

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 8:30 a.m.
2121 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 720, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

EDB MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	COMMISSIONERS
	'17	'17	'17	'17	'17	'17	'17	'17	'17	'16	'16	'16	
Scott Sime	P	P	A							P	P	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Olga Ramudo	P	P	E							P	P	E	Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick
Stuart McGregor	P	P	P							P	E	E	Commissioner Pat Keon
June Morris Chair	P	P	P							P	P	P	Commissioner Vince Lago
Alexander Binelo Vice Chair	P	A	P							P	A	P	Commissioner Frank Quesada

A = Absent E = Excused Absence P = Present X = No Meeting Ph = Present by Phone

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Javier Betancourt, Director, Economic Development Department
Leonard Roberts, Assistant Director, Economic Development Department
Francesca Madeo, Business Development Marketing Specialist, Economic Development Dept.
Mariana Price, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department
Samuel Joseph, Chairman, School & Community Relations Committee
Naomi Levi-Garcia, Government Affairs Manager, City of Coral Gables

Meeting Motion Summary:

A motion to approve the minutes of the Joint EDB-PAB February 8, 2017 meeting passed unanimously.

A motion to support the West Lab Resolution which urges the City Commission to purchase a dedicated classroom at Henry S. West Laboratory School at a cost of approximately \$4.5 million, securing one classroom per grade level from kindergarten through eighth grade, for a total of approximately 180 student stations, for Coral Gables residents in perpetuity.

A motion to support the Resolution 2017-1, which opposes Florida Legislature House Bill (“HB”) 17, in conjunction with SB 1158, which both preempt, to varying degrees, the power of local rule over businesses and trade.

Mrs. Morris brought the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

1. Review of the Joint EDB-PAB February meeting minutes (Action)

Mr. McGregor made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2017 Board

meeting. Mr. Binelo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Economic Development Director's Report

Mr. Betancourt provided a report that included:

- Streetscape construction updates
- Coral Gables Love Food Tour on March 21st from 6-9 PM
- Downtown Overlay was approved on first reading at the last Commission meeting.
 - To allow for more flexible signage, operating hours, and outdoor dining, and expedited approvals to make it easier to conduct business in downtown area.
 - Goes to Commission for a second reading on March 28th.
- US-1 Corridor Study: objective was to observe US-1 and to have residents of surrounding communities provide input on what they think it could and should look like. The three community meetings held did not go well, with one neighborhood in particular being very skeptical of the City's intent and assumed the City is trying to push development. Not at all the case, but difficult to move forward with that level of skepticism.
- Cosentino, makers of countertop material, out of Spain, are moving their U.S. headquarters from Houston, TX to Coral Gables, FL. The City worked with the Beacon Council and Enterprise Florida to secure an incentive package from County and State, and the City streamlined their entry via the Permitting Assistance Program (PAP). As a result, Cosentino agreed to move to Coral Gables, bringing with them over 100 employees. Overall, PAP has been very successful in helping at least 14 companies in the short time since its creation.
- Prohibiting outdoor smoking in dining areas and public right of way: Commission was very favorable to concept. State law preempts municipalities from being able to regulate, but City Attorney believes he has found a way to prohibit it, at least in the public right of way.

3. Coral Gables Public Schools (Update) – Government Affairs Manager, Naomi Levi and School & Community Relations Committee Chair, Samuel Joseph

Mr. Joseph presented the Board with the objectives of the School & Community Relations Committee, and explained the current challenges and opportunities of the current educational landscape in Coral Gables.

The goal of the School & Community Relations Committee is to maintain the high quality educational landscape in Coral Gables. Mr. Joseph described the reasons why Coral Gables High School is rated a C, and declared that all other schools are ranked an A, with one other B school. Coral Gables High School, like all others, was unaware of the changing standards for ranking schools at the state level, which sought to create more distinction between schools. CGHS did

not change its curriculum or take things away. It continues to have ten academies that students must choose from before they begin, with each having stringent levels of requirement.

There are ten schools under the purview of the School & Community Relations Committee. The Committee does tours of its schools and keeps a running project list for issues of concern to the City. The City has offered to work collaboratively with these schools to assist on matters that the schools may not be able to prioritize. The Schools & Community Relations Committee is also interested in creating mentorships for students, as well as hosting bus tours that take students out into the City so they feel connected to the place they live in and see it as a success. The purpose is to encourage a sense of belonging so that they are more likely to return once they finish their college education elsewhere.

In its first meeting, the School & Community Relations Committee had three of seven people in the room advocate for bringing attention to, and focusing on, special needs students. Mr. Leen, City Attorney, has been a guide through this process. The Committee looks for ways to bringing services that are not readily available to the City.

The Schools & Community Relations Committee meets every third Friday of the month, at 8:30 am in the third floor conference room in City Hall.

The Economic Development Board was presented with an option to support a Resolution, already passed by the School & Community Relations Committee, which urges the City Commission to purchase dedicated classroom seats at the Henry S. West Laboratory School for Coral Gables residents in perpetuity. Following discussions of the item, Mr. Binelo made a motion to approve the proposed resolution in support of purchasing dedicated classroom seats; Mr. McGregor seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Economic Development Board supports the West Lab Resolution which urges the City Commission to purchase a dedicated classroom at Henry S. West Laboratory School at a cost of approximately \$4.5 million, securing one classroom per grade level from kindergarten through eighth grade, for a total of approximately 180 student stations, for Coral Gables residents in perpetuity.

4. HB-17 Local Regulation Preemption Bill (Action)

Proposed laws in Tallahassee: HB-17 (preempts local regulations on businesses, professions and occupations unless expressly authorized by general law) and SB 1158 (preempts the regulation of commerce, trade and labor unless expressly authorized by general or special law). The City of Coral Gables opposes these measures and does not want to be preempted from passing regulations which help to distinguish Coral Gables from other cities. A compare and contrast sheet which breaks down the differences between the laws was passed out to board members

Previously, Coral Gables passed an ordinance regulating polystyrene and was sued by the Retail Federation. The case ultimately made its way up to the 11th District Circuit Court of Appeals and the City prevailed when that preemption was found to be unconstitutional, which was a huge win

for Coral Gables. This win reinforced the City Attorney's view on home rule. In light of that decision, the City feels confident opposing HB17 and SB 1158 and becoming more aggressive in banning plastic bags and potentially outdoor smoking.

Mr. McGregor made a motion to approve the resolution opposing this law with an amendment to include SB 1158 and a "WHEREAS" clause to include the concerns of the Economic Development department on how these laws would be counterproductive to the City's economic development objectives. Mr. Binelo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

A motion to support the Resolution 2017-1, which opposes Florida Legislature House Bill ("HB") 17, in conjunction with SB 1158, which both preempt, to varying degrees, the power of local rule over businesses and trade.

5. Business Tax License Report

A report of the latest businesses to join the City was handed out to board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariana Price, Administrative Assistant - Economic Development Department