

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
WATERWAY ADVISORY BOARD
 HYBRID MEETING AT CITY HALL/ZOOM
 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 - 5:30 P.M.
 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	District	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S			APPOINTED BY:
		21	21	21	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22			
Manny Chamizo	2	P	P	P	*-	P	P	A	A	*	*	*	P			Vince Lago
Daniel Tormo	3	-	P	A	*-	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	P			Jorge L. Fors
Juan A. Galan Jr	3	E	P	P	*-	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	A			Rhonda Anderson
Alex Stancioff	1	P	P	P	*-	P	P	A	P	*	*	*	P			Kirk Menendez
Joel Kallan	4	-	-	-	*-	-	-	-	P	*	*	*	P			Michael Mena
Douglas Yoder	CR	P	P	P	*-	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	P			Peter Iglesias
Bertram Goldsmith	7	P	P	P	*-	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	P			Commission-As-A-Whole
John Swain	2	P	P	P	*-	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	P			Commission-As-A-Whole
Andria Codina Miyares	6	A	A	P	*-	P	P	P	A	*	*	*	R			Board-As-A-Whole

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

STAFF:

- Jorge Acevedo, Utilities & ROW Division Chief/Board Secretary
- Tiffany Crumbley, Recording Secretary
- Sergeant Guido Antezana, Marine Patrol

GUESTS:

- Solanch Lopez, Assistant to the City Manager and Co-Executive Director of the Keep Coral Gables Beautiful Program
- Lucy Lopez, Resident

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by the vice-chairman. The roll call was done and quorum was met. Mr. Acevedo informed that Board member, Andria Codina, has resigned.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

A motion was made to *“Approve the minutes of May 4, 2022” with no changes. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.*

DISCUSSIONS:

Mr. Stancioff requested a follow-up to the waterways previous discussions. He stated Mr. Galan was behind this effort and feedback from the City Attorney's Office is still pending relating to the possibility of alerting property owners as to the limitations of boats. Mr. Acevedo stated he will follow-up with the City Attorney's Office.

Mr. Yoder requested an update on the water quality study. Mr. Acevedo stated the program is going to move forward for another year. He is planning on having the FIU staff attend a future Board meeting to provide a full report.

Mr. Goldsmith suggested inviting Mr. Aguirre to a future meeting as well and he would reach out.

Mr. Chamizo requested an update on the Cocoplum bridge. Mr. Acevedo reported that construction is scheduled for next summer. In preparation for this, the City is relocating the sewer pipe that crosses the bridge within the next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

International Coastal Cleanup Day - September 17, 2022

Ms. Lopez stated this year will be the third year Coral Gables participates in this event and she shared some statistics.

1. In 2020, there were 89 volunteers and 1,100 lbs. of trash was picked up
2. In 2021, 244 volunteers and 1,011 lbs. of trash was picked-up in (3hours) mostly from coastlines: Hammocks, Matheson Hammocks, Cartagena Park/Cocoplum, launch site and Gables by the Sea

This year they have over 300 volunteers and expect to double their efforts with the City's assistance and support.

Ms. Lopez continued by adding that 80% of trash found in ocean comes from the land and the number one littered item are cigarette buds. Buds are made from plastic and smokers should be encouraged to not discard them into storm drains or waterways. The United States goes through half a billion straws each year, there are 60 million plastic bottles in landfills or incinerators, and Styrofoam break into tiny beads which are ingested by fish and lead to human food. In addition, it estimated that there are 5.25 trillion of pieces of plastic in the ocean. The great pacific gyre is a garbage patch floating in the middle of the Pacific Ocean which is twice is size of Texas and by the year 2050, it is estimated that there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish.

Ms. Lopez closed by stating that the International Coastal Cleanup Day cleans hundreds of thousands pounds of garbage. She added that for future events, she would love to have residents along the waterway get involved as well as members of the Waterway Advisory Board.

Mr. Yoder suggested for each Board and representative from their waterway area, take the lead to make those property owners along the waterway aware of this effort. Ms. Lopez stated that they should direct their neighbors to the Keep Coral Gables Beautiful website: <https://www.coralgables.com/departments/public-works/keep-coral-gables-beautiful>.

Mr. Yoder also wanted to point out that the City took the initiative of outlining single use plastics. Ms. Lopez added that although the City cannot regulate this, businesses are highly encouraged to minimize the use of plastics. In addition, in order to take part of the City's Green Business Certification program, this would be a requirement.

Mr. Goldsmith suggested for wording to be added to storm drains covers "this enters the bay, please don't dump any garbage". The City of Miami has then. Mr. Stancioff added that he feels this does work.

Coral Gables Plan for Septic to Sewer Conversion

Mr. Yoder stated he is aware there is funding for septic to sewer conversion and would like to know what the City's plan is. Mr. Acevedo responded that the City applied for (2) grants. The first grant was in the amount of \$2.7 million for the conversion from septic to sewer in the Kings Bay area. This amount would have covered approximately 40% to 50% of its construction cost. However, when the project was presented to the Kings Bay community, it was rejected, the City Commission approved the community's decision and grant was returned to the State. The City tried implementing similar project in different area but was unsuccessful. The second grant, is more of a master plan for the septic to sewer conversion, citywide. The grant amount is \$500,000. City staff is currently working on the grant documents to receive the funds. Once received, the City will start the procurement process to attain a consultant for the preparation of bid documents. Mr. Yoder stated he would like to see the scope when its ready and Mr. Acevedo said he will share with the Board when ready.

Mr. Yoder stated that he assumes the City will work with Miami-Dade to determine which areas are susceptible to sea level rise. Mr. Acevedo said yes and added that the idea is to identify the best areas to start a project.

Mr. Stancioff asked about the sewer work currently along Alhambra. Acevedo stated this relates to a forcemain being replaced. This is a collection system and not a gravity system. The easy way for homes to connect to sewer is via a gravity system. In order to connect to a forcemain, a pump station would be necessary. Mr. Stancioff commented there's a new pump station on Lugo Ave. Mr. Acevedo said this is another project consisting of (14) pump stations and their replacement of electrical panels to submersible one. This will comply with compliance and regulations for sea level high rise and allow for pump stations to continue to operate in case of water surcharges.

Mr. Stancioff stated this effort is very important however doesn't feel there's a sense of urgency to convert to sewer. Mr. Yoder stated this is very expensive and for the first time, money has become available to help. This cost would typically falls on the homeowner.

Mr. Yoder asked if there's anything happening on the City's efforts to underground the electric lines. If this was going to happen it would make sense to coordinate with the sewer as well. Mr. Acevedo stated he does not have any information on undergrounding power lines.

Mr. Acevedo stated the stormwater master plan will also be shared with the Board. Mr. Yoder said it would make sense to do something to address the prior discussion of being able to limit what goes into the storm drains. Mr. Goldsmith asked if the grates can be made "less opened" and Mr. Acevedo said yes. Mr. Yoder commented this would cause clogging faster.

Marine Patrol Report

Sergeant Antezana provided an update on various events the Marine Patrol was involved in over the summer. In addition to their cooperation with the Coast Guard regarding Haitian migrant boat and suicidal individual, they provided boater safety and hurricane preparedness classes. He added due to Sunday's tragic event, these will increase.

Mr. Chamizo asked how the Board can promote these safety classes. Officer ??? stated there's a presentation that is shared at community meetings given by other officers. He said they are planning to increase their outreach to the communities has for these safety classes.

Mr. Kallan Inquired about adding cameras to bridges and shared an email from the previous administration stating there were funds available. He added that at least on LeJeune bridge would work but all if would be great on all bridges.

It was suggested for Mr. Kallan to following up with an email to Chief Hudak regarding cameras installation on bridges.

Mr. Chamizo shared his concerns with the maintenance of wake signs and channel markers. MR. Acevedo shared that the Public Works Department has a program for channel marker replacements. However, this is only for City owned markers.

Sergeant Antezana shared an issue they have been encountering with bright LED lights on vessels which blinds everyone. This is considered an infraction for improper display of lights.

Mr. Chamizo what assistance does the Marine Patrol need from the Board. Sergeant Antezana said is to increase interest on the safety classes offered by the Marine Patrol.

Mr. Chamizo advised Officer ??? that kids continue to jump off the Cocoplum bridge. He asked for Police to be contacted when this happens.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:40PM

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, October 5th, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.