

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
Communication Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 9, 2019, 8:30 a.m.
Youth Center Conference Room
Coral Gables, FL

MEMBERS	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	COMMISSIONERS
	'18	'18	'18	'19	'19	'19	'19	'19	'19	'19	'19	'19	'19	
Sandra Gonzalez-Levy	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	*	*	P	P	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Derrek Space	P	A	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	*	*	P	P	Commissioner Pat Keon
Alexandra Pantin Connie Crowther	P	E	A	R	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	P	P	Vice Mayor Vince Lago
														Commissioner Jorge L. Fors
TJ Villamil	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	P	P	Commissioner Michael Mena

A = Absent
E = Excused Absence
P = Present
R = Resigned
RA = Reappointed by different
Commissioner
* = No Meeting
+ = No Quorum

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Maria Rosa Higgins Fallon, Public Affairs
Michael Rocha, CGTV
Nicolas Saenz, CGTV
Matt Anderson, Senior Sustainability Analyst

After achieving a quorum, the meeting began at 8:34 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. TJ Villamil made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2019 meeting. Ms. Connie Crowther seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Green Initiatives and Outreach

Ms. Higgins Fallon introduced Senior Sustainability Analyst Matt Anderson.

Mr. Anderson gave a presentation on sustainability initiatives, the electric vehicle fleet, green spaces, the tree canopy, renewable energy efficiency, green business, alternative transportation, sea level planning, and household hazardous collections. The City's electric vehicles are an example where the city is leading by example as residents have told Mr. Anderson they've bought electric vehicles because the city has the infrastructure for them to recharge.

Mr. Anderson discussed the Green Business Program that recognizes, rewards, and educates our local businesses for their sustainability initiatives. Ms. Connie Crowther recommended Perkins + Will for the Green Business program.

Mr. Anderson discussed the Prescription Drug Disposal Bin located at the lobby of the Police Department. He also mentioned that educational outreach and marketing is extremely important to share the good work that people are doing.

Chairperson Gonzalez-Levy congratulated Mr. Anderson for his efforts and what his department has been doing.

Ms. Crowther asked if Freebie is going to be expanded. Ms. Higgins Fallon explained that it had been recently expanded through funding from the TPO.

Mr. Anderson commented that the Trolley is more helpful in terms of cost effectiveness. Chairperson Gonzalez-Levy asked if there's an incentive for employees to get electric vehicles. Mr. Anderson explained that discussion has started regarding this at the Commission level.

Chairperson Gonzalez-Levy discussed how the city stays in contact with the elderly. She also discussed recycling and how the elderly residents who are not connected to the internet may be informed by the Neighborhood Safety Aides.

Chairperson Gonzalez-Levy also asked about Underground wiring. Ms. Higgins Fallon mentioned that this issue has been discussed over the years and the main obstacle is the cost.

Mr. Anderson discussed Coral Gables joining the Keep America Beautiful program. Committee members thanked him for his participation. With no further issues to discuss, he left the meeting.

Public Affairs Report

Committee members reviewed the annual report that is to be submitted to the City Clerk's Office. There were no changes recommended or changed.

Motion: Chairperson Gonzalez-Levy made a motion to approve the 2019 Annual Report from the Communications Committee. Mr. TJ Villamil seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Higgins Fallon reminded members to view the link of the mandatory Ethics training as required by the City Attorney's Office. She had distributed the video link previously to all members via email.

Ms. Higgins Fallon commended the new city podcast and asked Mr. Nicolas Saenz to provide an update. Mr. Saenz explained the show's concept, "Why I love Coral Gables," and mentioned he's open to any recommendations for guests.

Ms. Higgins Fallon discussed the presentation of Hurricane Dorian given at the commission meeting. A main point of discussion was opening of the city garages so residents can park their vehicles on higher ground.

Ms. Higgins Fallon also discussed other upcoming City events for October.

Mr. Michael Rocha showcased the "Paws in the Pool" event video produced by CGTV. He stated the video has reached at 5,000 views in only a couple of days. He also discussed the production of "From Coral to Green Gables," a 20-minute video about green initiatives that was submitted for an Emmy award.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 20th.

With no further issues to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned.