

CITY OF CORAL GABLES WATERWAY ADVISORY BOARD  
 427 BILTMORE WAY – 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR  
 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020 - 5:30 P.M.

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

- MEETING MINUTES -

<b>MEMBERS</b>	District	J 19	S 19	O 19	N 19	D 19	J 20	F 20	M 20	S 20	O 20	<b>APPOINTED BY:</b>
Lissette Stancioff	1	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	Raul Valdes-Fauli
Carla Isaias	3	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	Jorge L. Fors
Juan A. Galan Jr	3	E	P	E	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	Patricia Keon
Manny Chamizo	2	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vince Lago
Mario Lamar	4	P	A	A	E	E	P	P	E	P	P	Michael Mena
Douglas Yoder	CR	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Peter Iglesias
Bertham Goldsmith	7	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	Commission-As-A-Whole
John Swain	2	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commission-As-A-Whole
Andria Codina Miyares	6	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	E	P	A	Board-As-A-Whole

**P – Present**  
**E – Excused Absence**  
**A – Absent**  
**(-) – No Appointment**  
**(\*) – No Meeting**

**STAFF:**

Jorge Acevedo, Utilities Division Director/Board Secretary  
 Pilar Wiese, Recording Secretary  
 Velier Zaccheo, Sgt. Marine Patrol

**GUESTS:**

None

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. The roll was taken and a quorum was present.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

**A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of September 2, 2020.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and adopted unanimously.**

## **PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS:**

- Update on pedestrian underpass at Cocoplum Circle took place. Mr. Swain reported communicating with Assistant City Manager Ed Santamaria. Mr. Santamaria told him he has already spoken to the County and that they will put some kind of structure underneath the bridge. Mr. Swain requested that drawings be forwarded to him. Board is concerned about hours of construction, interruption, disruption and re-routing of traffic, as well as boat traffic on the waterways while bridge is under construction.
- Update on FIU Water Quality study. Mr. Acevedo told the board that funds for the three-year project should have been budgeted; a purchase order has already been issued for first year of the study.
- Mr. Chamizo asked about maintenance of trees on the waterways. Mr. Acevedo explained that sometimes it is difficult to cover all areas because there is just one P/T waterway employee that only works three days a week. However, right-of-way staff is helping with tasks on the canal. They are cleaning public areas under the bridge, especially graffiti. Regarding the mangroves, the main issue is to clarify who is responsible for the trimming, especially in main areas like Cocoplum HOA, or those under the jurisdiction of Miami-Dade County Parks or the State of Florida. Mr. Acevedo said that upper management is working with Miami-Dade County Parks to make an agreement for right-of-way and waterway mangrove trimming. Property owners will only have to get a one-time permit to do the mangrove trimming and notify county on future trimmings. Mr. Acevedo said that the City will start scheduling mangrove trimming on City properties for this year and try to attack as much areas the City is responsible for. The City will resume talks with Cocoplum HOA to prioritize private properties in need of mangrove trimming and send notifications to those property owners. There are many areas where homeowners are responsible for the trimming and not the City.
- Discussion took place about clean up of canals and the boat with special equipment the City uses for debris removal. Mr. Acevedo explained that the City has a crew working two days a week on the boat that skims floral and seaweed on the water. It mostly does the removal around Gables Estates because it is an open entry to the Bay and it gets a huge accumulation of seaweed. Most of the complaints come from that area. The boat could be used anywhere is needed. Mr. Galan said that the machine should be shared and rotated with the rest of the community as he has seen small chunks of bay bottom coming up to the surface,

floating on the water and an unusual amount of all kinds of debris and junk in the waterway. Mr. Acevedo asked members to send him an email with a request. He will need to coordinate with staff to evaluate the area and find out if that machine is the best way to address the issue. Mr. Acevedo informed board members that the City is working with nonprofit organizations to clean the waterways. Public Works's Sustainability Division is working with homeowner associations to have small groups of volunteers go clean small areas.

- Board members would like to extend an invitation to Assistant City Manager Ed Santamaria to attend the next board meeting to talk about several issues of concern they have on the construction of the bridge at Cocoplum Circle such as traffic disruption, re-routing of traffic, boat traffic hours, etc.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:35PM

NEXT MEETING:

[Virtual Meeting] Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via ZOOM