

CITY OF CORAL GABLES WATERWAY ADVISORY BOARD  
 CORAL GABLES LIBRARY – CONFERENCE ROOM  
 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016 5:30 P.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	DISTRICT	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY:
		16	16	16	16	16	16	16	
Jeff Hicks	2	P	*	*					James C. Cason
Manny Vigil		A	*	*					Frank C. Quesada
Juan A. Galan Jr	3	P	*	*					Patricia Keon
Manny Chamizo	1	P	*	*					Vince Lago
Laura Roberts	2	P	*	*					Jeannette Slesnick
Douglas Yoder	7	P	*	*					Cathy Swanson- Rivenbark
Vacant									Commission-As-A- Whole
Vacant									Commission-As-A- Whole
Vacant									Board-As-A-Whole

**P – Present**  
**E – Excused Absence**  
**A – Absent**  
**(-) – No Appointment**  
**(\*) – No Meeting**

**STAFF:**

1. John Osgood, Assistant Public Works Director / Board Secretary
2. Jorge Acevedo, Utilities Division Director
3. Jessica Keller, Interim Public Works Director
4. Dora Sequeira, Clerical Assistant II
5. Ray Toledo, Coral Gables Police Department-Marine Unit
6. Randy Hoff, Coral Gables Police Department-Marine Unit

**GUEST:**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Ms. Keller called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. – This is the first meeting of the Waterway Advisory Board; Members and staff introduced themselves.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

- N/A

**MOTIONS/ACTIONS**

- **Mr. Galan made a motion that Mr. Chamizo serve as Chair; seconded by Mr. Hicks. The motion was unanimously approved and Mr. Chamizo accepted the position.**
- **The Board agreed to set the meeting date/time and location as follows: the first Wednesday of month, 5:30 P.M. at the Coral Gables Library. There was discussion of recessing for the months of July and December, but specifics are to be determined.**

*Purpose and Responsibilities of the Waterway Advisory Board (WAB)* – Ms. Keller summarized the purpose of the board related to key issue areas of maintenance, safety and recreation; discussed responsibility to report back to their respective appointer; mentioned that setting clear goals is important in order to be productive and bring about meaningful change; distributed a handout on the topic of sunshine law and mentioned that the City Attorney’s office would provide a more in depth presentation of sunshine responsibilities at the next meeting.

*Discussion of Board representation by Waterway Districts* – this will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

*Discussion of Priorities* – Mr. Galan initiated the discussion in terms of topics – safety, liability, invasive species, infrastructure and sea level rise; Mr. Hicks inquired about the maintenance and code enforcement programs for the waterway, and mentioned the importance of the waterway as a community asset; Sergeant Hoff described the code enforcement process between Marine Patrol and Development Services; Mr. Acevedo discussed general city maintenance responsibilities (e.g. seaweed removal).

Mr. Yoder and Ms. Roberts initiated discussion of private property lines and waterway right-of-way in terms of how to determine maintenance responsibilities. Sergeant Hoff mentioned it could be a property to property decision, based on how the property was platted. Mr. Acevedo indicated in cases where a tree or other obstruction is a safety hazard or impeding navigability, the City will abate the situation.

Members and staff engaged in general discussion of water quality issues and concerns – dredging, discharges into the waterway, water quality analysis in terms of chemicals/minerals in the water; recommendation/inquiry into what studies or analyses have been done or should be done.

Mr. Chamizo suggested members provide their top 5 priorities to staff to compile for further discussion and prioritization (see attached memo).

*Marine Patrol Discussion and Issues* – Sergeant Hoff and members discussed a range of issues and questions:

- Fishing – prohibited from bridges; allowed from banks – e.g. under LeJeune Road bridge
- Signage – review related to education, recreational safety, waterway guidelines, culverts (label, paint, signs); Sgt. Hoff mentioned intention to replace all permitted signage throughout the waterway; Mr. Acevedo mentioned ongoing program to replace channel markers.

- Code Enforcement – coordination between PD and Development Services
- Crime watch – Sgt. Hoff raised the point of using the WAB to improve communications in case of emergencies; community outreach in hurricane season. Members discussed developing a newsletter.
- Non-resident boats on waterway in hurricane season – Ms. Roberts raised the concern about non-resident boats getting loose and causing damage to resident boats or property. Discussion ensued about safe harbor guidelines, tie down/anchor areas, and importance of keeping waterways navigable and free of obstructions.
- Safety rules for watercraft and paddleboards – Sergeant Hoff stressed the need to be realistic in our focus – important to balance education and enforcement, with emphasis on education at first.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, September 7, 2016 to be held at the *Coral Gables Library*