

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 21, 2025

8:30 AM

City Hall, Commission Chambers

Mayor's Citizens Advisory Council

*Chairperson Sergio Leymarie
Vice Chairperson Mary Snow
Board Member Alexander Bucelo
Board Member Rudford Hamon
Board Member Jeffrey Kurzner
Board Member Sean McGrover
Board Member Arnold Weil*

TO JOIN THE VIA MEETING VIA ZOOM:**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting started at 8:34 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Board Member Bucelo, Chairperson Leymarie, Vice Chairperson Snow, Board Member Kurtzner, Board Member Hamon and Board Member McGrover

Absent: 1 - Board Member Weil

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**MEMBERS SHARE INPUT FROM RESIDENTS**

Staff updates on the following topics based on Council inquiries at the July 31 meeting:

The Underline - Staff response: Coral Gables portion of Underline is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

Ponce de Leon Median - Staff response : Construction will begin Sept. 2025 and will last approximately one year.

North Ponce Historic District - Staff response: Vice Mayor Anderson will provide an update at the August 26, 2025 Commission meeting on this topic.

UPDATES FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON CURRENT PROJECTS**Border Signage - Board Member Mary Snow (in collaboration with Belkys Perez)**

Two entrance signs have been approved for US1, on the east and west sides. The Public Works department will design and Board Member Snow will share the design once available. Landscape Advisory Board and FDOT will also need approval. Other locations, such as LeJeune and SW 8th Street (from MIA) and SW 8th Street and Ponce to be considered as well.

Walkability around Coral Gables High School - Board Member Jeff Kurtzner

Board Member Kurtzner showed a drone video through the 2-mile radius around Coral Gables High School lacking sidewalks. Primary corridors include Blue Road, Riviera Avenue and Bird Road. There are safety concerns for the nearly 3,000 students, especially for walkers and cyclists.

Currently there is an on-site officer for morning drop off, not afternoon pickup. Recent survey results show 23% of the student population takes the bus, 75% other (bike, walk, car drop off) to arrive at school. Improvements are proposed for Riviera between Blue and Bird Road.

North Gables Beautification Swale Guidelines

North Ponce Beautification - Board Member Sergio Leymarie

Deena Bell-Llewellyn, Assistant Director of Public Works, Landscape and Greenspace Division, provided an update on the changes to the swale package. Current swale guidelines have been in place for 10 years and were meant for single-family homes. A new drawing will be added to the swale package that depicts the typical street right-of-way found in North Gables. HOA's and homeowners interested in beautifying their swale can submit a Public Works permit online. Public Works conducts a site visit and provides guidance to homeowners on low-growing plants that would work well in the proposed swales.

The updated program features a sketch guideline and is meant as a tool for homeowners' associations in North Gables to beautify and make their swales more inviting. The permit holder is responsible for the upkeep of the swale area.

Member Kurzner motions and Chair Leymarie seconds to support the program as a Council and to bring to Mayor and Commission for approval.

Updates on Satellite Launch initiative

Satellite Launch Update - Board Member Rudford Hamon

Board Member Hamon presented an updated presentation on the satellite launch:

- Pilot program \$250K (allows team to gain insight and key learnings)
- Full program

Next steps include finding funding sources, including possible public/private partnerships.

UPDATES ON CITY INITIATIVES

Ponce Median Project from Menores Avenue to SW 8th Street - scope of work includes a new and larger water main, installation of street medians with landscaping, lighting and irrigation. Construction is

expected to begin in September and last 1 year.

Freebee - There are currently no plans to expand the service area to Merrick Park. Staff continues to monitor the ridership and wait times from the recent expansion to North Gables - SW 10th Street and to Venetian Pool that was requested last November.

Beautification for North Gables - A new street section was prepared and added to the Swale Package by the Landscape division. Outdated parking meters are being removed and replaced with pay stations city wide at about 200 meters. It will take 1-2 years to complete.

Updated Mayor's Strategic Plan - Draft

Staff presented a draft of the Mayor's 2025-2027 Strategic Plan for review and input by the Mayor's Citizens Advisory Council.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am

NOTE