

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
Minutes of November 20, 2008**

<b>Members</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	
Leslie Pantin Jr.	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	×	E	P	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Richard Chimelis	A	E	P	P	E	P	P	A	*	*	×	A	+	Commissioner Maria Anderson
Katherine deBlij	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	*	*	×	P	P	Comm. Ralph Cabrera Jr.
Vivian More	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	*	*	×	P	E	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
David Stiefel	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	×	P	P	Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk Jr.

\* No meetings

x No quorum

+ Membership discontinued

**Staff in attendance:**

Belkys Perez, Public Affairs

Michael Rocha, Coral Gables Television

Margarita Cardenas, Information Technology

The meeting came to order at 9:45 a.m.

Approval of minutes

The minutes from the October meeting were circulated for approval.

Motion: Katherine deBlij motioned to approve the October meeting minutes. David Stiefel seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Information Technology Update

Margarita Cardenas from the Information Technology Department reported on the City's e-commerce project with SunTrust. The Department is setting up a sales platform for different tangible or non-tangible items on the web. The concept is to facilitate the sale of merchandise through the City's website. They are currently working on the technical analysis. Cardenas handed out a detailed brief report on this project. The Department of Finance is talking to SunTrust and additional project updates will be forthcoming in the near future.

Cardenas also distributed a spreadsheet with information on the "One Community" project sponsored by the Knight Foundation. This project will help bring the entire community to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century through technology. The Information Technology Department is working in setting up fast internet connection with local facilities such as the University of Miami Police Department, various hospitals, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Matheson Hammock Park and schools. The plan is to have at least five locations connected by the end of this year. This service will provide faster Internet service at an affordable price. Schools are interested because they want to have online courses and assist impoverished children that may not have Internet access at home. The spreadsheet distributed shows the various stages for each location.

Vacancy

Belkys Perez distributed copy of letter sent to former Communications Committee member Richard Chimelis. She explained the removal process from the Committee if a member has three unexcused absences in a calendar year. Members expressed disappointment that Chimelis will not be allowed to serve on this Committee.

All Committee members present wanted to go on the record about the great contribution that former Communications Committee member Richard Chimelis provided to the group. He will be greatly missed.

David Stiefel made the suggestion that the new appointment, when made, should be as technologically savvy as Chimelis was. Communications Committee members relied on his information technology expertise and they would like to have someone with comparable experience to serve on this Committee.

Chair Leslie Pantin also suggested that a letter be sent to Richard Chimelis on behalf of the Board to thank him for his service. The Office of Public Affairs will draft such letter.

#### Coral Gables Television

Perez informed members about a video project that Coral Gables Television is working with Miami Dade Public Schools. This video will highlight the compact agreement between the two organizations with the goal of bringing schools to a higher standard. The video will highlight every school in the City of Coral Gables and so far CGTV has taped three schools. The final video will be shown to realtors to show that Coral Gables is a great place to relocate to. Pantin also suggested giving copies of the video to the Beacon Council and to the BID.

Perez also reported that Public Affairs is working on promoting green concepts. She talked about the Green Your Commute Week that was hosted last week. Continuing with this concept, CGTV is producing green segments for television, such as green places and green ideas. As such, a segment was produced about a local dry cleaner that uses green solutions without utilizing harmful chemicals. The video is about one minute long and is available for viewing after the meeting.

Pantin inquired about efforts done on behalf of promoting recycling. Perez advised that there is recycling information posted on the City's website. On this month's Coral Gables Now public affairs show, there is an interview with a representative from Waste Management about recycling on multifamily and duplexes. That interview runs for the entire month. Further discussion was held about what the county and other municipalities offer for recycling.

#### Citywide News Update

Perez informed that the City of Coral Gables has an Interim City Manager. She has brought an Acting Assistant City Manager and the Communications Division is currently working under her. She informed members about the Board and Committee Holiday Party scheduled for December 11 at City Hall. All members should receive an invitation in the mail.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.