

TRAFFIC ADVISORY BOARD
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2014 5:30 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	APPOINTED BY:
	<small>13</small>	<small>14</small>											
Ignacio G. Borbolla	P	P	+	A	P	E	P	+-	P	E	P	E	Jim Cason
Gordon Sokoloff	P	P	+	P	P	P	E	+-	P	E	P	P	Patricia Keon
Deborah Swain	P	P	+	P	P	P	P	+-	P	P	P	P	Vince Lago
Chris Morrison	-	-	-	-	P	P	P	+-	P	P	P	P	William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Albert Corrada	E	A	+	A	E	(#)	P	+-	P	P	P	P	Frank C. Quesada
Donna Kupper	P	P	+	P	P	P	E	+-	E	P	P	P	Commission-as-a-Whole
VACANT	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	City Manager

P - Present
E - Excused Absence
A - Absent
*** - New Member**
+ - No Meeting
(#) Resigned

STAFF:

Jessica Keller, Assistant Public Works Director
Yamilet Senespleda, Public Works City Engineer/Senior Traffic Engineer
Ludwik Janiga, Public Works, Civil Engineer
Jeannette Reyes, Public Works, Clerical Assistant II
Alejandro Escobar, C.G. Police Sergeant
Robert Lowman, C.G. Division Fire Chief

GUESTS:

Larry Saichek, Coral Gables Resident

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Swain called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

October 21, 2014 Meeting Minutes – Mrs. Kupper made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and changed, Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

ABSENCE:

Mr. Morrison made a motion to excuse Mr. Borbolla absence, Mrs. Kupper seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

MOTIONS:

Mr. Morrison made a motion to support and present the proposal to the County for the Segovia Street and San Esteban Avenue intersection realignment, Mr. Sokoloff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Segovia Street and San Esteban Avenue intersection realignment – Yamilet presented the Board with the plans for the proposed Segovia Street and San Esteban Avenue intersection realignment. Yamilet explained that when drivers who are not familiar with the area are on Segovia heading SW they get confused thinking that the San Esteban side of the street is still Segovia Street causing them to go on to other side streets and getting lost in the process. A couple of residents complained to the Vice Mayor, not only about the confused drivers but because there are ten (10) stop signs in that intersection and a stop bar. The City proposed an intersection realignment, to make the intersection one versus two, as it is now. Staff wanted to bring this proposal to the Board and get their feedback before presenting it to the County.

Mr. Morrison asked Police & Fire if they had an issue with it and they both responded no.

TRAFFIC UPDATE:

Alhambra & Miller – at the last meeting it was mentioned that this project would be completed in four weeks. The paving started today therefore it should be completed this week.

San Amaro & Alhambra – realignment will be finalized tomorrow.

Pedestrian crossing LeJeune Road & Ingraham Highway – future project. The City received agreed confirmation from Miami-Dade County. The issue will be signalization; the County is currently looking at adjusting the timing.

Granada pedestrian bridge – staff is still waiting on the short span steel bridge to arrive.

Cartagena Plaza – The County seems to be moving on this project, workers were seen two weeks ago surveying the area. Jessica stated that the bus stop is not going to be relocated at this point in time assuming they can move forward.

POLICE UPDATE:

Since Coral Gables is the center of the County, there are a lot of cut-through, therefore Police are initiating enforcement, mainly on streets that are busy and speed is an issue. North Greenway, South Greenway, Granada, Riviera and Maynada are some of the streets being enforced.

Mrs. Swain mentioned last month there was discussion about Anderson and University Drive and 2 days later there was a fender bender at the intersection. Mrs. Swain asked what does Police think is the issue. Sgt. Escobar said in his opinion, the trees have a lot to do with it. Mrs. Kupper asked Police and Fire if they've had problems with the suggested traffic circle on Anderson and University. They said that if it's built correctly, they do not have a problem with it.

Mr. Sokoloff suggested that North and South Greenway's speed limit should be lowered from 30 to 25 mph.

Sgt. Escobar asked that if anyone on the Board, staff or residents have any issues with speed or traffic, to let him know. Mrs. Swain said she would like Police to check University on the south side of Bird Road, there is speeding there and she would like to see enforcement.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mrs. Kupper wanted to discuss the zones. Jeannette said she spoke with Imelys, City Clerk's Office, and Imelys said there is nothing in writing stating that a Board member has to live in the zone in order to represent that zone. Imelys questioned the Commissioners and is waiting for their feedback.

Mrs. Kupper mentioned, currently there is a vacant position on the Board for the City Manager. Mrs. Kupper spoke to Imelys about this in which Imelys said that someone can be appointed at any time. The assistant CM can appoint anyone as well. Jessica said that Carmen Olazabal, Interim City Manager, has been reaching out. Mrs. Swain wants for the person(s) interested in being a part of the Board, to be someone who has an interest in participating, the ability and willingness to come to all the meetings, if not all, close to it.

Mr. Morrison asked if the Board is ready to discuss adding more people to deal with the issues for the Ped/Bike & Trolley or will the current members share the responsibility. Mrs. Swain stated that the action at the last meeting was that the existing Board will take-on the additional responsibility. Mrs. Swain asked that 2 items: 1- for Pedestrian/Bicycles; and 2- for Trolley be added to the agenda for monthly updates.

Mrs. Swain asked for the status on the Trolley route and pedestrian crossing on US1. Jessica said the service will begin the middle of next year 2015. It will be servicing at the MacFarlane Homestead.

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Continued

Mr. Sokoloff asked how many members attend the commission meetings. He would like to know how is what the Board says in their meetings presented to the City Commission. Jessica explained the minutes are submitted in a package through the agenda, the minutes are read and if they want to discuss something they pull the minutes from the Board in question. Jessica further said if members have anything important they would like discussed to contact their Commissioners directly. Mr. Sokoloff spoke to Commissioner Quesada about the Agave project and questioned him about what he thought of the project and Commissioner Quesada stated that the project will go through because there is nothing illegal about it. Mr. Sokoloff's point is, if the Board just stands by and watches as 18-stories building go up in the City, like the W hotel on Valencia & LeJeune and the Agave project causing gridlock is there anything the TAB board can say that will really affect the decision on these projects moving forward. Mrs. Swain said it can, for example she knows that Commissioners don't see the minutes for at least a month or so and if there is no quorum, they won't see it for two months. What Mrs. Swain does is when the Board makes a motion to proceed with something, she writes it down and the following day she sends an e-mail to the Commission advising of the motions and what the actions were. If she thinks it's important she will personally call and speak with the Commissioner. Jessica assured that the commissioners do ask, at times, if a certain project was presented to the Traffic Advisory Board and what the Board's opinions and suggestions were.

Mr. Corrada asked Police if traffic cameras are being enforced in the City. Sgt. Escobar said yes, he said there is one on Alhambra & LeJeune, two at Almeria and Ponce, one at Jefferson and the HWY and one on Riviera and the HWY. Mr. Corrada asked about a case stating the cameras are illegal. Sgt. Escobar said it is a Hollywood case that is being reviewed and appealed. The stats on tickets issued due to traffic cameras in Coral Gables are:

2009 – 5,000
2010 – 18,000
2011 – 11,000
2012 – 8,000
2013 – 5,000

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.