

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
WATERWAY ADVISORY BOARD
 HYBRID MEETING AT CITY HALL/ZOOM
 WEDNESDAY, March 6, 2024 - 5:30 P.M.
 MEETING MINUTES

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

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

(*) – No Meeting

STAFF:

- Lorena Garrido, Central Administration Division Manager
- Yanissey Solivera, Administrative Assistant
- Sergeant Guido Antezana
- Martha Pantin, Communications & Public Affairs Director

GUESTS:

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Mr. Yoder. Quorum was met.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

Mr. Nolan made the motion to approve the minutes of February 7, 2024, seconded by Mr. Ritzenthaler, all were in favor, and adopted unanimously.

DISCUSSION:

As requested by the Board, Martha Pantin, Communications & Public Affairs Director, was present to discuss and answer questions relating to communication options for waterway property owners.

Ms. Pantin brought up the subject of conveying information to the waterway homeowners by USPS mail. She stated that there are approximately 3,600 properties that are on the waterway and the cost associated to mail out a postcard would be approximately \$2,000-3,000. She added with a post card there is limited space; however, they can include a QR code which will direct residents to the City's waterway webpage.

Ms. Garrido added that that the City would be able to pay for this informational postcard; however, it is not something that can be done on a regular basis due to the expense involved.

Mr. Yoder asked Ms. Pantin if the Communications Department maintains email addresses for homeowners residing along the waterway. Ms. Pantin said no because it would become a public record, and anyone can have access to it.

Mrs. Sanabria volunteered to reach out to the new HOA Board of the City and see if they could attend an upcoming WAB meeting.

The Board suggested that the following items are added to the City Waterways website:

- Manatee information with photo.
- Speeding regulations.
- Homeowner education on Water Quality.
- Dockage, no double dockage, and no rental of vessels.
- House number on rear of property.
- Environmental information from Coast Guard.

Ms. Garrido stated some of these suggested topics are already included in the City's website.

Mrs. Sanabria inquired about fresh water and non-ocean access properties. She asked if they are considered part of the properties on the waterway and if the City has any responsibility over them. Ms. Garrido said that the City has a contract with a vendor that goes out and treats two enclosed canals within Gables by the Sea; however, now there's limited access to one of the canals because the owner is no longer allowing the vendor to gain access through their property. Mrs. Sanabria asked if the City has a responsibility to clean it up. Ms. Garrido said that the City is looking into it because it may be an HOA issue, being that it is an enclosed body, and it serves the certain homes surrounding the body.

Mr. Nolan brought up the subject of a possible construction at the end of the Mahi Canal. He stated that he saw a picture of the proposed building and inquired about the permitting process with the city. Ms. Garrido stated that there is a process when it comes to new construction, starting with the Development Review Committee (DRC), but she is not familiar with this project and doesn't know in what stage in the process this project is at. She said that she would look into it and share her findings. Mrs. Sanabria stated that the developer is Edgardo Defortuna, founder of Fortune International Group and it will be a 251-unit luxury condo, 4.8-acre property on South Alhambra Circle, Caballero Boulevard and U.S. 1.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

MARINE PATROL REPORT:

Sgt. Antezana reported on a fuel spill at Gables by the Sea. He stated the Coast Guard was notified and they have been out there at least twice but haven't been able to identify the source; however, they will continue to investigate. Sgt. Antezana also reported on the channel markers. He stated that the information was relayed to the appropriate department, who will contact the contractor to repair them. He added they found a dead manatee in Gables States and FWC recovered the body and are performing a necropsy. Sgt. Antezana stated that he reached out to FWC regarding getting additional manatee signs and is waiting to hear back from them.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, April 4, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.