

CORAL GABLES RETIREMENT SYSTEM
Minutes of August 22, 2025
Public Safety Building
Community Meeting Room A
2151 Salzedo Street
8:00 a.m.

MEMBERS: J A S O N J F M A M J A APPOINTED BY:
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Sean McGrover	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Vince Lago
Alex Mantecon	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	A	Commissioner Castro
Juan Lucas Alvarez	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Derrek Space	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	Commissioner Richard Lara
Manny Carreno	P	A	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Rhonda Anderson
Joshua Nunez	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Police Representative
Christopher Challenger	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Member at Large
Sureya Serret	E	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	General Employees
Troy Easley	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	Fire Representative
Diana Gomez	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Finance Director
Raquel Elejabarrieta	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	E	Labor Relations and Risk Management
Rene Alvarez	P	E	A	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	E	P	City Manager Appointee
James Gueits	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	City Manager Appointee

STAFF:

Kimberly Groome, Finance Administrative Specialist	P = Present
Dave West, Mariner	E = Excused
Manuel Garcia-Linares, Board Attorney (via Zoom)	A = Absent
Edemir Estrada, Gabriel Roeder Smith	
Melissa Zrelack, Gabriel Roeder Smith	

1. Roll call.

Chairperson Diana Gomez called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. Mr. Carreno arrived at 8:14 a.m. Mr. Derrek Space attended remotely via Zoom.

2. Consent Agenda.

All items listed within this section entitled as also in attendance "Consent Agenda" are considered to be self-explanatory and are not expected to require additional review or discussion, unless a member of the Retirement Board or a citizen so requests, in which case, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered along with the regular order of business. Hearing no objections to the items listed under the "Consent Agenda", a vote on the adoption of the Consent Agenda will be taken.

- 2A. The Administrative Manager recommends approval of the Retirement Board meeting minutes for June 12, 2025.
- 2B. The Administrative Manager recommends approval of the following invoices:
 - 1. Mariner Institutional, LLC invoice #51851 for investment consulting services from April to June 2025 in the amount of \$52,750.00.
 - 2. City of Coral Gables invoice due G/L April 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$320.04.
 - 3. Gabriel Roeder Smith invoice #494772 for administrative services during the month of June 2025 in the amount of \$18,640.00.
 - 4. Gabriel Roeder Smith invoice #495172 for administrative services during the month of July 2025 in the amount of \$19,779.50.
 - 5. Gabriel Roeder Smith invoice #494805 for administrative services during the month of June 2025 in the amount of \$13,422.00.
- 2C. The Administrative Manager recommends approval of the following Benefit Certifications: Normal Retirement - Marissa Tiffer Cosomano (General Non-Excludable Employee); DROP - William Newman (Firefighter).

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Mr. Rene Alvarez and seconded by Mr. Easley. Motion unanimously approved (9-0).

- 3. Comments from Retirement Board Chairperson.

Chairperson Diana Gomez welcomed everyone back after the summer and noted the delayed start due to technical difficulties.

- 4. Items from the Board Attorney.

Mr. Garcia-Linares gave a brief discussion regarding Northern Trust transition, class action services and recommended continuing with the new program. He confirmed that the transition to Northern Trust for benefit payments and 1099 reporting remains on schedule, with testing in coordination with GRS and PensionSoft. Northern Trust is expected to assume 1099 duties beginning in 2026, while mimicking processing in 2025 to ensure a smooth transition.

Mr. Garcia-Linares reported to the Board on a QDRO, with no unusual issues.

Two cases regarding service purchase requests were presented for Board consideration.

- Officer Alex Henson: Due to delayed notice of eligibility, Officer Henson missed the 180-day window by two days. Counsel recommended approval of the buyback at the prior 18% calculation rate, noting that the delay was caused by administrative notice being issued late.

A motion to approve Officer Henson buyback at the prior 18% calculation rate was made by Mr. Rene Alvarez and seconded by Mr. Troy Easley. Motion unanimously approved (9-0).

5. Officer Clark: Requested extension of repayment terms from 3 years to 4–5 years due to the significant financial burden (estimated at 70% of his paycheck under the 3-year plan). The Board engaged in extensive discussion regarding whether this should be addressed case-by-case or as a potential policy change. Several trustees noted that actuarial changes in calculation methodology have made buybacks significantly costly for members. The consensus was to defer action pending actuarial input.

A motion to defer Officer Clark's request until the September meeting was made by Ms. Sureya Serret and seconded by Mr. Rene Alvarez. Motion unanimously approved (9-0)

Mr. Garcia-Linares also addressed a question from Retiree Martin Barros regarding potential overpayments. He confirmed that GRS tracks these cases and that no recent overpayment issues have been identified.

6. Items from the third-party Pension Administrator:

Ms. Estrada confirmed that coordination meetings between Northern Trust, GRS, and PensionSoft are occurring every two weeks to ensure readiness for the January 2026 transition. Testing is ongoing to verify payment accuracy and system integration.

The adjusted Retirement Board meeting schedule was also reviewed:

- September 15, 2025: Regular meeting (moved from September 11 due to a holiday)
- October 24, 2025: Joint meeting with the City Commission
- November: Regular meeting as scheduled
- December: No meeting scheduled

7. Investment Issues:

Dave West provided a comprehensive review of financial markets, fund performance, and strategic considerations.

Mr. West discussed ongoing tariff issues, noting that large corporations can adjust more easily than small businesses, which are facing significant cost increases. Several examples were provided, including increases in aluminum prices affecting small manufacturers. Mr. West recommended ending the overweight allocation to short-term cash equivalents due to falling yields and expectations of Federal Reserve rate cuts. The Board was advised that the 'free lunch' from high money market yields is ending.

For fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the fund returned 11.68%, outperforming the Florida Retirement System's 10.5% return. As of July 31, 2025, fund assets totaled \$533,352,055, the highest value on record.

In regard to the asset allocation, the portfolio remains overweight in domestic and international equities. The consultant recommended maintaining current positions until the \$25 million City contribution in October, after which rebalancing will be reviewed.

TerraCap properties continue to face refinancing challenges, with several assets sold at mixed values. Trustees expressed concerns about the viability of the strategy, but noted that management has become more transparent. Taurus and HarborVest private equity funds are performing strongly, with Taurus posting a 27% one-year return.

8. Old Business.

There was no old business.

9. New Business

There was no New business.

10. Public Comments.

Chairperson Diana Gomez noted that Mr. Derrek Space arrived late via Zoom. There were no additional public comments.

11. Adjournment.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

APPROVED ON: _____