

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD  
 CORAL GABLES POLICE DEPT. (CMR)  
 2801 SALZEDO STREET  
 CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33134  
 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016 @ 5:30 PM

**MEETING MINUTES**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	<b>APPOINTED BY:</b>
	15	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	15	
Ignacio G. Borbolla	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	Jim Cason
Gordon Sokoloff	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Patricia Keon
Deborah Swain	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vince Lago
Courtney Thompson	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	Jeannette Slesnick
Albert Corrada	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	Frank C. Quesada
Chris Morrison	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	Commission-as-a-Whole
Al Smith	P	P	P	P	P	-	E	P	P	E	P	P	City Manager

**P - Present**  
**E - Excused Absence**  
**A - Absent**  
**\* - New Member**  
**+ - No Meeting**  
**(#) Resigned**

**STAFF:**

Jessica Keller, Public Works Assistant Director  
 Yamilet Senespleda, Public Works City Engineer/Senior Traffic Engineer  
 Antonio Aleman, C. G. Police Sergeant

**GUEST:**

Craig Leen, City of Coral Gables Attorney

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

Mr. Thompson stated that he has invited the City of Coral Gables Attorney, Mr. Craig Leen to attend tonight's meeting in efforts to determine if the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) is a toothless board which is what we don't want. Mr. Thompson says that there are new projects that are being brought to our attention of how traffic is being affected. He then commented that now have new building propositions coming online and we are the last stop or no stop of the process to developers getting approved. He further stated that we want some direction from Mr. Leen as to how we can have a say in the process and be involved.

Jessica stated that at the Commission Meeting today Commissioner Lago brought the 25 mph speed limit item up and wants to push it forward. Craig Leen will be developing an ordinance and it will go to first reading at the next Commission Meeting scheduled December 6, 2016. She further stated that the implementation of the 25mph speed limit will be on all local residential streets. She also stated to the Board that they may want to attend the meeting as there is not unanimous support of the item.

Ms. Swain stated that there are a lot of things going on in the City of Coral Gables where the public are unaware nor an opportunity to give any input, such as the flowered sculpture on Segovia and the same has been said about the 25mph speed limit. She commented that we don't want to have another initiative like the proposed traffic impact study procedure that went before the Commission and it was said that no one knew about this. She also stated that before an item goes to first reading, we should let our Commission know and reach out to them on issues of concern to us, to insure that they have been vetted properly.

Jessica stated that the 25 mph speed limit item has been brought forward in response to several phone calls, emails from residents and meetings to discuss traffic in the residential areas.

#### **MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

***October 18, 2016 meeting minutes – Mr. Morrison moved to approve the minutes. Dr. Sokoloff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.***

**Mrs. Swain made a motion to cancel the December meeting. Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Jessica stated that staff has met with the team regarding traffic calming to discuss the feedback that was received at community meetings that were held. She then stated that she spoke with the City Manager in a meeting who conveyed that if we do not resolve the issues around traffic

Transportation Advisory Board

November 15, 2016

Continued

calming and making residents happy then we have failed. She also stated that one of the challenges that the City faces is that Miami-Dade County requires us to collect data to support traffic calming tools and we must meet certain thresholds. She further stated that based on engineering standards there is not a speeding problem in the City of Coral Gables and it is very hard to tell to the residents this because they feel there is a problem.

Mr. Borbola asked what the definition of a speeding problem is. Yamilet responded stating that per Miami-Dade County standards speeding is 5 miles above the posted speed limit within the city and in unincorporated areas the is 10 miles above the posted speed limit. She then stated that we would have to show thirty-five miles per hour over the limit through tracking measures to have a speeding problem.

(Craig Leen, the City of Coral Gables Attorney entered the meeting.)

Mr. Thompson inquired as to whether the board has been effective in recommendations that have been sent and if they are considered by the City Commission or are they a toothless board. Mr. Leen responded saying no this is not a toothless Board, the Commission cares about the perspective of the board. Mr. Leen recommended to the board to prepare a policy statement specifically stating what the Board would like to be involved in. He suggested that the Board should select five or six items, take a vote on the items and submit the items in the policy statement for the Commission to take action on them. He then stated that when it goes before the Commission that the board chair or a designee from the board should attend the meeting and speak on the topic during the slated time.

He then proposed another option for the board to consider which is to request from the mayor an opportunity to speak during the Boards and Committees section. Mr. Thompson stated the desire for the board to become a quasi-judicial board. Mr. Leen stated that becoming a quasi-judicial board requires becoming registered with the State of Florida, public notices would have to be sent out, each member would be required to attend all meetings and some additional requirements. He then stated that it could possibly limit the board members in no longer being able to talk with members of the public. Mr. Leen stated that the board can become an advisory board which would allow the board to be in the chain of a development proposal which would be more valuable. He then stated another suggestion which was on large scale items to request from the City Manager or the City Commission to refer matters to the board during the process to get the input from the board before going to Planning & Zoning and then the Commission. He stated next to make a list of the items in the minutes of motions requesting action and contact the mayor to let him know that the chair of the board or the designee will attend the meeting and talk to the Commission about the items.

The Board Chair opened the item up for discussion.

Mr. Corrada stated his concern that the Board is unaware of the items that are going forward until after the items have passed. Mr. Leen suggested requesting a list of every project that goes to the Development and Review Committee (DRC) for the chair to review the projects of interest to the board; and once the item is selected, then ask the applicant to present the board. He commented that the Commission may be open to this suggestion for some projects but not every project as this would impede progress of projects. He stated that the chair should be very specific

as to the projects of interest with a very narrow criteria opposed to a broad one. Mr. Sokoloff stated that the traffic studies that are done individually by the construction projects proposed opposed to a traffic study done by City staff; we would like an objective person to do the traffic studies to prevent bias. Mr. Leen stated that this should be presented to the Commission in a formal way where they will take action on it. He further stated that the City Manager or any of the five Commissioners can pull an item. Mr. Sokoloff commented his concern of the process of knowing what action was taken once it goes to the board. Mr. Leen stated that Jessica Keller could relay that information, also suggested that the TAB chair or designee attend the meeting and ask to be recognized. Mr. Leen also stated that if the board is writing a list or request that is more complex he suggested the support of his assistant attorneys to draft a policy statement that has been approved by the TAB requesting action. He stated that when the minutes are submitted to the Clerk that it is specified that these items are requesting action. He stated that he would not recommend that the TAB become a quasi-judicial board which would prevent the board from speaking with the developers, contractors, the City Commission and the public in general.

Mrs. Swain stated that there was a resident that had concerns of the University of Miami project. Mr. Leen replied that the item of Internal Road passed at the Commission today which was proposed by the University of Miami.

Mrs. Swain stated that she will reach out the Public Works Director, Ed Santamaria to speak with him regarding the proposed items for his review before presenting to the Commission. Mrs. Swain commented that if something requires a traffic impact study we would like to review it.

Yamilet stated she will attend the DRC and discuss the concerns of the TAB and ask for the traffic impact study and request that the applicants present to the TAB. Jessica stated that Yamilet can bring the list of developers proposing new projects to the TAB meetings for review. Yamilet also stated that she will setup a workshop with the Public Works Director. Yamilet also suggested that any person interested attend the Planning & Zoning Board meetings and address any traffic issues speak with Maria Menendez.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Swain stated her concern of the improvements that the University of Miami proposed as part of the UM development agreement. Jessica stated that there was over a million dollars of proposed projects to be completed in the original proposal. She stated next that they are building an internal access road for their service vehicles in lieu of the Internal Road and any type of construction that they may be doing on the campus assuming that this totals eight-hundred thousand dollars which what is left over is the two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Mrs. Swain asked who determines how the money is utilized. Jessica responded that it would be used for public realm improvement which could be lighting, paving, a Diverter Island and etc. Jessica stated that she will follow-up to on the specifics as to how the money will be utilized. Mrs. Swain then commented her concern of a bike path on Old Cutler being done by Miami-Dade County. Jessica confirmed that is a county project.

Mr. Morrison commented on the recent project of a crosswalk that is located at Ingraham Park is delightful and it seems to be working extremely well. He also stated the need for the circle projects to address the congestion. Jessica stated that is being addressed as part of the Transportation project that we discussed this past week. She then stated that Yamilet managed the crosswalk projects which are being landscaped now. Mr. Morrison stated that it's a joy to see young families going across the crosswalk and it looks great. He then stated the other project of the island that was placed on Homestead. Mr. Thompson stated that the signs have all been knocked down. Mr. Morrison stated that he observed several cars going in the wrong direction around the island. He stated that additional directional signage may be needed to reinforce traffic safety. Mr. Thompson stated that this was a good idea with bad execution. Jessica stated that we have been discussing this with FDOT to find a solution. She also stated that staff will work on other solutions to correct this problem.

**POLICE UPDATE:**

Sgt. Aleman stated that the walkway on Mariposa Court we have placed a message board sign there to address the regarding obstruction of the crosswalk. He also stated that this project is set to be complete by September of 2017.

**ADJOURNED:**

6:35 pm