

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
Communication Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 15, 2018, 8:30 a.m.
Youth Center Auditorium
405 University Drive
Coral Gables, FL

MEMBERS	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	COMMISSIONERS
	'17	'17	'17	'17	'17	'17	'17	'17	'17	'17	'17	'18	'18	
Tina Sayago									P	R	*	*	R	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Margarita Delgado	E	+	P	R										
Derrek Space	P	+	P	P	*	*	*	*	P	P	*	*	P	Vice Mayor Pat Keon
Alexandra Pantin	P	+	E	P	*	*	*	*	E	P	*	*	P	Commissioner Vince Lago
Connie Crowther	P	+	P	P	*	*	*	*	P	P	*	*	P	Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
TJ Villamil	P	+	P	A	*	*	*	*	E	E	*	*	P	Commissioner Michael Mena

A = Absent
E = Excused Absence
P = Present
R = Resigned
* = No Meeting
+ = No Quorum

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Michael Rocha, CGTV Multimedia Production Manager
Rayza Collazo, IT Department

Mr. TJ Villamil brought the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

Motion:

Ms. Connie Crowther made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2017 meeting. Mr. Derrek Space seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Connie Crowther said the new chairperson of this committee is Sandy Gonzalez-Levy. Members were happy to hear. She congratulated CGTV for winning an Emmy.

Mr. Villamil commented on how nice the Giralda Plaza is now with the street closed. Ms. Crowther said she frequents the plaza for dinner or walking and thinks it will become part of people's routine.

Mr. Villamil said a new great addition is the Freebee service, which he uses all the time. It is available for free from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and there is no wait time if you call for service between 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. This and the new bike lanes have been welcomed changes.

Presentation on the new website

Ms. Rayza Collazo from the IT Department showcased the new website design. She explained the design of the new homepage, which includes a community calendar and section for current news. They are still transitioning information from the current website to the new, but wanted to showcase the new design to this board. This is still a beta webpage.

Ms. Collazo said that the web navigation is much easier and doesn't require multiple clicks to find a page. Users can hover over the area of interest and get to a page with just one click.

Ms. Crowther loves the look and thinks this design has the right colors and fonts. She also was happy to see the featured beauty photos. Ms. Collazo said they are still working on additional photographs of Streetscape to promote the nightlife. Ms. Crowther suggested adding images of the residential experience, such as a resident standing on a balcony looking over a golf course.

Members liked the new website design. Ms. Collazo said they are presenting this design to various boards for input. Implementation of the new design depends on how fast they can migrate the data to the new site.

Mr. Villamil inquired about who is in charge of the technical aspect of social media. He has emailed Commissioner Lago that some of the newly purchased parks don't appear on Google maps. Ms. Collazo replied that Google controls its own information but her department has the ability to request that they add map updates. Mr. Villamil said the city's plan to acquire additional land for passive parks is one of his favorite programs, so when he sees vacant lots he emails the information to Commission members.

CGTV

Mr. Michael Rocha presented the Emmy trophy to members. He explained the process of selection from the various nominations on each category. This was a good accomplishment for the department and the City. Members agreed.

Ms. Crowther inquired about the Streetscape Project and said looks like it is almost finished. The City Commission received an update on Tuesday from ACM Peter Iglesias, who said the project should be finished by March. They are working on final punch list items.

Mr. Villamil said the project has forced him in a positive way to use his car less. He bought a bike and is thinking of only having one car for him and his wife and do more walking, biking or use Uber, Lyft or Freebee more often.

Brief discussion was held regarding the status of annexation.

Ms. Crowther said she attended this week's Commission meeting and a topic that is occupying people's interest is the new public safety building. She attended the meeting on behalf of the Historic Preservation Association to discuss the 1920s street lights that were originally designed by Denman Fink. Back in the 20s there were 500 white way lights and about 200 when she moved to Coral Gables in the 1960s. Today, there are only 45 of them, which are owned by FPL. There is one completely light restored and erected at the Coral Gables Museum, and they are hoping to make a mold to preserve them. She said it's going to cost some money, but is a worthy effort. She suggested using FEMA funding, Art in Public Places or Historic Preservation funding to save the street lights.

Mr. Villamil inquired if the issue of the Segovia sculpture has die down. Members have not heard any further discussion on the topic. Ms. Crowther inquired why the mist function of the flower sculpture is not turned on. She asked Mr. Rocha to forward the inquiry to Ms. Higgins Fallon for a follow up.

Ms. Crowther shared a recent article she wrote as an op-ed for the Miami Herald regarding ethics. She would like others to share their work with the committee as well.

With no further issues to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.