

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
WATERWAY ADVISORY BOARD
 HYBRID MEETING AT CITY HALL/ZOOM
 WEDNESDAY, January 3, 2024 - 5:30 P.M.
 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	District	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	APPOINTED BY:
		23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	24	
Manny Chamizo	2	P	A	P	A	P*	*	*	P	P	A	A	A	Vince Lago
Pat Nolan	1								P	P	P	P	p	Melissa Castro
Juan A. Galan Jr	3	P	P	P	A	P	*	*	P	P	A	P	P	Rhonda Anderson
Kevin Ritzenthaler	1	A	A	P	P	P	*	*	A	A	P	A	p	Kirk Menendez
Nancy Sanabria	7								P	P	P	P	p	Ariel Fernandez
Douglas Yoder	CR	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	P	P	P	A	P	Peter Iglesias
Bertram Goldsmith	7	P	P	A	P	P	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	Commission-As-A-Whole
Levi Meyer	6	P	P	A	A	P	*	*	P	P	P	A	p	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
- Jessie Acebo, Assistant to the Public Works Director
- Lieutenant John Luna, Marine Patrol

GUESTS:

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mr. Yoder. Quorum was met.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

Mr. Goldsmith made the motion to approve the minutes of November 1, 2023, seconded by Mr. Ritzenthaler, all were in favor, and adopted unanimously.

DISCUSSIONS:

The Board reviewed the 2024 meeting schedule and inquired about the workshop meetings. Ms. Garrido stated that during the last meeting we discussed possibly starting the meetings earlier for a few months in lieu of having additional meetings. She said that staff reached out to the administration, and they suggested holding longer meetings in lieu of workshop meetings.

Mr. Goldsmith made a motion to start the February 7th meeting at 4:30pm. to discuss vegetation trimming for safety and navigation. Motion was seconded by Mr. Nolan, all were in favor.

Mrs. Sanabria suggests that the Board attends City Commission meeting to request assistance with mangrove trimming. Mr. Galan said that this is a City Manager form of government and suggested to address it with the City Manager. Mr. Yoder stated that the Board adopted a resolution regarding the mangrove trimming which was presented to the City Commission and the City Manager was not in favor of the City taking full responsibility and considers this to be a Homeowner Association issue.

Mrs. Sanabria inquired about the process to request capital funds to trim the mangroves. Ms. Garrido said that if an item does not get approved the previous year, Public Works updates the request and resubmits for approval the following fiscal year. Mrs. Sanabria asked if there is a time frame for the resubmission. Ms. Garrido said that the cycle begins in February or March. Mr. Galan suggested that as soon as the Public Works Department has a budget prepared, the Board receives a preliminary copy before it's presented to the City Commission to allow for review and to advocate for the waterway aspect of the budget. Ms. Garrido added that the idea for the capital funds is to have a mangrove trimming / maintenance program and to have \$50,000 every year for this program. Mrs. Sanabria asked if the funds were utilized in 2021 when Public Works had it in the budget. Ms. Garrido clarified that Public Works requested capital funds for mangrove trimming, in fiscal year 2021 however funding was not approved. Public Works will go through the process this year and resubmit the request for this program. Mr. Galan stated that it would be beneficial for the Board if someone from the Finance Department attended a Board Meeting to explain the budgeting process.

Mr. Yoder requested that at the February meeting, staff provides an update on the survey identifying the areas that create safety and navigation problems on the waterways and a report from Code Enforcement regarding notices to homeowners' associations and individual property owners where trimming is needed.

The Board is requesting that Code Enforcement attends the February meeting to address issues in the waterways.

Ms. Sanabria stated that she spoke with an arborist who is very familiar with trimming mangroves and told her that there are federal and state funds available that can be used to trim the mangroves.

Ms. Sanabria inquired about the Waterways webpage. Ms. Garrido stated that the City is trying to revamp the waterways webpage and the goal is to educate homeowners that live along the waterways. She said that she will send the Board a link to the web page to browse at their discretion

and make recommendations. Mrs. Sanabria said that their first recommendation would be to reference the Waterways Advisory Board's information reflecting the Board meetings. Ms. Garrido said a link can be added to the City's Board webpage which is under the City Clerk's Office. Mr. Galan asked if the Board could obtain mailing and email addresses for residents that live on the waterway. Ms. Garrido said that City's IT Department can gather the addresses; however, the concern may be the cost to mail out the information because the cost to mail out the previous postcard was about \$3,000.00.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

MARINE PATROL REPORT:

Lieutenant Luna reported on an incident they had on December 24th on the waterway which they stopped a couple of jet skis that were speeding. They were able to identify the owner and confirm that they were illegally renting the jet skis. He said the stop resulted in 2 arrests and the jet skis were towed away.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.