

# City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
www.coralgables.com



## Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 19, 2022

5:30 PM

Draft Minutes

Police and Fire Headquarters

**City of Coral Gables / University of Miami**

### **Community Relations Committee**

*Board Member Maite Alvarez*  
*Board Member Robert Cambo*  
*Board Member Norma de la O*  
*Board Member Erick Fernandez*  
*Board Member Wendy Kallergis*  
*Board Member David Rivero*  
*Board Member Ethan Robbins*  
*Board Member Marty Steinberger*  
*Board Member Kasey Tendrich*  
*Board Member Dr. Patricia Whitely*  
*Board Member Jamie Williams-Smith*

The Coral Gables/University of Miami Community Relations Committee will be holding its Regular Meeting on Monday, Sept. 19, 2022, commencing at 5:00 p.m. While the Committee is back to live in-person meetings, members of the public may participate in person but are also able to participate via the Zoom platform. Members of the public may join the meeting via Zoom at (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85102902677>). In addition, a dedicated phone line will be available so that any individual who does not wish (or is unable) to use Zoom may listen to and participate in the meeting by dialing: 786-635-1003 Meeting ID: 85102902677.

To speak on an Agenda Item, please "Raise your Hand" or send a message to one of the meeting hosts using the Zoom Platform. If you joined the meeting via telephone you can "Raise your Hand" by pressing \*9.

## CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:07 p.m.

## ROLL/QUORUM CALL

Dr. Ryan Holmes attended as Dr. Patricia Whitely's representative.

**Present:** 7 - Board Member Steinberger, Board Member Alvarez, Board Member Rivero, Board Member Fernandez, Board Member de la O, Board Member Cambo and Board Member Williams-Smith

**Absent:** 4 - Board Member Whitely, Board Member Kallergis, Board Member Tendrich and Board Member Robbins

## A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A-1 City of Coral Gables/University of Miami Community Relations Committee  
Meeting of March 28, 2022.

**Attachments:** [Cover Memo](#)  
[Draft Minutes - CG-UM Community Relations Committee Meeting of March 28](#)

**A motion was made by Board Member Rivero, seconded by Board Member Fernandez, that this matter be approved. The motion passed by the following vote.**

**Yeas:** 7 - Board Member Steinberger, Board Member Alvarez, Board Member Rivero, Board Member Fernandez, Board Member de la O, Board Member Cambo and Board Member Williams-Smith

**Absent:** 4 - Board Member Whitely, Board Member Kallergis, Board Member Tendrich and Board Member Robbins

## B. AGENDA ITEMS

### B-1 Election of Chairperson

**Board Member Alvarez nominates Vice Chairperson Cambo for the vacant chairperson position. Nomination is seconded by Board Member Fernandez and passes unanimously. Board Member Alvarez nominates Board Member Williams-Smith to the newly vacant Vice Chairperson position. Board Member Rivero seconds the nomination which passes unanimously.**

### B-2 Annual Report Approval

**Attachments:** [DRAFT 2021 -22 ANNUAL REPORT](#)

**A motion was made by Board Member Fernandez, seconded by Board Member Steinberger, that this matter be approved. The motion passed by the following vote.**

**Yeas:** 7 - Board Member Alvarez, Board Member Rivero, Board Member Fernandez, Board Member de la O, Board Member Cambo, Board Member Steinberger and Board Member Williams-Smith

**Absent:** 4 - Board Member Whitely, Board Member Kallergis, Board Member Tendrich and Board Member Robbins

**B-3 Update on University Events, Maite Alvarez**

**Coral Gables Day - Off campus event for Duke Game on October 24, 2022. Tickets can be purchased online; resident offer available through the development Agreement.**

**Homecoming will be on Campus on November 3, 2022, at 5– 8 p.m.; this is known as a hurricane block party.**

- Food trucks will be available until approximately 10:00 pm.
- Boat Burning & fireworks will start at approximately 8:30 pm; neighbors are invited to attend.
- Post cards will be mailed out to residents and those who reside 1,000 feet from the base will be alerted of the noise associated with fireworks.

**Commencement Ceremony at Watsco Center.**

- 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. ceremony on December 16, 2022.
- Traffic expected on Ponce.

**Beaux Arts Festival.**

- January 13-15, 2023.
- 72nd annual event.

**This past weekend Disney on Ice was held at Watsco Center.**

**B-4 Update on the University's Planning & Construction Initiatives, Alicia Corral**

- Construction at the 6565 Red Road property which was a former church has been transformed into an academic space for theatre and arts programs. Although building was restored its historic exterior has been preserved, however, taking into consideration ADA access.
- IT Hub upgraded.
- Construction of Frost Institute is expecting completion by end of October and will receive its Certificate of Occupancy.
- Centennial Village is moving forward.
- Image of construction site was showed to the team.
- The FPL Transformer station on Ponce is not a university project.

**B-5 Update on the University's Police Department, Chief David Rivero**

**Quiet semester. Back to normal and average pre-Covid crime rate of eighty to ninety crimes a year; recent incident with car burglars. Seven unlocked cars, camera system picked up tag numbers and arrested the subjects.**

- No violent crimes.
- Still trying to hire officers; full is at thirty-three; currently at thirty-one.
- Also looking to hire a dispatcher.

**B-6 Update by the University's Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Ryan Holmes on behalf of Dr. Whitely**

- Good family friendly orientation program: 2,200 first year students and 1,800 are now on campus.
- If games are before 3:00 pm tailgating is not allowed; kickoff for the upcoming game will be at 3:30 pm.
- Campus busing to game for students will be available.
- Currently, Greek Life is also strong with 2,900 students.
- Online education courses related to sexual misconduct, alcohol, drugs, and diversity although optional there has been a 95% attendance rate.

**B-7 Update by the University's Interfraternity Council President**

- Interfraternity Council President was not present, no updates provided.

**B-8 Update by the University's Student Government President**

- Vice Chairperson Jamie William-Smith introduced herself as the new Student Government President.
- Smooth start to the year.
- Parking garages are almost full on campus.
- Housing is an issue; administration is working on this matter.
- Thursday, Diversity & Inclusion event is slated to be on campus for faculty, staff, and students to attend.

**B-9 General Updates, Solanch Lopez**

- Meeting dates for the 2023 City of Coral Gables/University of Miami Community Relations Committee are discussed for March 27 and September 18, 2023, at 5 p.m. Board Member Alvarez moves to adopt meeting dates, seconded by Board Member Rivero. Motion passed unanimously.

**Earth Month Events:**

- The city participated in UM's Earth Day event on campus. 260 students visited our booth to learn about Keep Coral Gables Beautiful and the city's other sustainability and resiliency programs.
- Coral Gables Art Cinema had a film screening of the documentary titled The Biggest Little Farm. A panel discussion about sustainability led by Matt Anderson, Resiliency and Sustainability Manager from City of Coral Gables. Teddy Lhoutellier, Sustainability Director from UM, was a panel member. There were plenty of positive interactions with the fifty-five attendees who took part in the discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

**NOTE**