

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES**  
**WATERWAY ADVISORY BOARD**  
 HYBRID MEETING AT CITY HALL/ZOOM  
 WEDNESDAY, March 1, 2023 - 5:30 P.M.  
 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	District	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	APPOINTED BY:
		22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	23	23	23	
Manny Chamizo	2	A	A	*	*	*	P	*	*	P	A	P	A	Vince Lago
Daniel Tormo	3	P	P	*	*	*	P	*	*	P	P	P	A	Jim Cason
Juan A. Galan Jr	3	P	P	*	*	*	A	*	*	P	P	P	P	Rhonda Anderson
Kevin Ritzenthaler	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	A	A	Kirk Menendez
Joel Kallan	4	-	P	*	*	*	P	*	*	P	P	P	P	Michael Mena
Douglas Yoder	CR	P	P	*	*	*	P	*	*	P	P	P	P	Peter Iglesias
Bertram Goldsmith	7	P	P	*	*	*	P	*	*	E	P	P	P	Commission-As-A-Whole
John Swain	2	P	P	*	*	*	P	*	*	P	P	P	P	Commission-As-A-Whole
Levi Meyer	6										A	P	P	Board-As-A-Whole

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

**STAFF:**

- Jorge Acevedo, Utilities & ROW Division Chief/Board Secretary
- Lorena Garrido, Administrative & Fiscal Affairs Manager
- Yanissey Solivera, Administrative Assistant
- Peter J. Iglesias P.E., City Manager
- Gustavo Ceballos, Deputy City Attorney
- Hermes Diaz, Public Works Director
- Mayor John Baublitz, Marine Patrol
- Sergeant Guido Antezana
- Lieutenant Henry Barnet

**GUESTS:**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Mr. Douglas Yoder. The roll call was done, and quorum was met.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

*Mr. Goldsmith made the motion to approve the January 4, 2023, seconded by Dr. Kallan, all were in favor, and adopted unanimously.*

*Mr. Galan made the motion to approve the February 1, 2023, seconded by Dr. Kallan, all were in favor, and adopted unanimously.*

**DISCUSSIONS:**

As requested by the Board, City Manager, Mr. Peter J. Iglesias was present to answer the Boards questions.

Mr. Yoder brought up the subject of the approval process for waterway related projects. He stated that there are (2) or (3) departments involved in the approval process; however, the City has never involved the Waterway Advisory Board (WAB) in the past. He expressed that the WAB is not keen on the idea of becoming a quasi-judicial Board; however, they have useful input on proposed projects such as incursions, safety, and navigability along the waterway. Mr. Iglesias, City Manager clarified by saying there are (2) departments involved in this approval process, the Building and Public Works Departments. Mr. Iglesias, City Manager added there is also an outside review by DERM. Mr. Galan stated that he resides in an area where a neighbor was asking for a variance, a 45' incursion into the waterway for a boatlift and feels if he's receiving a notice regarding this variance, the WAB should be involved in having a preliminary review, prior to this request getting processed. He asked how can the City process this request without allowing the WAB to make a recommendation. Mr. Iglesias said that he will do some research and report back to the Board. He wants to assure that what the City permits do not impede navigation, especially going beyond what the zoning code allows.

Mr. Galan inquired about architectural standards for the back of the homes and mentioned that there are homes that have 2 story docks. Mr. Iglesias explained that this has to do with the elevation and that there may be some homes that need to have a 2-story dock to allow passengers to disembark and go up to their primary dock. Mr. Galan stated that there are homes on the Mahi waterway that have a 2-story docks where the elevation is high, and they did it to have a better view. Mr. Iglesias said that he would check with zoning to confirm the approval process for the 2 story docks and report back to the Board.

Mr. Swain inquired about the installation of security cameras on the waterway. Mr. Iglesias stated that there is a camera at the exit of the waterway and that for privacy reasons, the City is unable to install additional cameras. Mr. Yoder suggested for the Police Department to implement, in back of the homes, the same program that it's currently being used for the ring cameras in front of the homes. Mr. Iglesias responded that he would discuss with Chief Hudak and report back to the Board.

Mr. Goldsmith stated that there are (2) entrances at Gable by the Sea and on Lugo Street in which cameras are on top of a concrete pole. The cameras have been there for quite some time, and it's covered by tree branches. He is interested in knowing if this was installed by the City. Mr. Iglesias said that he would investigate and report back to the Board.

Dr. Kallan brought up the subject of trees and mangroves that are protruding heavy into the waterways and would like to know whose responsibility is it to maintain them. Mr. Iglesias responded that this is a homeowner's issue and should be handled through the Homeowners Association process. Mr. Galan stated that the mangroves impede navigation and feels that the City should assist with this process. Mr. Iglesias said that he will investigate if navigability in the waterways is a code enforcement issue and report back to the Board.

Mr. Meyer stated that the catch net device on the Miami-Dade County storm drain at Riviera and Jeronimo is letting a lot of trash into the waterway. Mr. Iglesias stated that the City will try to work with lobbyists and the State for funding for an improved system. Mr. Diaz informed the Board that the City is currently working on multiple projects in the area to improve water quality such as the grant that was obtained for the City portion. He also stated that the City is working on the preliminary stages of the water quality structure for the City portion.

Mr. Swain stated that the grates of the storm drains throughout the City are wide allowing a lot of debris to go into the storm drain. Mr. Diaz explained that reducing the size of the grates will create a flooding problem. The City has a lot of trees, and the falling leaves will clog the drains. Mr. Diaz informed the Board that the City started installing an additional grate on the curb drains which will prevent the larger debris to get into the drain.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MARINE PATROL REPORT:**

The Board decided to review marine patrols questions and findings at the next WAB meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Commented [GL1]: See me on the highlighted sections