

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
Communication Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 10, 2018, 8:30 a.m.
Youth Center Conference Room
405 University Drive
Coral Gables, FL

MEMBERS	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	COMMISSIONERS
	'17	'17	'17	'18	'18	'18	'18	'18	'18	'18	'18	'18	'18	
Sandra Gonzalez-Levy						P	P	P						Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Tina Sayago	P	R	*	*	R				+	*	*	P	P	
Derrek Space	P	P	*	*	P	P	P	P	+	*	*	P	P	Vice Mayor Pat Keon
Alexandra Pantin	E	P	*	*	P	P	E	A	+	*	*	P	P	Commissioner Vince Lago
Connie Crowther	P	P	*	*	P	P	P	P	+	*	*	P	P	Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
TJ Villamil	E	E	*	*	P	E	E	P	+	*	*	P	P	Commissioner Michael Mena

A = Absent
E = Excused Absence
P = Present
R = Resigned
* = No Meeting
+ = No Quorum

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Maria Rosa Higgins Fallon, Public Affairs
Michael Rocha, CGTV
Peter Iglesias, City Manager
Matt Anderson, Sustainability/Public Works
Shakira Molet, CGTV

Ms. Alexandra Pantin participated over the phone.

After achieving a quorum, the meeting began at 8:31 a.m.

City Manager Peter Iglesias attended the meeting at the invitation of Committee members. He gave a brief introduction and detailed his background. He was asked what his expectations for the City are and discussed the infrastructure of certain City buildings, such as the new construction of the Public Safety Building. He discussed that several buildings needed remodeling or reinforcement, such as Fire Station 2. His mission is to make the City of Coral Gables more modern and efficient.

Chairperson Sandra Gonzalez-Levy commented that she's had a very good experience with the Coral Gables Police Department. She mentioned that last month her car was broken into and the police made an arrest, retrieved some of the valuables, and worked on the case diligently.

Mr. Derrek Space mentioned the budget and asked City Manager Iglesias how the City is allocating monies.

Ms. Connie Crowther brought up the sea level rise issue in Coral Gables. Mr. Matthew Anderson replied that he would give a presentation later in the meeting on what the City is doing to address this issue.

City Manager Iglesias discussed the trends, statistics, and other data on hurricanes and how they can possibly affect Coral Gables. He stated that City officials will continue to look into preparation and sustainability for future storms.

Committee members also voiced concerns on Red Tide and if it has or will affect Coral Gables.

Chairperson Gonzalez-Levy offered multiple training courses for emergency preparations from FIU.

Ms. Crowther also brought up the time capsule from July 4, 1976 that is in front of Police and Fire Building and will be moved to the new building. City Manager Iglesias would like to get a copy of the list of artifacts inside the time capsule.

Ms. Higgins Fallon commended the work of the members of the Communications Committee, as they provide expert recommendations from the point of view of residents. She constantly relies on their assistance and guidance in public communication issues and ideas.

With no further issues to discuss with City Manager Iglesias, he left the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. Derrek Space made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2018 meeting. Mr. TJ Villamil seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Green Initiatives

Mr. Anderson presented the City's three-year strategic plan and 10-year Sustainability Master Plan. There are 23 projects in regards to sustainability that the City is currently working on. The City has the largest electric vehicle fleet in the state of Florida and impressive electric vehicle charging infrastructures. He discussed the bans on polystyrene and plastic bags which have been very successful. The City is also waiving all permit fees for solar power. Other green initiatives, such as sea level rise protection, recycling, and household hazardous waste event, were discussed.

Mr. TJ Villamil left the meeting at 9:14 a.m.

Ms. Alexandra Panting left the meeting via phone at about 9:25 a.m. A quorum was still present.

Ms. Crowther asked about safe disposal of drugs. Mr. Anderson discussed the existing partnership program that provides a recycling bin at Public Safety Building for disposal of medicines. Committee members were pleased with his presentation.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Anderson left the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

Report on Public Affairs

Ms. Higgins Fallon provided a brief update on the public engagement portal project and upcoming events such as Adventure Day for All and Traffic Calming workshops, which have been promoted by her office. She also presented a draft of Annual Report that this Committee has to present to City Clerk's Office. Ms. Crowther would like to add the efforts of members regarding the public engagement portal project.

Current Events and Programs

Ms. Higgins Fallon discussed the upcoming Pumpkin Patch at Pittman Park scheduled for Saturday, October 20 and the upcoming Halloween events to be held in Coral Gables.

Report from CGTV

Mr. Michael Rocha gave a brief update on the CGTV video equipment upgrade project.

Ms. Higgins Fallon distributed the latest copy of e-News.

With no further issues to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.