

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
WATERWAY ADVISORY BOARD
 HYBRID MEETING AT CITY HALL/ZOOM
 WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022 - 5:30 P.M.
 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	District	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	APPOINTED BY:
		21	21	21	21	21	21	21	22	22	22	22	22	
Manny Chamizo	2	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	*-	P	P	A	A	Vince Lago
Daniel Tormo	3	-	*	*	*	-	P	A	*-	P	P	P	P	Jorge L. Fors
Juan A. Galan Jr	3	p*	*	*	*	E	P	P	*-	P	P	P	P	Rhonda Anderson
Alex Stancioff	1	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	*-	P	P	A	P	Kirk Menendez
Joel Kallan	4	-	*	*	*	-	-	-	*-	-	-	-	P	Michael Mena
Douglas Yoder	CR	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	*-	P	P	P	P	Peter Iglesias
Bertram Goldsmith	7	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	*-	P	P	P	P	Commission-As-A-Whole
John Swain	2	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	*-	P	P	P	P	Commission-As-A-Whole
Andria Codina Miyares	6	P	*	*	*	A	A	P	*-	P	P	P	A	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

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by the vice-chairman. The roll call was done and quorum was met.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of April 6, 2021” with no changes. The motion was seconded, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.

DISCUSSIONS:

Board members held a brief discussion welcoming the newly appointed board member, Dr. Joel Kallan (Mena).

There was a guest appearance by Mr. Glen Larsen, Dock & Marine Construction who shared his experience and knowledge regarding the Coral Gables Waterways. He stated that the permitting process always begins with Miami-Dade County DERM. He further stated DERM has the ability to issue, on behalf of the State of Florida and the Army Corps for certain areas of the waterway. Ultimately, it's up to DERM, as far as water depth and environmental conditions, which there are no environmental concerns except for water depth in the canal to start the process.

Next, he stated once we get to the City of Coral Gables it's all in the zoning code, so the Army corps doesn't have any interest in anything in the Coral Gables waterway, except for where manatees congregate. Mr. Larsen stated that navigability is totally up to Public Works and Zoning however the enforcement agency for maintaining navigability of the waterways is the Coral Gables Marine Patrol. The City of Coral Gables Zoning Code Section 67 and appendix A has site-specific regulations, which is what the City Zoning Department and Public Works specifically look for. He stated Public Works' responsibility is to make sure encroachments are not more than 25% or does not impede on the 30 feet of clear passage, maintaining the ROW.

The Board held a lengthy discussion.

PRESENTATIONS:

Reef Balls Presentation

Peter Clark, the president and founder of Tampa Bay Watch, celebrating 29 years of organizing the community to accomplish habitat restoration projects in Tampa Bay. He stated that Tampa Bay is a unique habitat and is Florida's largest open water estuary on the West Coast of Central Florida. He further stated that this habitat has important migration grounds very similar to Coral Gables as well as most of coastal Florida.

Summary of Presentation

Recovery of the Bay

1950s: Large-scale mangrove, seagrass, and marsh grass habitat loss due to poorly regulated wastewater practices.

1972: Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948 was amended, known now as the Clean Water Act. The Environmental Protection Act was passed.

1981: Tampa Shipping Channel dredging project completed

2015: Hit the benchmark of "fully restored" with the results of seagrass recovery data
Seagrass Recovery coverage estimates from 2014, 2016, and 2018 included more than 40,000 acres of seagrass, which is a goal identified in the habitat master plan. However, between 2018 and 2020 seagrasses throughout Tampa Bay declined by 13% or 5,411 acres. An estimated total of 35,241 acres (provisional data provided by Southwest Florida Water Management District).

A clean bay contributes about \$22 billion to the region's total economic activity. (Economic Impact of Tampa Bay) Impacts affecting the estuary today are pollution, invasive species and habitat destruction and coastal development.

Restoration in Action

- Native Grass Plantings
- Oyster Reef Ball Installation
- Oyster Shell Bars
- Vertical Oyster Gardens
- Fishing Line Recycling
- Coastal Bird Nesting Island Cleanups
- Stormwater Runoff Programs
- Derelict Crab Trap Removal
- Seagrass Restoration
- Bay Scallop Monitoring

Community Oyster Reef Enhancement (CORE) consists of oyster reef balls, oyster shell bars and vertical oyster gardens. Vertical oyster gardens (VOGS) are suspended from docks to create a hard substrate where juvenile oysters can attach and develop. An individual oyster may filter up to 50 gallons of water in one day. Oyster reefs and salt marsh communities buffer the shores from wave action allowing native plants to flourish creating living shorelines. Community plantings assist in stabilizing shorelines, protect against erosion, provide habitat for small fish and other creatures, absorb wave energy from storms, filter pollutants and marine debris from entering our waterways.

Marine Patrol Report

No Report.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:42PM

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, June 1th, 2022 at 6 p.m.