

CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

Economic Development Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

Wednesday | November 5, 2025 | 8:00 a.m.

Location: Zoom and Economic Development Department
2506 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Coral Gables, FL 33134

EDB MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTING ENTITY
	'25	'25	'25	'25	'25	'25	'25	'25	'25	'25	'25	'25	
James Kohnstamm, Vice Chair	X	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	P	X	P		Mayor Vince Lago
Timothy Heffernan	X	P	P	X	A	P	P	P	P	X	P		Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Ivette Arango O'Doski	-	-	-	-	-	E	PZ	P	P	X	P		Commissioner Richard D. Lara
Nguyen Castilla Cabanilla	X	EA	P	X	PZ/ E	P	P	P	P	X	P		Commissioner Melissa Castro
Scott Shuffield	X	P	P	X	A	P	P	P	P	X	P		Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Aron Aizenstat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	X	P		City Manager Peter J. Iglesias
Thad Adams, Chair	X	P	P	X	P	P	E	P	P	X	P		Chamber of Commerce

A=Absent E=Excused Absence P=Present X=No Meeting PZ=Present by Zoom - =Former Board Member

Staff and Guests:

Belkys Perez, Director, Economic Development Department

Leticia Perez, International Business Development Coordinator, Economic Development Department

Yenisis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department

Chairman Mr. Thad Adams brought the meeting to order at 8:11 a.m.

1. Review and approval of September 3, 2025, Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes.
Mr. Kohnstamm made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Ms. Arango O'Doski seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. There was no discussion regarding the minutes.

2. Discussion regarding Downtown Coral Gables Partnership

Mrs. Perez reminded the Board that the former Business Improvement District (BID) was dissolved by the City Commission in 2022. Since then, the city has taken over many of those responsibilities that were outward facing for the district which include putting on events and supporting our businesses. The Economic Development department has taken most of the BID's functions over with the same staff and just extra funding that the Commission has placed in the department's budget. Those are all activities that are above and beyond what the city can sustain from a long-term perspective, and it's the reason why the city is exploring the creation of a new district. The working title for the district is Downtown Coral Gables Partnership as this is seen as a partnership between

the property owners, business owners, the city and all other stakeholders. The City of Coral Gables really wants the downtown area to shine and position it as the best place for our residents and our visitors.

The City has hired a consultant to evaluate the feasibility for a district. The process has been going on for two to three months and now the city is at the point where it wants to hear from the community. This week, a newsletter went out providing options for different roundtable discussions that will be taking place when the consultants are in town from November 12-14, 2025. It will include property owners, residents, business owners, restaurants, and retail.

The Board had several questions that Mrs. Perez addressed.

3. Mobility Promotion

Mrs. Perez informed the Board that the city is trying to take a holistic approach to promoting the downtown and getting more people into the Downtown area. Among the issues that have been identified was parking. However, the city has multiple parking garages and parking lots available. The City is in the process of updating its parking map to show all the available parking throughout the downtown area. The map also includes the parking rates.

4. Holiday Activations

Mrs. Perez informed the Board that there are currently fall decorations in the downtown area which will be taken down on November 20th. This is one of the activities that the city continued after the former BID was dissolved. Holiday decorations will be installed starting November 24th. This year, the city partnered with Joy By, a pop-up store on Miracle Mile. Merchants will be asked to decorate their storefronts and there will be a contest to reward them.

5. Business Tax License Report

Mrs. Perez updated the Board on the new and soon-to-come businesses in Coral Gables.

6. Open Discussion

Ms. Castilla Cabanilla informed the Board about the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce Flags on Ponce program was live in case anyone is interested in sponsoring a flag.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yenesis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department.