he is the Zone Rep.

PROJECTS UPDATE:

Mr. Delgado informed the Board that with regard to two projects: Cortez and Mendoza and Segovia and Mendoza, the residents are in favor; the survey has been completed, and we are moving forward with these projects.

Riviera Drive and Banos Court, only 27% of the residents are in favor.

Valencia Avenue and Cordova Street, only 48% of the residents in favor. We will proceed with a second mailing.

South Alhambra and Veronese was turned down by the residents. Mr. Morrison commented that he had been contacted by a few of the folks, including Mr. Brad Hornbacher whose house faces the infamous triangle on the south side. Mr. Hornbacher actually got a number of affected residents to reverse their votes, so it is no longer 50% in favor. Mr. Delgado noted that this was a very important project as far as the design and the cost of the project (this was a very expensive project). Mr. Delgado recommended the Board Members look at other projects down the list that were not prioritized to replace the S. Alhambra and Veronese and his recommendation is to accommodate Solano Prato, which had been left off the list projects for the current year.

Looking at the list, we have both Solano Prado and Gallardo Street. When we met with the residents on Solano Prado they decided on one, the one by the intersection near the home addresses 210, 235, and 330. That is the area where people speed and we can install two islands. Letters have already been sent to those residents with the intention of doing it next year. This project could replace the South Alhambra and Veronese.

Mr. Martinez inquired as to when funding was reallocated to other projects if it would be more equitable to keep the funding in the zone it was originally allocated to.

Mr. Morrison noted that when Mr. Jullie of the Riviera Homeowners Association finds out that Veronese is not going through, he would want to see the planned circle at Nervia installed.

Mr. Delgado informed the Board that the circle at South Alhambra and Nervia Street, was turned down by Al Acosta, a resident whose home faces the intersection. That project is off the list. Mr. Morrison noted that Mr. Jullie was going to try and talk to Mr. Acosta, but Mr. Acosta is adamant and totally opposed to the circle. That project is still on hold.

Mr. Delgado explained that the developer handling the TAHA project is going to do the Santona Street and Domenico Avenue traffic calming. This project is already approved and confirmed that the developer will construct it and therefore is off the list.

San Vicente Street and Marmore Avenue, we still do not have the conceptual design for this project.

At Solano Prado we have not done anything in that subdivision that is why Mr. Delgado recommended it, but it is entirely up to the Board.

Mr. Morrison noted that Zone 7, (known as Zone 9 before) has received very little traffic calming dollars over the course of the years.

Mr. Martinez asked what was happening with the project at Fonseca, Marabella, Alcantara, Montilla, Veragua, and Oviedo Avenues.

Mr. Delgado explained that those projects are on hold because the County said that if the bump outs were installed the “necks” would be too narrow. The lanes at those intersections are substandard; therefore, we probably will not be able to install the bump outs. Nevertheless, he noted, we are still working with the County to see what can be done. If the County were to agree to the 10’ lane width, it could be done, but they will not agree to that. The lanes right now are 8-1/2”. Mr. Martinez inquired as to whether the funding that had been allocated for the bump outs could be allocated to crosswalks. Mr. Delgado confirmed that if the County turns it down, we can go to the crosswalks. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Martinez: Made the following motion: **If the County rejects the plans for the installation of the bump outs on Fonseca, Marabella, Alcantara, Montilla, Veragua and Oviedo Avenues, than the moneys shall be utilized for the installation of crosswalks on those same streets with any funds remaining to be distributed to the oldest projects among the other districts.** Seconded by Mr. Goldsmith, motion passed.

To Mr. Goldsmith's question if we were not setting aside Solano Prado, Mr. Delgado noted that Solano Prado has to do with the funding for Veronese.

Mr. Delgado asked the Board Members what was their decision as to whether the funding allocated to the Veronese project, which was turned down by the residents, could be used for the Solano Prado project.

Mr. Morrison questioned Mr. Delgado as to whether there would be funds available for other projects the Riviera Neighborhood Association had requested.

Mr. Delgado noted that the Santona/Domenico Avenue is being paid by the developer. The South Alhambra Circle and Nervia, is on hold because there is still a dispute among the neighbors. There are some re-alignments recommend by Dr. Elbadrawi at San Remo Avenue, Santona Street that can be taken care of. Right now there are projects in process for South Alhambra and Pallazzo and South Alhambra and Trionfo.

Mr. Morrison thought we were not going to do the propose street "narrowing" until we could see the effect on traffic once the circles are in place.

Mr. Delgado: "To answer your question, yes, the South Alhambra Circle and Pallazzo, South Alhambra Circle and Trionfo, and also paid by the developer Santona Street and Domenico Avenue. So we will have three circles.

The Board Members had no objection to the money being allocated to 210, 235, and 330 Solano Prado.

Mr. Goldsmith: Made the following motion: **That the funding for South Alhambra Circle and Veronese to be allocated to 210, 235, and 330 Solano Prado,** seconded by Mr. Martinez.

Mr. Martinez asked: "Is that the money that was to be used for the circle on South Alhambra Circle and Nervia Street? Mr. Goldsmith answered that if that money does not get used for that purpose, yes it is. Mr. Delgado noted that this project was not prioritized so he recommended not making a decision right now. Because of the conflict this project was moved to next year.

Mr. Delgado noted that Santona Street and Domenico Avenue were now going to be incorporated and that had not been prioritized either.

Mr. Morrison: "We have a motion on the floor. Any further discussion? All in Favor?" The motion carried.

Mr. Goldsmith commented that Bella Vista is underway. They are now striping. Mr. Delgado explained that the surveyors are marking the area.

Mr. Morrison: "Let me ask a question about the crosswalk on Le Jeune Road and Ingraham. When is that going to be started? Has it been surveyed?" Mr. Delgado noted that it will be done this year, after the surveyors complete their work. Mr. Morrison wanted to know if it was still scheduled for June and Mr. Delgado confirmed yes it was.

Mr. Delgado informed the Board Members that Public Works is trying to do all the Bella Vista circles in the next couple of weeks. Then South Alhambra and Pallazzo, and South Alhambra and Trionfo, and then we will go to Cortez and Mendoza and Segovia and Mendoza. That is the order, as far as construction.

Mr. Martinez wanted to know how soon the crosswalks on the north side would be constructed. He was informed that the City needs to remove some parking. We will try first try to get the response from the County, and if we can, Mr. Delgado would rather install the bump outs since they are more effective. If we cannot, we need to send ballots to the residents for them to approve the crosswalks. Mr. Morrison asked that a drawing of the crosswalks be included with the ballot letter. Mr. Delgado noted that the process would take from three to four months.

Mr. Morrison: "The foregone conclusion is that we are talking about next budget year, then?"

Mr. Delgado noted that no it would be done this budget year, by the end of the summer.

Mr. Morrison inquired about the Bacardi Project Community meeting. When did Mr. Delgado envision the meeting will take place. Mr. Delgado noted that he would let the Board know as soon as he knew something. Mr. Morrison: "Maybe May?" Mr. Delgado: "Yes, maybe May."

Mr. Morrison asked that copies of the e-mails exchanged between Rhonda Anderson, Wendy Cook and Mr. Paul on the upcoming community meeting be sent to the Board Members' homes and not be held for the next meeting.

Mr. Kries: "Alberto, about the Bacardi Project, what is the estimated timing on the Segovia Median construction?"

Mr. Delgado: "They will not get a CO unless they construct the median. That building is moving along. The problem is that we have not received yet the official confirmation from the County that the Impact Fees moneys can be used for that project. That is what they are trying to do. The developer claims that the county has approved that, but we have not seen that in writing. And until that happens, and it is probably better for us that the County does not approve because they would have to pay. And, we would not have to go through the JPA process and all the County red tape

which usually takes about six months. We can easily do the project ourselves. The next step is that once the County approves that we can use the Impact Fees moneys, we have to execute a JPA.

Mr. Kries questioned why would the County ever approve this if they did not know if they are going to pay for it? Mr. Delgado noted that the attorneys for the developer keep saying what the County will do, but we need to see that in writing. Mr. Delgado further explained that if the County notifies us in writing that it has been approved, we will need to proceed with the JPA. After that we have to go through the process that we are going through right now with the Segovia and Coral Way Circle, go thru the DBD (Department of Business Development) as far as bidding the project to a new division that they have for minority qualified contractors. The whole process could take a year because of this.

Mr. Delgado explained that we would rather the County denied it and we then could proceed with construction with the contractor we have on board and use the Impact Fees money. So, let us see what happens, but they know they do not get a CO until that project is at least under construction.

Mr. Goldsmith asked if we had any more information on the closing at Hammocks Lakes and Mr. Delgado informed the Board Members that the homeowners association is coming before the City Commission with a presentation. Mr. Morrison asked why the commission held a community meeting without the benefit of having our minutes, although they have the minutes now. In his opinion, they should have waited until they could have reviewed our approved minutes. Mr. Delgado noted that the resident that was opposed spoke to some of the Commissioners and the City Manager and made a comment that he was denied to speak before this Board.

Mr. Delgado recounted the incident, that when Mr. Stieglitz opened the door to our meeting room and asked if that was the public meeting, he was told that he was early and that the public meeting was going to be conducted at the Theater, at 6:00 p.m. He was never told to leave or denied to speak.

Mr. Morrison commented that initially, at the public meeting, he asked for the people from outside the neighborhood that might be affected to speak to the issue. He then threw it open and Mr. Stieglitz had an opportunity to speak. Mr. Delgado noted that we reviewed the tape of the Board's business meeting and he was never told to get out. (Chuckle from the Members.)

Mr. Kries asked Mr. Delgado that, although the project is not on the list, he was told that one of the developers was going to pay for the intersection of Valencia/Cardenas and Biltmore Way. The one where you have the stop sign in the middle. Mr. Delgado informed him that this developer is "on hold" as of now. That was the developer that did the big building on the corner, but he thinks there is another developer that is coming, but he will check on that. If not, Public Works will take care of it because it is an eyesore.

Old Business

ANNUAL MEETING: Mr. Morrison noted that since Dr. Yoder was not present, they would start the annual meeting. The question before the Members was the selection of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Mr. Morrison: "I recommended to you earlier that we actually have another vote in July for the whole year 2008-2009 for that one and I would entertain a motion as to what we want to do for the next three months." Mr. Goldsmith said to keep the way the Board is.

Mr. Goldsmith made the motion: **That the Traffic Advisory Board continues to be chaired by Chris Morrison with Dr. Yoder as Vice-Chairman, until the annual meeting in July**, seconded by Mr. Martinez. Discussion. None. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Martinez: "I have a quick question, Alberto. On Anastasia, when you turn, pass the Biltmore and you are heading to the Church of the Little Flower, the speed signs during school the first two ones slow down, but there are no times. They say 15 MPH." Mr. Delgado will check with the County. Discussion ensued.

New Business

No new business to discuss.

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.