

CORAL GABLES PARKING ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of January 28, 2010
Parking Department 2801 Salzedo Street

MEMBERS	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	APPOINTED BY
J.C. Cabrera	-	-	-	-	E	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Brad Rosenblatt	-	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	Commissioner Maria Anderson
Ada Holian	-	-	-	-	E	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	Commissioner Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Carlos Halley	-	P	-	E	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Hendrikus Vanderveldt	-	E	-	P	P	P	E	E	E	-	-	E	Commissioner Wayne "Chip" Withers

STAFF
Kevin Kinney

A=Absent
E=Excused
P=Present

Item 1 Directors Report
The Parking Department has purchased and received a "Light Master" for the Merrick Garage. This piece of equipment is designed to reduce power consumption by approximately 30% by regulating the flow of electricity to the light fixtures. With the assistance of Public Works, this equipment has been installed. We will monitor power consumption at this facility for the next few months to determine whether this technology should be applied in our other parking facilities.

The pay station donated to the City by the University of Miami will be installed on Thursday February 4, 2010. This pay station will replace 16 single space meters on San Amaro Drive adjacent to the tennis courts. People parking at this location will now have the option of paying with credit cards, cell phones coins, one-dollar bills or five-dollar bills. After installation, the vendor will train City staff on the operation, maintenance and management software for this system.

In early December the valet companies operating within the Central Business District agreed to a pilot program that provided free valet parking for those visiting downtown with a valid handicap parking permit. To date, there have been approximately 55 visitors that have obtained courtesy parking through this program. The program is scheduled to continue through February 2010. After the pilot program is complete, staff will meet with the valet companies to discuss the program and whether it should continue.

Item 2 First Quarter Review
The first quarter of FY 2010 shows indications that the parking system may be beginning a recovery from the recent economic downturn. Even with the \$0.25 per hour increase in short-term meter rates, there is an increase in traffic parking at downtown meters. In addition, short-term parking in City garages is up nearly 16% over the first quarter of FY 2009. The one indicator that remains lagging is permit sales within the City's garages. At the peak in 2008 the Parking Department was selling more than 1800 parking permits each month. This declined dramatically in 2009 and appears to have stabilized at approximately 1400 monthly permits for the first quarter FY 2010.

Item 3 Report on Courthouse parking

Following a presentation and discussion at the City Commission, the Parking Department was asked to review the parking conditions at and around the Coral Gables Courthouse. For several weeks, staff monitored peak occupancies during the busiest days of each week. During peak hours, the 71 space parking lot at the Courthouse is often at or near capacity. However, even during peak hours, the survey shows that approximately 40% of the 191 meter spaces within a block of the Courthouse are vacant. In addition, the survey revealed only nominal intrusion into the residential neighborhood, south of the Courthouse, from visitors to the Courthouse.

The recommendations of the Parking Department were to allow the residential neighborhood adjacent to the Courthouse to petition for a Residential Permit Zone in accordance with City Code if they so desired. However, because there were between 62 and 93 spaces available within 1 block during peak hours, the Parking Department did not recommend any significant relocation of Courthouse traffic at this time.

Item 4:

Grayline Request

Grayline Tours is operating a circulator shuttle for tourists that connect many of the major hotels with tourist destinations within the Miami area. Grayline would like to have two stops in Coral Gables on at Village of Merrick Park and one near Miracle Mile. The Board discussed this proposal and supports allowing Grayline to use trolley stops at these two locations to offload tourists coming to visit Coral Gables.

Item 5:

Trolley Update

The two used trolleys purchased in November are now in service. The advertising monitors and security cameras are currently being installed. These units will allow use to phase out use of the last two remaining hybrids. In addition, these two trolleys will provide an adequate fleet to implement the route extension from SW 8th Street to Flagler Street. This extension is being partly funded through a grant from FDOT. Staff will begin discussions with FDOT to implement this extension.

Item 6:

Adjournment

Board moved to Adjourn
Meeting Adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Approved:

Chairman

Attest:

Secretary