

City of Coral Gables
Meeting Minutes
Parking Advisory Board

405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.coralgables.com

Chairperson Javier Betancourt

Vice Chair Gordon Sokoloff

Board Member Ada Holian

Board Member Vicky Rua

Board Member Carlos Xiques

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

5:30 PM

The Board meets the fourth Wednesday
of the month.

Public Participation Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

The PAB began at 05:34 P.M.

ROLL CALL

SUPPORT STAFF

Kevin Kinney

John Kowalchik

Merlyn Marengo

Present: 4 - Vice Chairperson Sokoloff, Board Member Holian, Board Member Xiques and
Chairperson Betancourt

Excused: 1 - Board Member Rua

GUESTS

Hector Manon, Morning Dispatch Supervisor, on behalf of Frasmio
Cardona, MV Transportation General Manager
Nercy Fleites - Ambassador of the Month

1 PUBLIC COMMENTS

- No Public Comments

2 APPROVAL OF JULY 28, 2021 MINUTES

- Chair Betancourt requested revisions be made to the minutes as follows:
 - P.1 Item#1 Susan Kawalerski comment:
 - ... draft resolution to change its name to Parking and Public Transportation Advisory Board. Correction: ... draft resolution to change its name to Parking and Transit Services Advisory Board.
 - P.3 Item#1 Vice Chair Sokoloff comment:
 - First comment: ...proposed the PAB vote to ban the construction of all

underground parking garages. Correction: ...proposed the PAB vote on an emergency basis to ban the construction of all underground parking garages.

➤ Last comment: Chair Betancourt noted that this item was not on the agenda and should be placed on the next PAB agenda for consideration. Correction: Chair Betancourt noted that this item was not on the agenda and should be placed on the next PAB agenda for consideration but could be taken up under Open Discussion as an emergency item as desired.

▪ P.7 Item#12 Vice Chair Sokoloff emergency motion:

➤ Insertion before last comment on this item: Chair Betancourt suggested that other Boards were in a better position to consider these concerns.

• On a Motion by Member Holian, Seconded by Vice Chair Sokoloff the PAB approved the July 28, 2021, meeting minutes with corrections.

3 PROPOSED PAB MEETING LIMITS 5:30PM TO 7:30PM

- Chair Betancourt proposed to end PAB meetings at 7:30 pm and that extending meetings would require a vote from the PAB.
- Vice Chair Sokoloff asked if the PAB meetings are being recorded on Zoom and if the recordings become part of the public record. Parking Director Kinney answered yes and mentioned the videos are posted online via the City Clerk's office.
- Chair Betancourt passed the gavel to Vice Chair Sokoloff in order to move this item (Zoom video time 07:24). On a Motion by Chair Betancourt, Seconded by Vice Chair Sokoloff the PAB unanimously voted to end their meetings at 7:30 pm unless the Board votes to continue the meeting.

4 CORAL GABLES CIVILITY CODE

- Chair Betancourt asked PAB members to review the Civility Code with a focus on Page 3 and 4. He reminded PAB members and members of the Public that they are subject to the Civility Code and asked that everyone conducts themselves accordingly during monthly meetings.

5 QUARTERLY REVIEW – TROLLEY SERVICES

- Parking Director Kinney updated the PAB on the effort to hold a joint meeting with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) to discuss shared responsibility of the Trolley and Freebee Services. The meeting will tentatively occur in October.
- Asst. Dir. John Kowalchik updated the PAB on the Trolley's improved ridership, Saturday service, extended service hours, and Freebee Pilot Project. (Presentation attached)
- The Grand Avenue Trolley route has not recovered to pre-pandemic numbers, so it has been temporarily changed to a hybrid route which runs from Douglas Station, up Grand Avenue to Ponce Circle then back to

Douglas Station adding approximately eight minutes to the route.

- Chair Betancourt asked if Staff communicated the changes to the community impacted. Asst. Dir. Kowalchik said the new route is on the City's website, app, and communicated to riders by Trolley staff.
- Freebee ridership is up to approximately 59,000 riders per month with the use of five service vehicles.
- Trolley Saturday service is tentatively starting on October 2, 2021. (First Saturday of FY2022)
- The current plan is to begin extended hours (evenings) in the second quarter of new fiscal year. (After January 1, 2022)
- Pilot Project funds for the Freebee point to point service will come to an end in December 2021.
- Parking is reviewing possible changes to Freebee once the grant funding is expended with Coral Gables Chamber and BID
- Current monthly Trolley ridership has improved to 60,000 riders in July.
- Chair Betancourt asked if pandemic restrictions were limiting capacity on Trolley. Asst. Parking Director Kowalchik responded that FTA requirements continue to be followed such as mask requirement, disinfecting, washing, and detailing of fleet vehicles We have increased vehicles in service to limit the impact to ridership.

6 STAFF AMBASSADOR OF THE MONTH

- Hector Manon, Morning Dispatch Supervisor, on behalf of Frasco Cardona, MV Transportation General Manager introduced Trolley Driver Nercy Fleites in Coral Gables for seventeen (17) years since September 2004 who has won the Katherine McClaren award twice for her excellency in her work. Nercy Fleites thanked the Board and City of Coral Gables for the opportunity of working here and expressed how much she enjoys her job.

7 REVIEW OF PROCESS FOR ALLOWING PERMITS IN ON-STREET METER ZONES

- Parking Director provided the PAB with relevant ordinances related to on-street permits in preparation of a brainstorming work session related to code provisions.
- Vice Chair Sokoloff asked if the workshop's purpose is for the Board to brainstorm and bring back ideas to the Board meetings for actions. He thought it is important for the PAB to be fair, inclusive, and transparent.
- Chair Betancourt responded that it will be a standalone workshop, so it doesn't distract from the other items on the agenda.
- Chair Betancourt asked if the PAB conducts this workshop in September, how will it be publicly noticed. Parking Director Kinney responded that notice would be like our standard PAB meetings.

8 REQUEST THAT STAFF REVIEW THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING FREE PARKING TO ANYONE THAT SITS ON A CITY BOARD OR COMMITTEE

- Any possible benefit for committee or board appointees will require discussion and commission action.
- Vice Chair Sokoloff mentioned this to Mayor Lago and said this should be an “either or” not an add on to the current benefits appointees receive.
- On a Motion by Vice Chair Sokoloff, Seconded by Member Xiques the Board asked Staff to further research the possibility of a permit for on-street meter zones for members of City boards and committees.

9 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE GABLES VILLAGE TOWNHOUSES ON 37TH AVENUE

- The Parking Director mentioned that at the commission meeting from 8/24/21 there was an approved motion by the Commission for the city to try and acquire this property to make an entrance to the City of Coral Gables.
- Vice Chair Sokoloff spoke on Item 9 and 10 combined. The Gables Village Townhouse and the Campina Court property South of Flagler are in a quaint area considered a historic district. The proposed development is incompatible with the rest of the area which is all single-family homes. Mayor Lago approached the property owner to propose to buy the property and build a park etc.
- Chair Betancourt mentioned that when he worked as former Economic Development Director the City had a plan to identify potential properties that could be purchased to create public entrances and that this was part of the Strategic Master Plan.

10 CAMPINA COURT HISTORIC DISTRICT

- Discussed during Item 9.

11 POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC PARKING AT CORAL GABLES COURTHOUSE

- Director Kinney mentioned he began conversations with other City staff including Zeida Sardinias, Asset Manager about parking in the Craft Section.
- Vice Chair Sokoloff said “I spoke with Alex Munoz, Director of Miami Dade County Internal Services Department. There are no known offers on the property. The City Coral Gables if so inclined, could engage with the county to discuss the possibility of purchasing the property and building parking upon it. Then I spoke to Anthony Escarra, Deputy Chief of Staff for Commissioner Regalado. He was well versed with our situation and concern about the courthouse and their property because of its adjacent to the Alan Morris project. He's been speaking with Mayor Lago who in turn has been in touch with the Ponce Homeowner's Association. However, Miami Metro Dade has no immediate inclination to sell the property or do

anything with it at all.”

- Vice Chair Sokoloff mentioned he belongs to the Ponce Homeowners Association - right across the street from the Court House and that the association favors the idea of the space be converted to a four-story parking structure with the courthouse on the bottom and asked if the Board could bring this item up to Commission.
- Chair Betancourt asked Staff to explore this option and have conversations with the appropriate personnel to further pursue this before it is taken up to Commission.
- On a unanimous vote, the PAB authorized Vice Chair Sokoloff to speak to the City Commission asking that staff be directed to further explore the possibility of developing parking in the craft section which may include partnering with Miami Dade County to build parking at the Courthouse on Ponce de Leon.

12 OPEN DISCUSSION

- Parking Director Kinney updated the PAB with future events in September and October including:
 - Brainstorm Workshop to review process for allowing Permits in On-Street Meter Zones (to be scheduled in September)
 - Biennial Board and Committees Ethics Training (9/17/2021)
 - Joint meeting with Transportation Advisory Board (to be scheduled in October)
 - Meeting with 600 and 700 Biltmore Way Residents (to be scheduled in November)
 - Construction of Minorca Garage--the contract was approved at 8/24/2021 Commission meeting.
 - Interlocal Agreement with Miami Dade County Clerk of Courts to switch handhelds from 3G to 5G was approved at the 8/24/2021 Commission meeting.
 - New InterGov Software - Residents can register to receive notices on public items within their geographical location.
- Vice Chair Sokoloff wanted to clarify which events will be conducted in September and asked about Commission Agenda Item G10 - Ponce Signage. Director Kinney presented concepts to the Commission for combined Paybyphone and Residential Permit signage.

ADJOURNMENT

The PAB adjourned at 06:41 P.M.

NOTE