

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

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

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

(*) – No Meeting

STAFF:

- Lorena Garrido, Central Division Administrative Manager
- Yanissey Solivera, Administrative Assistant
- Sergeant Guido Antezana
- Antoine Loar, Code Enforcement Manager
- Ron Crumbley, P/T Waterway Maintenance Coordinator

GUESTS:

1. Denise Barros, Resident
2. Cesar Braga, Resident
3. Maria Cruz, Resident
4. Luis Marquez, Resident

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m. by Mr. Yoder. Quorum was met.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

Mr. Goldsmith made the motion to approve the minutes of March 6, 2024, seconded by Mr. Nolan, all were in favor, and adopted unanimously.

DISCUSSION:

As requested by the Board, Mr. Antoine Loar, Code Enforcement Manager, was present at the meeting to answer the Board's questions.

Mr. Galan inquired about a green vessel in the Mahi Canal at 6750 Granada Blvd. He stated that the vessel is wider than allowed and was referred to Code Enforcement. Mr. Loar stated that Code Enforcement received a couple of complaints about 2 vessels that may have been too large; however, the code doesn't say how much space a vessel can take up. Mr. Galan said the code states that the vessel on either side of the waterway cannot be wider than 18' of which 5' is the dock and 13' is the beam to allow 30' of navigable water in the canal. Mr. Loar said that he will investigate and report back to the Board.

Ms. Garrido shared the updated mangrove survey, identifying areas that create safety and navigation problems on the waterways. She added that this was a collaboration, as far as those properties cited, between the Police Department, Code Enforcement and Public Works. She stated that all the properties marked in yellow are properties that have been cited, most of them are in compliance and currently there are a handful of properties undergoing the DERM permitting process. Mr. Goldsmith asked what the violations are for. Ms. Garrido responded that mostly for mangroves or obstruction of the waterway. Mr. Galan stated that there is a section of overgrown mangroves within the Cocoplum waterways and according to Miami Dade County Property Appraiser it is owned by a corporation named IOC HOA. Mr. Yoder stated that there are areas in cocoplum that were used as mitigation areas and those areas are exempt from any kind of trimming activity. Mrs. Sanabria asked how many homeowners are affected by the Cocoplum Conservation Inc. Mr. Galan responded that all homeowners on Isla Dorada Boulevard are affected by the overgrown mangroves and the City should address the issue. Mrs. Sanabria suggests that the homeowners being affected by the overgrown mangroves create a group and collectively hire a certified mangrove trimmer to trim the mangroves. Mrs. Sanabria asked if Cocoplum Conservation is owned by a corporation, and the mangroves are encroaching can the homeowners legally trim the mangroves without permission. Ms. Garrido said that she will ask the City Attorney and report back to the Board. Mrs. Sanabria asked if the City is allowed to trim the mangroves just as they do the front lawns. Ms. Garrido said currently the City doesn't have a mechanism to trim mangroves.

Mr. Galan stated that the Board would like Code Enforcement to monitor the waterways on a regular basis, in the same manner as they monitor the front of the properties. Mr. Loar said that they have different issues or elements that they deal with on the waterway that they don't have on the landside. He added if the front lawn is overgrown, they will give the homeowner 5 days to cut it and if they don't comply, they will send a vendor to cut it; however, they don't need a permit versus with the mangroves they need a permit from DERM. Mr. Yoder asked Mr. Loar if they issue citations to those properties that have overgrown vegetation protruding onto the waterways that are not

mangroves. Mr. Loar responded that they haven't seen any properties with overgrown vegetation that is not a mangrove; however, should they come across one, they will address it.

Mrs. Sanabria stated that as per the Florida Division of Corporations, the Cocoplum Conservation Inc. is inactive and has several addresses listed. She asked Mr. Loar if he could find out where the citations were sent. Mr. Loar said he would investigate and share his findings.

Mrs. Sanabria said that 155 Isla Dorada is owned by Cocoplum Conservation Inc., they are no longer an entity in the Florida Division of Corporations by that name; however, they paid their taxes in full. Mr. Galan said that the City should go to the Miami-Dade County Property Appraisals Office to inquire about the person that made the payment and send that person a citation for the overgrown mangroves.

Mr. Yoder asked if the Board could receive a monthly summary report from Code Enforcement and Marine Patrol reflecting citations issued to waterfront properties and the status. Ms. Garrido replied that Public Works will work with Code and Police to provide the summary report.

Multiple residents were in attendance and shared their concerns regarding The Gables Waterway, proposed luxury condos at 6100 Caballero Boulevard. They had various concerns, including:

- Manatee protection
- Overpopulation
- Increment in the number of boat slips
- Increment of watercrafts
- Traffic congestion
- Altitude and Elevation

Ms. Garrido stated the Waterway Advisory Board is an advisory board and does not handle development and can only advise on waterway related matters. She suggested sharing their concerns at the Planning and Zoning Board and City Commission.

Mrs. Sanabria stated that the Commissioners and the City Manager have an open-door policy and suggested for the residents to meet with each Commissioner and the City Manager.

Mr. Yoder suggests that prior to making a recommendation to the City Commission, the Board compiles pertinent information and address at the next scheduled Board meeting.

Mrs. Sanabria asked Ms. Garrido if she had an update regarding the City's responsibility to maintain fresh water and non-ocean access properties. Ms. Garrido said that she didn't have an update yet.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

MARINE PATROL REPORT:

Sgt. Antezana reported on a fuel spill at Gables by the Sea. He stated the spill was finally dispersed; however, they still don't know where it came from. Sgt. Antezana shared that they had an issue with kayakers that got lost in the Chapman Field area. They told police they were sinking and were surrounded by crocodiles. Police used an inflatable boat and got them out.

Mr. Goldsmith inquired about the derelict vessel at the end of Sapper Creek. Sgt. Antezana said that the owner was cited, and the County will take care of it.

Mrs. Sanabria inquired about the speeding and manatee signs. Sgt. Antezana stated that they placed a request with the state; however, they don't have them yet.

Mrs. Sanabria stated that the manatees are being placed back on the endangered list.

Mr. Galan inquired about the Le Jeune Rd bridge. He said that they were supposed to have it replaced by April of 2024, and it hasn't been replaced. Sgt. Antezana said that the force main project was completed; however, he doesn't know when the bridge will be replaced. Ms. Garrido stated that Public Works received an email from Miami-Dade County stating that they will be mobilizing, Summer of 2025; however, the bridge closures will not be until 2026.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.