

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
WATERWAY ADVISORY BOARD
 HYBRID MEETING AT CITY HALL/ZOOM
 WEDNESDAY, June 5, 2024 - 5:30 P.M.
 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	District	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	APPOINTED BY:
		23	23	23	23	23	23	24	24	24	24	24	24	
Manny Chamizo	2	*	*	P	P	A	A	A	P	A	A	A	P	Vince Lago
Pat Nolan	1			P	P	P	P	p	P	P	P	P	A	Melissa Castro
Juan A. Galan Jr	3	*	*	P	P	A	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	Rhonda Anderson
Kevin Ritzenthaler	1	*	*	A	A	P	A	p	P	P	E	P	E	Kirk Menendez
Nancy Sanabria	7			P	P	P	P	p	P	P	P	P	P	Ariel Fernandez
Douglas Yoder	CR	*	*	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	Amos Rojas, Jr.
Bertram Goldsmith	7	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commission-As-A-Whole
Levi Meyer	6	*	*	P	P	P	A	p	P	A	E	P	P	Board-As-A-Whole
Vacant														Commission-As-A-Whole

P – Present
P*- Present (zoom)
E – Excused Absence
A – Absent
R – Resigned
(-) – No Appointment

(*) – No Meeting

STAFF:

- Lorena Garrido, Central Division Administrative Manager
- Yanissey Solivera, Administrative Assistant
- Sergeant Guido Antezana

GUESTS:

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mr. Yoder. Quorum was met.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

Mr. Goldsmith made the motion to approve the minutes of May 1, 2024, seconded by Mrs. Sanabria, all were in favor, and adopted unanimously.

DISCUSSION:

OLD BUSINESS:

Mrs. Sanabria brought up the subject of the surveillance cameras on the waterways. She stated that at the previous meeting, there was a discussion regarding the locations where the cameras could be installed, noting that some of the bridges are owned by the County. She then asked Sgt. Antezana if they were able to identify which bridges belong to the County and whether they would allow the installation of cameras. Sgt. Antezana responded that the City currently has a camera at Ingraham Park.

Mr. Galan stated that, according to the previous City Manager, the reason for not installing surveillance cameras was due to privacy concerns. However, there is a new City Manager, who has an enforcement background and may have a different perspective on the use of cameras. He suggests approaching the current City Manager and conveying that the Coral Gables Waterway Advisory Board strongly encourages the City to conduct a comprehensive study on the placement of surveillance cameras along the waterway. The purpose of this study is to explore how camera installations can enhance safety, monitor activity, and protect the integrity of the waterways.

Ms. Garrido stated that she will email the City Manager's office to inform them of the Board's interest in and reasoning for the installation of surveillance cameras on the Waterway.

Mr. Yoder brought up the subject of the proposed resolutions. Ms. Garrido stated that the resolutions were shared with the City Attorney's office, and some recommendations were made. She added, these are Board resolutions that will go in front of the City Commission, and if the Board approves them, a Board member or members will need to present them at the City Commission meeting on July 9, 2024. Mr. Yoder said that he would do so.

The Board reviewed and approved the proposed resolutions as presented.

Mr. Galan made a motion to set forth a resolution reading, be it resolved that the Coral Gables Waterway Advisory Board strongly encourages the Quasi-Judicial Board and The City Commission to take into account the commitments made by Gables Waterway LLC, the developer of the proposed luxury condominiums at 6100 Caballero Blvd, which are summarized in the May 1st meeting minutes. These commitments are crucial to ensure that the development aligns with the interests and safety of the Coral Gables waterways. Motion was seconded by Mr. Goldsmith; all were in favor.

Mr. Meyer suggested for staff to gather information on past resolutions passed by the Board for reflection before Mr. Yoder's presentation of current resolutions at the commission meeting on July 9th. Ms. Garrido said that staff will research and send information on previous resolutions; however, please note that past resolutions have either been passed or not.

Mr. Galan brought up the issue of mangroves on the waterways. He noted that Code Enforcement doesn't inspect the back of the properties. Ms. Garrido responded that Code Enforcement has been

inspecting the waterways. She mentioned that in the past month, they have cited about ten properties for mangroves intruding onto the waterways. Mr. Galan pointed out that there are areas with mangrove issues where it is unclear whether the City or another entity is responsible for maintenance. In other areas, ownership is known, but enforcing mangrove trimming on those properties is challenging. He emphasized that this is a significant issue because if the mangroves are not trimmed, the properties will eventually lose their waterfront status due to inaccessible waterways.

Ms. Garrido mentioned that staff had a positive meeting with Mr. Batista, president of the Island of Cocoplum HOA, and Rick Diaz. They are currently working with DERM to obtain a master permit to assist properties that are being cited for mangrove issues. Mrs. Sanabria asked if the master permit, they are working on obtaining would address all the mangroves in Cocoplum. Ms. Garrido responded that it would not necessarily cover all mangroves. Mr. Yoder added that the mangroves the HOAs have concerns with may not be the same mangroves the Board is concerned about. He explained that the HOAs are likely focused on view corridors, while the Board is primarily concerned with navigation.

Mr. Meyer inquired about the Blue Road project. He stated that at the previous meeting, staff mentioned they would provide an update on the project. Ms. Garrido responded that the park is under a grant and the City is under pressure to move forward with the construction. She noted that the project is currently in the procurement phase and that the dock and walkway area will be completed in Phase Two.

Mr. Meyer inquired about the LeJeune bridge repairs. Ms. Garrido stated that construction is scheduled to commence in April of 2026.

Ms. Garrido reminded the Board that July 10th is the first budget workshop.

NEW BUSINESS:

MARINE PATROL REPORT:

Sgt. Antezana stated that it hasn't been a busy month.

Ms. Sanabria shared a video with Sgt. Antezana, stating that a neighbor provided it due to concerns about vessels speeding in the canal. Sgt. Antezana encouraged residents to share such videos with him via email. He mentioned that if residents know the identity of the individuals involved, they should provide that information as well. However, he noted that they cannot issue a citation based solely on a video.

Mr. Galan recommends that signs stating "See Something, Say Something" along with the contact number for Marine Patrol be installed on the waterways as it will enhance vigilance and safety across the waterway areas.

Mr. Meyer inquired of Sgt. Antezana whether the red triangle on the piling entering the Gables Waterway canal had been repaired yet. Sgt. Antezana responded that he observed it a few days ago, and it had not been repaired. Mr. Meyer then asked whose jurisdiction it was to handle this issue. Sgt. Antezana stated that it falls under the City's jurisdiction and that emails have already been sent to address the matter.

Mr. Meyer inquired about the status of the additional vessel for the Marine Patrol. Sgt. Antezana responded that it is included in the budget and is moving forward. Ms. Garrido further clarified that, during the budget process, each department submits their requests, in which new needs are considered. These requests then go through an approval process involving meetings with the Finance Department and each commissioner before finally being presented to the Commission for approval. Ms. Garrido added that while the additional vessel is in the queue, it has not yet been approved as it is still in process.

Sgt. Antezana stated that the Marine Patrol Department is in the process of obtaining a grant for the additional vessel. He added that he is scheduled to go to Cocoa Beach on June 22nd to present, and if things go well, they will receive funding from a state grant to assist with the purchase.

Mr. Galan inquired about the repairs of the existing vessel. Sgt. Antezana responded that the repairs are currently in process. He added that they are expecting to receive new engines by the end of next week.

Mr. Galan stated that the Coral Gables Waterway Advisory Board strongly encourages the Commission to approve the budget for the acquisition of an additional vessel for the Marine Patrol. This vessel will enhance the capacity to conduct thorough inspections and ensure the safety and maintenance of the waterways.

Ms. Garrido stated that she will email the City Manager's office to inform them of the Board's interest in and reasoning for the acquisition of an additional vessel.

Mr. Yoder stated that at the South Waterways HOA Board meeting, there was a discussion about establishing a point of deployment further south. He asked if there had been any further discussions about the idea. Sgt. Antezana responded that there have not been any further discussions on the matter. He added that the issue with having a point of deployment further south is that boat operators would have to contend with traffic to reach the location, which would take longer than traveling south by boat from the current station located in the north.

Mr. Galan inquired about dockage for the additional vessel. Sgt. Antezana stated that there are several issues that come into play with the additional vessel, such as dockage, parking, and security. Mr. Galan then asked how many spaces they currently have at the Yacht Club. Sgt. Antezana responded that they currently have two spaces and a third space across the waterway. Mr. Galan asked if the space at the Gables Club is still available. Sgt. Antezana said that, to his understanding, it was still available.

Mrs. Sanabria brought up the subject of the surveillance cameras on the waterways. She stated that at the previous meeting, there was a discussion regarding the locations where the cameras could be installed, noting that some of the bridges are owned by the County. She then asked Sgt. Antezana if they were able to identify which bridges belong to the County and whether they would allow the installation of cameras. Sgt. Antezana responded that the City currently has a camera at Ingraham Park. Ms. Garrido added that recently, Public Works had to clean up the area to improve the view of the Waterway.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.