

City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.coralgables.com



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2025

8:30 AM

City Hall, Commission Chambers

Mayor's Citizens Advisory Council

*Chairperson Sergio Leymarie
Vice Chairperson Mary Snow
Board Member Alexander Bucelo
Board Member Rudford Hamon
Board Member Jeffrey Kurzner
Board Member Sean McGrover
Board Member Arnold Weil*

TO JOIN VIA ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

- Present:** 5 - Chairperson Leymarie, Vice Chairperson Snow, Board Member Kurzner, Board Member Hamon and Board Member Weil
- Absent:** 2 - Board Member Bucelo and Board Member McGrover

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Board member Kurzner motions, chair Leymarie seconds

MEMBER SHARE INPUT FROM RESIDENTS

Chair Leymarie: Several streetlights in the downtown Coral Gables area, Miracle Mile specifically, are out and have taken a long time to be repaired. This is creating unsafe conditions for residents and pedestrians crossing roads and navigating the downtown area at night.

- Liaison response: Public works is aware of these outages and is working with FPL to address.

UPDATES ON CITY INITIATIVES

Belkys Perez, Economic Development Director, provides updates on Miracle Mile

Holiday Pop-up Initiative

- Retail pop-up businesses will take over the front of vacant storefronts on Miracle Mile.
- Initiative will prioritize the 0, 100, and 200 blocks of Miracle Mile and run from November to January, taking place from Friday to Saturday.

Sip and Shop Event, Thursday November 20th, 2025

- Event sponsored by the Uruguayan Consulate, proceeds will go to a charity of the Consulate's choosing.
- Engaging event for retail businesses, increases exposure.

Holiday Decorations

- Holiday decorations in the downtown area will go up this week (Week of November 17th, 2025).
- Theme is better coordinated and more cohesive than years prior, with a main goal of elevating the downtown area.

Carolers

- Will be brought to the downtown area in December, where they will be performing Thursday-Saturday. The goal is to increase the festive feel of the downtown.

Updates to City Parking Map

- The goal of these updates is to change the narrative that there is often no

parking in the downtown area.

- The updated map will show all parking locations in the downtown area, including valet stops. News of this update is being promoted through targeted ads, the city website and social media pages, QR codes, hard copies at information centers and stakeholder locations.

Board member Weil expresses concern over the vacancy rate on Miracle Mile.

- Perez advises that the vacancy rate on Miracle Mile is only 7%, with 7 true vacancies of the 11 storefronts that are empty and have window wraps.

- Perez also advises that the Economic Development department is working closely with property owners to select the right retail mix for the area (ie. athletic wear, menswear, women's fashion, gift shops, and home goods).

BID Update

- City is working with a group of urban consultants, PUMA, to address restarting a business improvement district (BID).

- City will be taking over the tasks previously handled by the old BID that closed over three years ago.

- Belkys advises that a reason a new BID will be an improvement is due to the excessive time and money currently spent on revitalizing the downtown, which does not allow for dedicating the same attention to other businesses in the city.

- PUMA consultants will be reaching out to residents in the downtown and surrounding areas to gain input on what worked with the previous bid and what did not.

- Consultants will be conducting these resident interviews/group meetings from November 2025 to February 2026, which is when they will present their findings.

UPDATES FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON CURRENT PROJECTS

Chair Leymarie presents a PowerPoint with numerous suggestions and ideas on how to improve Miracle Mile.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Board member Weil motions, chair Leymarie seconds.

NOTE