

CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

Economic Development Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

Wednesday | June 7, 2023 | 8:00 a.m.

Location: Zoom and Police and Fire Headquarters (PFHQ), Community Meeting Room A
2151 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, FL 33134

EDB MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTING ENTITY
	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23	
James Kohnstamm	X	P	P	X	E	E							Mayor Vince Lago
Olga Ramudo, Chair	X	P	P	X	E	P							Vice Mayor Michael Mena
Stuart McGregor	X	P	P	X	P	E							Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez
Tania Cruz-Gimenez	X	A	P	X	P	P							Commissioner Rhonda Anderson
Mary Snow	X	P	P	X	P	P							Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Barbara Perez	X	E	P	X	P	P							City Manager Peter Iglesias
Thad Adams	X	P	E	X	P	P							Chamber of Commerce

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

Staff and Guests:

Belkys Perez, Director, Economic Development Department
 Francesca Valdes, Business Community Manager, Economic Development Department
 Solanch Lopez, Marketing Manager, Economic Development Department
 Leticia Perez, International Business Development Coordinator, Economic Development Department
 Yenisis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department

Chairwoman Ms. Olga Ramudo brought the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

1. Excuse Board member's absence

Ms. Barbara Perez made a motion to excuse today's absence for Mr. McGregor and Mr. Kohnstamm. Mr. Adams seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. There was no discussion regarding the absences.

2. Review and approval of May 3, 2023, Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Adams made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Ms. Barbara Perez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. There was no discussion regarding the minutes.

3. Economic Strategic Plan Update

Mrs. Belkys Perez thanked the Board and everyone who provided feedback on the Economic Development Competitive Assessment. All the comments were forwarded to Dr. Ed Murray, who is reviewing the comments and finalizing the Strategic Plan. He is expected to present to the Board in August. The Strategic Plan will be presented to stakeholders and finally submitted for approval by the City Commission.

4. Activities

a) Latin America Delegation

Mrs. Belkys Perez informed the Board that the Department hosted a Latin America Delegation on Friday, June 2nd. More than 30 mayors and senators from Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay, and Honduras attended. Public Works provided a presentation and talked about their current projects. The Deputy Fire Chief was also present and spoke about the structure of the department and its responsibilities. The delegation toured the City's EOC and received a trolley tour of projects discussed by Public Works along with others Parks & Recreation projects that could be implemented in their countries.

b) Ryder Relocation

Mrs. Belkys Perez advised the Board that Ryder Systems, a Fortune 500 company, had signed a lease in the City. They will be relocating their offices from the Medley area to Coral Gables. The company was close to submitting construction documents for permitting. Ryder would occupy two floors at the Colonnade building. They would have an innovative center which will bring vendors, allow them the capability of hosting seminars, and showcasing their new technology.

c) Spring Sip and Shop

Ms. Valdes informed the Board that the Department sold more than 100 tickets to the Spring Sip & Shop event, which was held on Wednesday, May 10th. A total of 18 businesses participated. All the proceeds benefited Beaux Arts Miami, with a donation over \$3,600.

d) Restaurant Month

Ms. Valdes informed the Board that the Department would launch "Taste the Gables" for the entire month of July. It is essentially a restaurant month for Coral Gables businesses. The program includes a concert series on Giralda Plaza every Friday, from 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm in partnership with Miami New Times.

e) Commercial Beautification Awards

Mrs. Belkys Perez informed the Board that there was an open call for people to nominate businesses that were doing their part to maintain order and cleanliness. Finalist had to be in good standing with the City with no code or permit issues. Those businesses that qualify would be evaluated by the Sustainability Board. The winners are Bugatti, Ella Bella, Mint and Fiola and will be recognized at a City Commission meeting.

f) Consular Corps Reception

Ms. Leticia Perez informed the Board that on June 15, 2023, the Department would be hosting the Consular Corps Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency. More than 65 trade commissioners, consul generals and dignitaries have RSVP'd.

5. Business Tax License Report

Ms. Valdes updated the Board on the new and upcoming businesses in Coral Gables.

6. Open Discussion

Ms. Ramudo informed the Board that she sold her business to a United Kingdom company. Her Coral Gables location would serve as their United States headquarters.

Mrs. Perez reminded the Board that they received a Financial Disclosure from the City Clerk's office which is to be completed for calendar year 2022.

Mrs. Perez recognized and thanked Chair Ms. Olga Ramudo and Vice Chair Mr. Stuart McGregor for their time, service, and contribution to the Board for the past eight years. Members of the Board wished them well in their future endeavors.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Yenisis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department.