

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES**  
**WATERWAY ADVISORY BOARD**  
 HYBRID MEETING AT CITY HALL/ZOOM  
 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022 - 5:30 P.M.  
 MEETING MINUTES

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>
		21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	22	22	22
Manny Chamizo	2	P*	P	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	*-	P	P
Daniel Tormo	3	P*	P*	-	*	*	*	-	P	A	*-	P	P
Juan A. Galan Jr	3	P	P	P*	*	*	*	E	P	P	*-	P	P
Alex Stancioff	1	-	-	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	*-	P	P
Anthony Lopez	4	-	-	P*	*	*	*	A	A	A	*-	A	A
Douglas Yoder	CR	P	P	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	*-	P	P
Bertram	7	P	P	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	*-	P	P
Goldsmith													
John Swain	2	P	P	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	*-	P	P
Andria Codina	6	E	E	P	*	*	*	A	A	P	*-	P	P
Miyares													

**APPOINTED BY:**

Vince Lago  
 Jorge L. Fors  
 Rhonda Anderson  
 Kirk Menendez  
 Michael Mena  
 Peter Iglesias  
 Commission-As-A-Whole  
 Commission-As-A-Whole  
 Board-As-A-Whole

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

**STAFF:**

Jorge Acevedo, Utilities & ROW Division Chief/Board Secretary  
 Tiffany Crumbley, Recording Secretary  
 Sergeant Guido Antezana, Marine Patrol  
 Kevin Kinney, Director of Parking

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by the chairman. The roll call was done and quorum was met.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

*A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of February 2, 2021” with no changes. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.*

## **PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:**

The Board members held a brief discussion on the attendance of Board member Anthony Lopez.

***It was motioned “To advise Commissioner Mena that his appointee has not attended any meetings and would he like to appoint someone else”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.***

### **Public Comments**

Levy Meyer, a new Coral Gables resident introduced himself to the Board and expressed his interest in serving as a Board Member.

### **Parking under Metrorail at Gables Waterway Access**

Kevin Kinney, Director of Parking stated that although he oversees the trolley operations and works on Freebie, the bulk of his work is in parking and enforcement. He then said that the parking under the Metrorail has been a troubling spot for quite awhile. Next, he stated between US1 and Ponce de Leon Boulevard, there are approximately 120 feet that belongs to Miami- Dade County (MDC) and 100 feet of the area is controlled by MDC, and the remaining 20 feet closest to Ponce is City of Coral Gables right of way. He stated that there are currently two (2) No Parking signs in this area but they were not installed by the City, they were placed there by MDC. In the City’s ROW, we can install signs however we cannot stop MDC from installing signs.

Mr. Kinney stated they receive calls reporting people are parked under the metro rail and somebody says, we don't like the fact that they're parked under the metro rail. When staff goes out to inspect the area to issue citations, staff needs to check if there are “No Parking” signs, clearly indicating that cars shouldn't be parking there. He further stated the problem in this case is some people see it as a pleasant consequence. There are No Parking signs all along Ponce de Leon Blvd. Most of the time when parking staff checks this location, people are parked closer to US1, underneath the metro rail. Parking staff can't write a ticket because there's no clear notice of what MDC intended. Now, if they were park right next to Ponce, parking staff can issue citations. Mr. Kinney stated that his belief is MDC, is okay with people parking under the Metrorail because they won't tell me whether that was the intent or not. There are signs there that say canoe and kayak launch, so they must intend for somebody to use it.

He added under the current configuration, parking staff cannot issue citations for parking underneath the metro rail. There has been discussion between MDC and the City of Coral Gables of developing the Underline, this is under design and is part of phase three of the development. Mr. Swain stated that the Underline and MDC have plans to renovate the boat launch. Mr. Chamizo states that the cars are driving over the curb and through the No Parking signs as there is no entry point to this area. He then stated that the biggest issue is not the parking, it's the cleanup that is needed afterwards on MDC property. The chairman stated we should have Code Enforcement cite MDC for parking on unimproved surfaces as this is illegal. This is not a parking lot, nor asphalt or gravel. He also stated that we have asked for bollards many times to close off the area to prevent people from parking and also from launching twenty-five (25) foot boats there.

Mr. Kinney stated if this area becomes part of the Underline, all of the maintenance will be negotiated in the agreement between MDC and the City of Coral Gables with us giving our green space to the Underline which would require them to maintain everything. Mr. Chamizo stated we have a life safety issue of parking on unimproved surfaces and would like to make a motion to cite MDC to get their attention to fix it and clean it up. Mr. Swain stated that the launch has been there at least fifty (50) years as long as the canals, he remembers using it as a teenager. He then suggested that a concrete bollard or some other barrier be placed there to prevent trailers having use of the ramp allowing only canoes and kayaks. He also stated that MDC, the City of Coral Gables and the Underline should work together to come up with a solution. Mr. Yoder suggested that the MDC Commissioner for the area and Mayor Lago or a City of Coral Gables Commissioner should meet to discuss this issue. Mr. Swain states that he will speak with Commissioner Anderson about reaching out the MDC commissioner for the area. Mr. Kinney stated that finding a temporary solution will be best, due to the long-term development of the Underline project. Mr. Galan suggested cement barricades as a temporary solution to prevent passage of a large trailer in the area and motorized watercraft from launching. He then stated there's a sign posted for canoe and kayak launch but there also needs to be an appropriate dock for safety reasons. Mr. Chamizo stated that he would like to make a motion to cite MDC for allowing those vehicles to be parked and get Code Enforcement to get their attention.

The Board held a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed motion.

### **Marine Patrol Report**

Sergeant Guido Antezana stated that police staff use the launch for john boats on occasion and fire staff use it to launch inflatable boats at times. He then stated that he could foresee using this area during hurricanes when we need an easy access point. He suggested the possibility of installing a barrier that could be swung open for emergency use by City staff.

He mentioned a brand-new marine patrol officer, Officer Orlando Contreras, who started in January and is currently still being trained. He then stated they currently have four (4) active in the Marine Patrol with the potential to add one more. Mr. Galan inquired about the patrol sequence of the officers especially during days of high traffic on the waterway Friday thru Monday. Sergeant Antezana stated that they try to patrol every major section of the waterway through the week. He stated they do not stick to a pre-determined exact patrol route to prevent offenders from figuring it out. He then stated that they do make an effort to patrol every area as much as possible. He also stated that if they see a trend of criminal activity, they will shift resources using previously trained marine patrol officers to address those particular areas to respond to those needs. Mr. Chamizo asked to have an officer patrol late at night, at one or two in the morning during the weekend. Sergeant Antezana stated that they patrol until 8pm on weekends and in a perfect world, they would have the waterways patrolled twenty-four hours a day. Unfortunately, this comes down to manpower and staffing. They try to schedule to provide the most coverage when traffic is high along the waterway.

Mr. Galan stated six years ago before the Sergeant Antezana came on board, they requested for No Wake signs along the entire Coral Gables Waterway. Mr. Acevedo said staff will forward the request for signage. Mr. Stancioff inquired who is the authority on commercial activity on the waterway. Sgt.

Antezana stated that Code Enforcement addresses initially, then police and possibly Coast Guard. The Board then held a lengthy discussion regarding commercial activity no being allowed along the waterway.

***A motion was made to “Recommend that the City Attorney determine the legalities of renting space on the waterway and if any commercial activity can be associated with that dock space”. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.***

Mr. Chamizo previously reported to the police a Boston Whaler traveling around 45mph underneath Blue Rd bridge, he requested an update by the next meeting.

### **Mahi Waterway Canal Discussion**

Mr. Swain stated that the idea of a subcommittee violates Sunshine rules and Board members are not allowed to meet to discuss City of Coral Gables business. Board member Juan Galan stated that we have the original plat, the current measurements of the Mahi Canal and request for the City superimpose one upon the other. He then stated the need to determine where there have been deviations from the original plat locations, particular addresses and then ask permitting who requested the permits, were they approved and if so, who approved them. Next, he stated we can begin to identify those areas of the Mahi Canal that were not maintained and why it was approved in effort for the corrections to be made in alignment of the original plat width. Board member Alex Stancioff suggested that the Board invite Glen from Dock & Marine to come and speak on the issue.

The Board held a lengthy discussion on this subject.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Chamizo states the Board should go before Commission to discuss items brought to their attention listed below over the past six years without action. Mr. Swain stated that under previous administration of Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, he received an email stating that cameras would be installed along the waterway.

- Installation of cameras along the waterway.
- Water Quality and Access.
- Open Spaces and Access.
- Oysters.
- Tree trimming and depth of the waterway.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:46PM

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.