

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
WATERWAY ADVISORY BOARD
 HYBRID MEETING AT CITY HALL/ZOOM
 WEDNESDAY, February 7, 2024 - 4:30 P.M.
 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	District	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	APPOINTED BY:
		23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	24	24	
Manny Chamizo	2	A	P	A	P*	*	*	P	P	A	A	A	P	Vince Lago
Pat Nolan	1							P	P	P	P	p	P	Melissa Castro
Juan A. Galan Jr	3	P	P	A	P	*	*	P	P	A	P	P	P	Rhonda Anderson
Kevin Ritzenthaler	1	A	P	P	P	*	*	A	A	P	A	p	P	Kirk Menendez
Nancy Sanabria	7							P	P	P	P	p	P	Ariel Fernandez
Douglas Yoder	CR	P	P	P	P	*	*	P	P	P	A	P	P	Peter Iglesias
Bertram Goldsmith	7	P	A	P	P	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commission-As-A-Whole
Levi Meyer	6	P	A	A	P	*	*	P	P	P	A	p	P	Board-As-A-Whole

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

- (*) – No Meeting**

STAFF:

- Lorena Garrido, Central Administration Division Manager
- Yanissey Solivera, Administrative Assistant
- Sergeant Guido Antezana

GUESTS:

- Ian Wogan, President of Treasures, a certified mangrove trimming company.
- Stephan Rich, Chief of Staff of Treasures, a certified mangrove trimming company.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by Mr. Yoder. Quorum was met.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

Mr. Galan made the motion to approve the minutes of January 3, 2024, seconded by Mr. Ritzenthaler, all were in favor, and adopted unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Ian Wogan introduced himself and stated that he is the owner of a company named Treasures. He said that he is a certified professional mangrove trimmer and a registered consulting arborist who has been managing trees for the past 15 years. He added the purpose of his presentation is to provide perspective from the professional field and engaging with the management and stewardship of mangroves as a resource, and as a green asset.

Mr. Wogan's presentation is attached.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Yoder inquired about the mangrove trimming assessment. Ms. Garrido said that we are pushing for April's meeting. She stated that she was able to get in touch with Code Enforcement regarding their feedback on the areas that have concerns with encroachment and is waiting for their updates to be able to update the map.

Mr. Chamizo brought up the subject of no fishing signs. He stated that they are no longer in existence, and he would like to see them again. Mr. Yoder requested staff to investigate the question of signage. He added that he would check with DERM to determine which agency is responsible for signage.

Mr. Galan inquired about reporting issues to Code Enforcement as a board, opposed to reporting it as an individual. Ms. Garrido said that the Board can report it to Code Enforcement; however, Code will have to communicate with the individual that is reporting it; therefore, they will need the person's name, telephone number and email address. Mr. Yoder suggested that staff ask Code Enforcement the question of the Board being capable of reporting potential infractions as a Board opposed to reporting it as an individual.

The Board discussed the Waterways' webpage and made some recommendations such as identifying public access. Ms. Garrido said that she would send the Board a revised link to the web page to browse at their discretion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Yoder inquired about the attendance for Board Members. Ms. Garrido said that going forward staff will be noting excessive absences and after 3 or more unexcused absences in any consecutive 12-month period the Board's liaison will forward to the City Clerk's office and decide to vacate that one position. Mr. Yoder asked if there is a distinction between excused and unexcused absences. Ms. Garrido said that going forward if the Board member is ill, has jury duty, or is out of town the absence is excused. Otherwise, the absence will be recorded as unexcused.

MARINE PATROL REPORT:

Sgt. Antezana reported on an incident they had on December 24th on the waterway in which they stopped a couple of jet skis that were speeding. They were able to identify the owner and confirm that they were illegally renting the jet skis. He said the stop resulted in 2 arrests and the jet skis were towed away. He stated that jet skis have a setting for idle speed, and although they turn the function on, the speed is often too fast still kicking up a wake. He said that they are fortunate to have minor issues on the waterways in comparison with other agencies. North of us is dealing with a huge problem with illegal watercrafts that continue to get cited, arrested and towed.

Mr. Meyer asked Sgt. Antezana if they had an incident report on what happened to the red marker at the entrance of the waterway. He said that it appears that someone hit it and almost ripped it off. Sgt. Antezana said that he doesn't believe there is an incident report; however, he will investigate and report back to the Board.

Mr. Ritzenthaler inquired about the derelict 45' sailboat. Sgt. Antezana said that there are 2 of them. One by Gables by the Sea, which is being handled by FWC and one outside of Gables Estates being handled by DERM. He added, DERM is currently in the bidding process for the removal.

Mr. Yoder asked Sgt. Antezana if there was a derelict vessel problem along the waterway. Sgt. Antezana said that most of them come from Miami and they have assisted them. However, there are times these get stuck through the process as it relates to identifying the owners.

Sgt. Antezana shared that in December Marine Patrol's dive team assisted Palmetto Bay with a bank robbery. This incident involved a car chase into Pinecrest, and the subject ran from police. A bag with money, a gun, and a mask was discarded in a canal and the Marine Patrol assisted by locating the items. This case was given to the FBI to investigate.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Galan made a motion to revise the code for derelict vessels to resemble the code that is used for vehicles. Motion was seconded by Mr. Nolan; all were in favor.

Mr. Galan inquired about the allowable width of the canals. Ms. Garrido said that staff would investigate it.

Mr. Galan suggested having Ron Crumbley from Public Works attend the April meeting along with Code Enforcement.

Mrs. Sanabria suggested inviting the IT Department and the Communications Department to attend to a Board meeting.

The Board requested the April 3rd meeting to commence at 4:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.