



The City of Coral Gables

Historical Resources Department

EXCERPTS

CORAL GABLES HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 21, 2015, 4:00 p.m.

City Commission Chambers

405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, Florida

MEMBERS:	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	APPOINTED BY:
	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	15	15	15	15	15	
Dorothy Thomson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Margaret Rolando	P	P	P	E	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Alejandro Silva	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Patricia Keon
Venny Torre	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Frank C. Quesada
Vacancy									^	^	^	^	Commissioner Vince Lago
John Fullerton*										E	P	A	Historic Preservation Board
Robert Parsley*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	City Manager
Dolly MacIntyre	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	City Commission
Judy Pruitt	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	City Commission

LEGEND: A = Absent; P = Present; E = Excused; * = New Member; ^ = Resigned Member; - = No Meeting

STAFF:

- Dona Spain, Historic Preservation Officer
- Kara N. Kautz, Assistant Historic Preservation Officer
- Yesenia Diaz, Administrative Assistant
- Miriam S. Ramos, Deputy City Attorney

GUESTS: Pamela Nixon Fernandez, Elizabeth Guim, Jane Maranos, Karelia Martinez Carbonell, Jaime Bianchi, Paige A. Harper, Genevieve Orr

RECORDING AND PREPARATION OF MINUTES: Nancy C. Morgan, Coral Gables Services, Inc.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Torre at 4:11 p.m. A quorum was present.

DISCUSSION ABOUT HISTORICALLY DESIGNATED "WHITE WAY LIGHTS" AND PRESENTATION BY THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION OF CORAL GABLES:

Ms. Spain's advisory presentation included the display of a location map and description of the historically-designated white way lights, as well as photographs of the lights, their cast iron detailing and various stages of disrepair. She stated the City's desire to restore the lights; however, since Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) owns the lights, the City is unable to undertake the restoration project. Lights that have already been removed by Florida Power & Light Company are retained by the City. In 2012, FPL said the cost to the City of transferring ownership of the lights was a total of \$2,281.40. Ms. Spain recommended official action by the Board for the City to take steps to acquire ownership of all existing white way lights.

Ms. MacIntyre made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rolando, for the City to take steps to purchase all existing historically-designated white way lights.

During discussion, Ms. Spain advised that Board Trust Fund money could be used to pay the purchase cost. In response to a Board inquiry, she said restored white way lights would be installed in the same areas as the originals.

General discussion: Ms. Thomson recalled the late Sarah Anderson's extraordinary efforts to protect the historic lights. Ms. Rolando suggested the lights be converted to LED, and Ms. Spain responded that staff would research the possibility. As discussion continued, Ms. Spain explained that the City would be responsible for maintaining the lights after purchase. Regarding the cost of restoration, Ms. Spain advised that restoration funds were included in the proposed FY 2015/2016 budget. Mr. Torre suggested applying for financial assistance for historic restoration projects from the Art in Public Places fund. Discussion concluded after Ms. Spain reported that the Public Works Department would continue the inventory process of flagging all white way lights for restoration and replacement. FPL has installed temporary lighting to illuminate areas where white way lights were removed.

Roll Call: Ayes: Ms. Pruitt, Mr. Parsley, Ms. Rolando, Ms. Thomson, Ms. MacIntyre. Mr. Torre. Nays: None.

Ms. Spain introduced Ms. Carbonell, President of the Historic Preservation Association of Coral Gables, who said the white way lights were a signature project of the organization, and the late Sarah Anderson was a strong force behind the project's initiation. She thanked the City for recognizing these lights as both historical landmarks and public art.

Ms. Thomson congratulated Mr. Torre for his remarks about seeking financial assistance for restoration costs from the Art in Public Places program.

Ms. Spain advised that she spoke with John Anderson, Sarah Anderson's husband. A plaque in Ms. Anderson's memory will be installed at the intersection of Coral Way, Ponce de Leon Plaza and Granada Boulevard on July 13, 2015 under one of the oak trees Ms. Anderson was responsible for saving. Board members will receive an invitation to attend the ceremony.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.