

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
Property Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 11, 2018, 8:30 a.m.

2121 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 720, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

PAB MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTING ENTITY
	'18	'18	'18	'18	'18	'18	'18	'18	'18	'17	'17	'17	
Alberto Manrara	E	P	X	P						P	P	X	Mayor Raúl J. Valdés-Fauli
Jonathan Leyva	P	P	X	P						P	P	X	Commissioner Michael Mena
Jack Lowell	P	P	X	P						-	-	X	Vice Mayor Patricia Keon
Valerie Quemada	P	P	X	E						P	P	X	Commissioner Vince Lago
Tony Gonzalez	E	P	X	P						E	P	X	Commissioner Frank Quesada
Edmund Mazzei	P	P	X	P						P	P	X	City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark
Andrea Molina Vice Chair	P	P	X	P						P	P	X	City Commission as a Whole

A = Absent E = Excused Absence P = Present X = No Meeting Ph = Present by Phone - =Former Board Member

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Leonard Roberts, Interim Director, Economic Development Department
Mariana Price, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department
Patricia Keon, Vice-Mayor, City of Coral Gables
Ryan Coffield, UM Grad Student

Meeting Motion Summary:

No motions were passed during this meeting.

Mr. Roberts brought the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

1. Special Guest, Vice-Mayor Patricia Keon

Mr. Roberts welcomed Vice-Mayor Keon to the board meeting. VM Keon discussed with the board how the Commission recently reviewed the insurance policies of City-owned property, including the Biltmore Hotel. On the topic of City-owned properties, Mr. Roberts reviewed the history of Ortanique and Bloom Boutique being delinquent on their rent. The board shared with the Vice Mayor their views on how Ortanique was not holding up their end of the deal (regarding rent abatement and renovation promises during the Streetscape Project).

The board also discussed the potential sale of Doctors Hospital Lot 24 with the Vice Mayor, who reiterated her support for its sale. This led to discussion over the limited space that Coral Gables residents have for sending their own children to Coral Gables public schools. The Vice Mayor explained that the County has a “School Choice” policy, which means local residents are not necessarily guaranteed admission to the school closest to them.

Discussion was held regarding the land adjacent to the University of Miami at Granada and

Ponce de Leon Blvd. The Vice Mayor explained retaining this land as a green space is the City's goal.

Mr. Lowell asked Vice Mayor Keon for an update on the litigation against FPL. She explained that one of the merits of the suit was requiring FPL to harden their transformers and to check on them on a regular basis, and replace them if needed. She cited one transformer by Coconut Grove that keeps going out on a regular basis because there is a tree encasing it, which causes residents to continually lose power. She believes that they should have policies and practices that are consistent with this climate. When asked about her position on burying lines, the Vice Mayor explained that it is not necessarily more resistant to storms (flooding could affect lines), but is substantially more expensive. Mr. Mazzei shared his observation that FPL is reactionary and only does what they need to do after-the-fact.

Mr. Gonzalez inquired as to how the City makes decisions on which roads to close at certain times of the day. Vice Mayor Keon explained that these decisions are made at the County level. In the past, residents would request that certain streets be closed during high traffic hours, and administrations would allow for it, not realizing the extent to which past administrations had allowed the same. After a certain point, other residents went to the County to complain about all the closing streets at which point the County then decided to stop considering these requests. Little by little, the streets are opening back up due to residential demand. Vice Mayor Keon applauded Frank Fernandez for the level of technology he has brought to the City in fighting crime and regulating traffic. She explained that monitors are placed around the City which detect the average speed of cars, and if a monitor shows an increase in speeding in a specific area, the Police department deploys an officer to that area. There has never been a time in the City where crime has been as low as it is now.

Mr. Manrara brought his concern over the timeliness of two development projects: the parking garages on Andalusia and the new Public Safety Building. The Vice Mayor responded that in order for projects to move as quickly as possible, the plans should be as unambiguous as possible to reduce the chance of change orders. VM Keon told the board how much she believed in the City Manager's ability to manage staff, in Assistant City Manager Peter Iglesias' ability to review plans and get things done, and in Public Works' Director Ed Santamaria to see projects through to the end.

2. Outstanding Rent Report

An Outstanding Rent Report of the City's tenants with outstanding rent balances was given to board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariana Price, Administrative Assistant - Economic Development Department