

CITY OF CORAL GABLES/UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2008
Coral Gables Police Department Community Meeting Room
Coral Gables, Florida

MEMBERS:

Robert Berman
 Tamara Hartnett
 Rick Munarriz
 Elizabeth Kakouris
 Bruce Steinberger
 Sydney Josepher*
 Dr. Patricia A. Whitely
 Rudy Fernandez*
 David Rivero
 Claudia Mendoza*
 Brandon Gross*

	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	JA	S	O
Robert Berman	P	+	+	P	P	+	P	P	++	P	P
Tamara Hartnett	-	-	-	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	P
Rick Munarriz	P	+	+	P	P	+	P	E	++	P	P
Elizabeth Kakouris	A	+	+	E	P	+	P	P	++	P	P
Bruce Steinberger	P	+	+	P	P	+	P	P	++	P	P
Sydney Josepher*	-	-	-	P	-	-	P	-	-	P	P
Dr. Patricia A. Whitely	P	+	+	P	P	+	P	P	++	P	P
Rudy Fernandez*	-	-	-	E	-	-	-	-	-	P	P
David Rivero	P	+	+	E	P	-	P	-	-	P	P
Claudia Mendoza*	-	-	-	P	-	-	P	-	-	P	P
Brandon Gross*	-	+	+	P	-	+	P	-	++	-	P

APPOINTED BY:

Mayor Donald D. Slesnick, II
 Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
 Comm. Maria Anderson
 Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
 Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
 City Manager David Brown
 Vice President, Student Affairs, UM
 Vice President, Community Relations, UM
 Director of Public Safety, UM
 Student Government President, UM
 Interfraternity Council President, UM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Edward M. Weller, Building and Zoning Department

A = Absent
E = Excused
P = Present
 + = No Meeting
 * = New Member

GUESTS:

Margot S. Winick, Alicia Corral and Vivian Miller, University of Miami; William Hartnett

Recording Secretary:

Nancy C. Morgan, Coral Gables Services, Inc.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Berman at 5:05 p.m. Committee members introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 5, 2008:

Mr. Munariz made a motion to approve the May 5, 2008 minutes. Mr. Josepher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON U.M. PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION INITIATIVES:

As an update on University campus projects, Ms. Winnick and Ms. Corral reported as follows:

- Freshmen residents have been notified not to bring cars on campus.
- A Zip Car program was launched (a car-sharing program available by annual membership and an hourly fee, and available to students, faculty and members of the community) to facilitate movement around the community. The program is doing well, with 704 hours purchased during the month of September. Brandon Gross was instrumental in the University's adoption of the program.
- A bicycle program has begun, and sidewalks have been widened to accommodate biking and pedestrian traffic. An air pump station was added to campus garages, and lighting was improved for additional safety. Bicycles and helmets are being sold at the bookstore.
- Construction projects update:
 - The Serpentine lot is completed and provides 688 total spaces.

Monday, October 6, 2008

Continued

- The Alumni Center utility work is proceeding.
- The baseball stadium should be completed by February 2009.
- The basketball practice facility should be completed by February 2009.
- Townhouses are under construction, to be completed by November.
- The SAE house is under construction and should be finished in one year.
- Permitting is underway for the Student Activity Center.
- The demolition of the Rathskeller is scheduled in January or February.
- The internal road at the Miller/San Amaro intersection is proceeding on schedule. Permit plans will be submitted to the City by the end of December. A meeting with neighbors and there were no objections to the plans. The church also supported the plans.
- U.M. football games are currently held at Dolphin Stadium. Students are transported to games by bus.
- Festival Miami begins Thursday, October 9, 2008.
- Decision '08 is featuring political events and lectures. Tickets are offered to neighbors as well.
- Greeks and Goblins, an annual Halloween event, will host 300 underprivileged children.
- Homecoming begins Friday, October 24, 2008, and will include a parade, fireworks and a kids village.
- A special tribute was given for Chief Michael Hammerschmidt at the last U.M. football game. The Chief's family was present as well as Commissioner Anderson. The U.M. Board of Trustees presented a special proclamation to the Hammerschmidt family, and it was filmed and shown during halftime.

IV. UPDATE/PRESIDENT OF INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL: BRANDON GROSS

Mr. Gross reported the following:

- Construction began on the SAE fraternity house, which should be completed by Fall 2009.
- All fraternity houses were checked for fire safety two weeks ago and all passed.
- Pi Kappa Phi will come on campus this semester, and AE Pi will come on campus in the Spring.
- All fraternity houses will be decorated for the Greeks and Goblins event.
- Regarding Student Government activities, Mr. Gross met with all City Commissioners between May and August 2008 to review how the University and the community can work together. One idea generated was to host a Senate meeting at City Hall and details for that initiative are underway.

V. UPDATE/VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

Ms. Medina reported as follows:

- With the help of U.M. administration, the Zip Car program was implemented to alleviate traffic in the community.
- In keeping with the Green U initiative, a Prius car is available.
- The new bike program has resulted in the sale of 300 bikes, and the waiting list for other bicycle purchases is long and should be shortly satisfied.
- Shuttle service will also help with traffic in the surrounding community.
- Several recycling initiatives are underway.
- The political lecture series, open to the community, has been well attended and received. Lectures with prominent political pundits are scheduled prior to the November 4th election.
- Mr. Fernandez underscored the University's appreciation for accommodations made for these events by the City and Coral Gables Police Department during political debates and the presence of dignitaries. The City Manager's office was noted as very cooperative. Senator Obama was already hosted and it is anticipated that Senator McCain will also visit the campus prior to election day. BankUnited Center will also be an election polling site. It is anticipated that there will be a large student voting turnout.

VI. MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Monday, October 6, 2008

Continued

Chief Rivero made a motion to excuse Ms. Hartnett and Mr. Fernandez from the May 5, 2008 meeting. Ms. Medina seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VII. MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR:

Campus Update: Dr. Whitely reported a good start for the semester, with several events celebrating the Last Call of the Rat and excitement about the new Student Activity Center. Current enrollment is 10,000 undergraduates. A noticeable decrease in traffic on campus has been noted.

Stanford Bernholtz, a University community neighbor, Comments: Mr. Bernholtz addressed the Committee with comments as follows:

- He attended a meeting on March 27 regarding campus construction, when he voiced his concern about pedestrians crossing San Amaro Drive.
- He submitted a letter to the University requesting the installation of a traffic light at the entrance to the Law School.
- He received a letter from a U.M. engineer and had a meeting with him the following day to discuss traffic signalization.
- He received a letter from the engineer stating that a traffic control system would be installed in 60 days; however, that letter was written one and a half years ago, and Mr. Bernholtz requested an update of this issue.

Ms. Corral reported that engineers conducted a study on traffic at that intersection and reported that the volume did not qualify for a traffic control system. The University's internal road plans will close off the on-campus Miller Road entrance at the Law School. At present, there are no plans to install a traffic signal. In addition, Mr. Delgado, Public Works Director, stated that the crosswalks were the only accommodation that would be appropriate as the intersection did not qualify for the installation.

VIII. SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting shall be Monday February 2, 2009 (unless a meeting is necessary prior to the February meeting).

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward M. Weller
Secretary to the Community Relations Committee