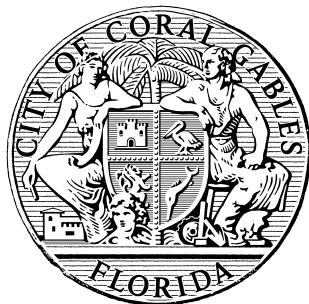


City of Coral Gables

*405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.coralgables.com*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

9:00 AM

City Hall, Commission Chambers

City Commission

*Mayor Donald D. Slesnick, II
Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Commissioner Maria Anderson
Commissioner Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Commissioner Wayne "Chip" Withers*

*Patrick G. Salerno, City Manager
Lourdes Alfonsin Ruiz, Interim City Attorney
Walter J. Foeman, City Clerk*

The use of cell phones in the commission chambers is not permitted. Ringers must be set to silent mode to avoid disruption of proceedings.

ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Mayor Slesnick II, Vice Mayor Kerdyk Jr., Commissioner Withers and Commissioner Cabrera Jr.

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Anderson

Presentation of the Colors by Coral Gables Senior High School Junior Army ROTC Color Guard.

[Note for the Record: Mayor Slesnick acknowledged the Presentation of the Colors by Coral Gables Senior High School Junior Army ROTC].

INVOCATION

[Note for the Record: Chaplain Ronald L. Gaudio, Director of Pastoral Care Services for Doctors Hospital, requested of the viewing public, a moment of silence for Gabrielle Giffords and all of those persons who have been impacted by the recent shootings that occurred in Tuscan, Arizona this weekend].

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Ralph Cabrera led the Pledge of Allegiance.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The following minutes summary includes all presentations made, and actions taken which information is supplemented by the following exhibits on file in the Office of the City Clerk, and which are by reference made a part of the record herein: (a) Ordinance(s) adopted (Ordinance No. 2011-01 through Ordinances No. 2011-02) (b) Resolution(s) adopted (Resolution No. 2011-01 through Resolution No. 2011-11); (c) Video; (d) Audio Recording; (e) Minutes Folder with Agenda and background information, including items which were submitted at the meeting.

A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**A.-1. 10-0809**

Congratulations to Coral Gables High School for becoming an "A" school. (Adolfo L. Costa, Principal; Dr. Nestor Diaz, Assistant Principal; and Ramses Ghanem and Monica Lazaro, students)

[Note for the Record: Mayor Slesnick requested of the principal of Coral Gables Senior High school to share with the viewing public the wonderful news regarding his school, whereby Principal Adolfo L. Costa thanked the members of the City Commission for the support they have given his school, and informed them that this represents the first time that the state has ever graded his school as an "A" rated school, adding that this represents a great achievement for the teachers, administrators, staff and alumni; further adding that in past years his school has been graded as a "C" school; further noting that last year, his school collectively resolved to do something about the rating; further observing that this presents a great accomplishment-pointing out that his students are proud, and the three alumni that are presently serving on the City Commission are very proud, and Mayor Slesnick further reminded the viewing public that the City of Coral Gables entered into an educational COMPACT with Miami-Dade County School Board for an estimated 5 years; further adding that one of the goals foreseen was to increase the overall grade rating and academic performance amongst all of the schools in Coral Gables; therefore one of the great successes of the COMPACT is getting an "A" school; further noting that amongst our electorate, that one of the highest expectations is quality education and academic achievement, even though local government has no jurisdictional authority over the school system.

Coral Gables Senior High School Principal acknowledged that now the entire feeder pattern has an "A" grade rating (including Coral Gables Elementary; Ponce de Leon Middle School; George Washington Carver Middle, and Coral Gables Senior High School). Coral Gables Principal Costa requested of Monica Lazaro (Student Council President) and Ramses Ghanem (in charge of all student activities, i.e. homecoming, Prom, etc.) to join him on the dais. Miss Lazaro, a Senior stated that she has applied for Miami-Dade Honors, and is anticipating possibly attending University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Campus. Mr. Ghanem, also a senior, stated that he plans to attend either University of Florida or University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill Campus).

Mayor Slesnick invited again the Color Guard to join the group From Coral Gables High School in order to partake in a photographic session. Lt. Colonel and Senior Army Instructor Jose A. Santini introduced the Color Guard, namely Cadet/LTC Jerome Blain; Cadet/CPT John King; Cadet/CSM Kevin Orozco; and Cadet/PFC

Jaime Said; further adding that he was especially proud of Cadet LTC Jerome Blain, who had encountered some very challenging times, but had been notified by Norwich University that he has been awarded a four year scholarship, as well as an additional \$14,000 Dean Scholarship for students with strong academic achievement in high school for the first year from the Dean of Students at said university].

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Presented and Filed

City Clerk Item No. 1

A.-2. 10-0808

Congratulations to Daniel Lage, recipient of a Rhodes Scholarship to England's University of Oxford.

Attachments: [Daniel Lage Letter](#)

[Note for the Record: Mayor Slesnick asked of Commissioner Withers to present the Certificate of Commendation to Daniel Lage on the occasion of his being the recipient of a Rhodes Scholarship from the University of Oxford. Commissioner Withers prefaced his remarks by stating that it was a pretty unique matter in that a Rhodes Scholar recipient is motivated by a certain individual in his life, namely his grandfather, to pursue a career in some aspect of the health care field.

Mr. Lage informed the viewing public that his grandfather, who lived with him and his parents developed dementia; adding that his struggles inspired him to look at health care policies, and how one can develop better health care policies for the elderly, and that is what inspired him to want to study health care policy in the United Kingdom at the Rhodes; further expressing optimism that hopefully, he can come back and serve his community, especially the elderly, who often go neglected and are not being taken care of as often as they should; further pointing out that the elderly have been very important in my life and to a lot of other young people as well.

Commissioner Withers further informed Daniel Lage that when he was recently listening to the BBC Television Station, he had learned that in China, that they are going to mandate that the younger generation go back and take care of their elderly; whereupon Commissioner read the Certificate of Commendation into the Public Record; finally conveying to Daniel Lage that he is very proud of him, that the City Commission is very proud of him, and he looks forward to receiving his emails and having him share with the Coral Gables community as to how his experiences are going abroad.

Mayor Slesnick also informed the viewing public that he also went to Oxford once, as a tourist (laughter!); further reading a letter addressed from Commissioner Anderson (i.e. who was absent, attending theology classes in Newton Center, MA) to Daniel Lage wherein she reminds him of the words of Howard Thurman, American

Theologian, clergyman and activist who said, “Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs are people who have come alive.” She further informed Daniel that his own personal experience coupled with his grandfather’s illness, inspires him to help others that are not as lucky as he is, and that he draws strength from the love of family; further expressing optimism that may this love and inspiration continue to burn bright in his body, mind and spirit as he crosses “The Pond” to the hallowed halls of Oxford.

Mayor Slesnick invited Daniel’s mother up to the dais to join he and the other members of the City Commission in a photographic session].

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Presented and Filed

City Clerk Item No. 2

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- B.-1. 10-0824** Regular City Commission Meeting of December 14, 2010.

Attachments: [Meeting Minutes](#)

[Verbatim Transcript - Agenda Item C-8 - resolution approving two change orders t](#)

[Verbatim Transcript - Agenda Item C-9 - Resolution Solid Waste Franchise Agree](#)

[Verbatim Transcript - Agenda Item E-3 - Gulliver - PAD - Site Plan - Encroachmen](#)

[Verbatim Transcript - Agenda Item E-5 Ordinance conditional use for bank drive-t](#)

[Verbatim Transcript - Agenda Item I - City Attorney Item - Excerpt - City Attorney S](#)

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Withers, that this motion be approved. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 4 - Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Withers and Mayor Slesnick II

Absent : 1 - Commissioner Anderson

City Clerk Item No. 3

C. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed within this section entitled "Consent Agenda" are considered to be self-explanatory and are not expected to require additional review or discussion, unless a member of the City Commission 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.

Passed the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Withers, to Adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yeas : 4 - Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Withers, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr. and Mayor Slesnick II

Absent : 1 - Commissioner Anderson

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-01**C.-1. 10-0786**

Resolution authorizing the execution of Addendum No. 1 to the maintenance agreement dated September 17, 2007 with the Sunrise Harbour Homeowners' Association for installation of irrigation systems at three cul-de-sacs in the Sunrise Harbour Subdivision; adding said irrigation systems to the City's responsibility for maintenance; reaffirming the Sunrise Harbour Homeowners Association's responsibility to maintain the existing and new plant materials and other encroachments previously approved; and further authorizing an appropriation of funds.

Attachments: [Resolution 2007-12](#)
[Recorded Maintenance Agreement](#)
[sunrise harbour irrigation COVER-1](#)
[Sunrise Harbour Exhibit B- Planting Plan](#)
[Sunrise Harbour RESOL](#)
[Sunrise Harbour Addendum No. 1](#)
[C-1 Signed Cover Memo](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF ADDENDUM NO. 1 TO THE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT DATED SEPTEMBER 17, 2007 WITH THE SUNRISE HARBOUR HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION FOR INSTALLATION OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS AT THREE CUL-DE-SACS IN THE SUNRISE HARBOUR SUBDIVISION; ADDING SAID IRRIGATION SYSTEMS TO THE CITY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE; REAFFIRMING THE SUNRISE HARBOUR HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN THE EXISTING AND NEW PLANT MATERIALS AND OTHER ENCROACHMENTS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.

This Matter was adopted by Resolution Number 2011-01 on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 4

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-02

- C.-2. 10-0798** Resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement with the Gables Estates Club, Inc. for traffic calming enhancements and pavement resurfacing within the Gables Estates Community; and further authorizing an appropriation of funds.

Attachments: [Gables Estates Agreement Exhibit A](#)
[Gables Estates Agreement Exhibit B](#)
[Gables Estates Agreement Exhibit C](#)
[Gables Estates Agreement-AGREEMENT](#)
[Gables Estates Agreement-COVER](#)
[Gables Estates Agreement-RESOL](#)
[C-2 Signed Cover Memo](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GABLES ESTATES CLUB, INC. FOR TRAFFIC CALMING ENHANCEMENTS AND PAVEMENT RESURFACING WITHIN THE GABLES ESTATES COMMUNITY; FURTHER AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.

This Matter was adopted by Resolution Number 2011-02 on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 5

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-03

- C.-3. 10-0812** Resolution reappointing Donald Sackman (nominated by City Manager Salerno) and Mike Sardinas (nominated by City Manager Salerno) to serve as members of the Board of Architects for a two (2) year term, beginning January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012.

Attachments: [Mike Sardinas Resume](#)
[Don Sackman Resume](#)
[R-2011- Draft - Board of Architects members - Donald Sackman - Mike Sardinas](#)
[Cover Memo - Board of Architects - Donald Sackman Mike Sardinas](#)
[C-3 Signed Cover Memo](#)

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION REAPPOINTING DONALD SACKMAN (NOMINATED BY CITY MANAGER SALERNO) AND MIKE SARDINAS (NOMINATED BY CITY MANGER SALERNO) TO SERVE AS MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ARCHITECTS FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2011 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012.

This Matter was adopted by Resolution Number 2011-03 on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 6

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-04**C.-4. 10-0820**

Resolution appointing Juan Carlos Riesco (nominated by City Manager Salerno) to serve as a member of the Board of Architects for a two (2) year term, beginning January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012.

Attachments: [R-2011- Draft - Board of Architects members - Juan Carlos Riesco](#)
[Juan Carlos Riesco Resume](#)
[Cover Memo - Board of Architects - Juan Carlos Riesco](#)
[C-4 Signed Cover Memo](#)

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION APPOINTING JUAN CARLOS RIESCO (NOMINATED BY CITY MANAGER SALERNO) TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ARCHITECTS FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2011 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012.

This Matter was adopted by Resolution Number 2011-04 on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 7

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-05**C.-5. 10-0816**

Resolution authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement by and among Miami-Dade County Office of the Property Appraiser, and the City of Coral Gables for collecting solid waste non-ad valorem assessments for the cost of providing solid waste collection services.

Attachments: [Agenda Item - Resolution authorizing execution of intergovernmental agreement s](#)
[Resolution authorizing execution of intergovernmental agreement 2](#)
[INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT 2 1-5-11 2](#)
[C-5 Signed Cover Memo](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BY AND AMONG MIAM-DADE COUNTY, THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY OFFICE OF THE PROPERTY APPRAISER, AND THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES FOR COLLECTING SOLID WASTE NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS FOR THE COST OF PROVIDING SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES.

This Matter was adopted by Resolution Number 2011-05 on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 8

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-06

- C.-7. 11-0542 Resolution providing a salary increase to Interim City Attorney Lourdes Alfonsin Ruiz.

Attachments: [Interim City Attorney Cover Memo](#)
[Interim City Attorney Resolution](#)
[Resolution 2010-285](#)
[C-7 Signed Cover Memo](#)

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING A SALARY INCREASE TO INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY LOURDES ALFONSIN RUIZ.

This Matter was adopted by Resolution Number 2011-06 on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 9

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-07

- C.-8. 10-0823 Resolution authorizing a temporary public art exhibition by CA' D'ORO, LLC d/b/a/ Ca' d' Oro Art Gallery titled "Regeneration Art Project" .

Attachments: [01 CDB a Minutes JANUARY 5 2011](#)
[Regeneration Art Project Cover Memo\(2\).pdf](#)
[Regeneration Art Project Resolution\(2\).pdf](#)
[Regeneration Art Project Hold Harmless\(2\).pdf](#)
[C-8 Signed Cover Memo](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART EXHIBITION BY CA' D'ORO, LLC D/B/A CA' D'ORO ART GALLERY TITLED "REGENERATION ART PROJECT".

This Matter was adopted by Resolution Number 2011-07 on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 10

Presentation of Boards and/or Committees minutes requesting no action from the City Commission:

- C.-9. 10-0796 Landscape Beautification Advisory Board Meeting of December 2, 2010

Attachments: [BC Cover Sheet 12-2-10](#)
[BC Minutes 12-2-10](#)
[LBAB Minutes 12-2-10 signed](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 11

- C.-10. 10-0797 Library Advisory Board Meeting of December 8, 2010

Attachments: [LAB Cover Sheet 12-08-10 \(1\) \(2\)](#)
[Library Minutes 12-08-10_a](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 12

- C.-11. 10-0800 Board of Adjustment Meeting of December 6, 2010

Attachments: [Board of Adjustment Summary 12-06-10](#)
[Notice for BOADJ - 12-06-10](#)
[Cover Memo - BOADJ - 01-11-11](#)
[BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT RECAP 12-06-10](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 13

- C.-12. 10-0814 Coral Gables Merrick House Governing Board Meeting of December 6, 2010

Attachments: [Merrick House December 6, 2010](#)
[GMNoAction-12.06.1010MinutesforCC01.11.11](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 14

- C.-13. 10-0817 International Affairs Coordinating Council Meeting of November 16, 2010

Attachments: [Microsoft Word - IACCCoverLetter11-16-10\(2\)](#)
[Microsoft Word - IACCMinutes-Nov](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 15

C.-14. 11-0541 Communications Committee Meeting of December 16, 2010

Attachments: [Microsoft Word - AgendaitemJanuary2011.pdf](#)
[Microsoft Word - minutes december 2010.pdf](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 16

Non Agenda Item

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-08

Non 11-0550 Resolution appointing Herbert F.Osle (nominated by Vice Mayor Kerdyk) to serve as a member of the Emergency Management Division for a two (2) year term, beginning January 11, 2011 through May 31, 2011.

RESOLUTION APPOINTING HERBERT F. OSLE (NOMINATED BY VICE MAYOR KERDYK), TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION, FOR THE UNEXPIRED BALANCE OF A TWO (2) YEAR TERM, FROM JANUARY 11, 2011 THROUGH MAY 31, 2011.

This Matter was adopted by Resolution Number 2011-08 on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 17

Pulled from Consent Agenda

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-09

C.-6. 10-0822 Resolution authorizing the execution of a Fiscal Agent Agreement by and between the Coral Gables Museum Corporation and the City of Coral Gables.

Attachments: [Museum Fiscal Agreement Cover Memo.pdf](#)
[Museum Fiscal Agreement Resolution.pdf](#)
[Museum Fiscal Agreement.pdf](#)
[C-6 Signed Cover Memo](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A FISCAL AGENT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CORAL GABLES MUSEUM CORPORATION AND THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES.

[Note for the Record: Commissioner Cabrera prefaced his remarks by stating that he had a fairly brief question and a possible request, further wanting to ensure from the City Administration that his item (Agenda Item C-6) goes along with a document known as the Fiscal Agent Agreement?- further referencing a certain section of said agreement that talks about where donations are coming for the purposes of assisting the City for the construction and development of the Coral Gables Museum; further stating that later on said document talks about contributing to the construction and

development of the Coral Gables Museum again--adding that he was curious as to how much has been expended in terms of construction costs for the Coral Gables Museum?- further stating that since he did not know that figure, and thought that it would be an opportune time to bring it up since the City is considering a series of donations by the Fewell family.

City Manager Salerno stated that the total construction costs was \$5.9 million, which is the amount that the construction contract is for; further pointing out that the Fewell family's donations were \$2 million extended over a matter of years; further stating that said document now formalizes the expectations that those funds will be used for construction and that the City had gone forward with the construction of the project based on those donated funds.

Commissioner Cabrera queried the City Manager as to whether the \$5.9 million represented the total construction cost?- further inquiring as to whether there were any construction overruns?- further requesting that since the project is now completed, what was the total cost of the project to the City, adding that he could provide him with the total amount by the end of the City Commission meeting.

Commissioner Cabrera further stated that the second part of his question addressed the matter of Section 7 of the Agreement, particularly notices quoting the current Fiscal/Agent Agreement document, as follows: It is understood and agreed upon between the City and CGM that written notice addressed to the City and mailed or delivered to:

As to City:

City Manager
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134

With Copy to:

City Attorney
City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134

As to CGM:

Executive Director
Coral Gables Museum
285 Aragon Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33134

[Note: Commissioner Cabrera also noted that Fiscal Agent Agreement talks about Default and Termination, and the Notice Requirement in Connection therewith].

Commissioner Cabrera further requesting an amendment to this provision of the

agreement wherein the City Commission be copied on these notices, adding that he would like the City Commission to receive a copy of same-since at present, said notices are only given to the City Manager and the City Attorney.

Mayor Slesnick adding to Commissioner Cabrera's statements concerning the total amount of the construction costs with the Coral Gables Museum, stated that said matter contained two parts: the restoration of the Old Police and Fire Stations, and the second part entailed the building of a new wing to the museum].

A motion was made by Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., seconded by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., that this motion be adopted by Resolution Number 2011-09. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 4 - Commissioner Withers, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr. and Mayor Slesnick II

Absent : 1 - Commissioner Anderson

City Clerk Item No. 18

D. PERSONAL APPEARANCES

None

City Clerk Item No. 19

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

APPEAL

E.-1. 10-0799

F.W. Zeke Guilford, Esquire, Applicant, has filed an appeal to the Coral Gables City Commission from a decision of the Board of Adjustment at its regular meeting December 6, 2010, wherein it denied an application for variances for the property located at 4995 Hammock Lake Drive pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance No. 2007-01, as amended and known as the "Zoning Code." (Board of Adjustment Vote: 5-2) (Deferred from January 11, 2011 Meeting)

The Applicant is appealing the decision made by the Board of Adjustment to deny the following variances related to the proposed new single-family residence.

- 1) Grant a variance to allow the single-family residence to have a lot coverage of (22.5%), nine thousand, one hundred and fifty square feet (9,150') vs. no single-family residence shall occupy more than (15%), six thousand, ninety-two square feet (6,092') of the ground area of the building site upon which the residence is erected, as allowed by Section A-56 (D) of the Coral Gables "Zoning Code."
- 2) Grant a variance to allow the proposed single-family residence to have a rear yard area ground coverage for accessory uses and structures of (7.4%), one thousand, ninety square feet (1,090') vs. a maximum rear yard area ground coverage for accessory uses and structures of (5%), seven hundred, thirty-three square feet (733') shall be permitted, as allowed by Section A-56 (D) of the Coral Gables "Zoning Code."

Attachments: [Application for Appeal for BOADJ](#)
[Transcript \(part 1\)](#)
[Transcript \(part2\)](#)
[BOADJ Package](#)
[Applicant's Proposal](#)
[Pictures - BOADJ 4995 Hammock Lake Dr.](#)
[Plans](#)
[Appeal - Cover Memo 01-11-11](#)
[Notice for Appeal 01-11-11](#)
[E-1 Signed Cover Memo](#)
[Zeke Guilford's Correspondence dated 01-10-11](#)
[City Commission Appeal - BOADJ January-25-2011](#)
[Notice for 01-25-11](#)

This Appeal was Deferred

City Clerk Item No. 20

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING**ORDINANCE NO. 2011-01****E.-2. 10-0707**

An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables providing for text amendments to the code of the City of Coral Gables, Chapter 74, Article III, Division 1, 2, 3, and 4 entitled "Stopping, Standing and Parking", providing for updates to the parking provisions and procedures, changes to valet parking provisions, enactment of a new Division 5 to provide for a "Parking Replacement Assessment", containing a repealer provision, a new Division 6 to provide for oversight of public use parking within a private development, and providing for severability, repealer, codification and an effective date. (Passed on First Reading November 9, 2010)

Attachments:

[cover sheet Title 74 11-09-10](#)
[Excerpts from Planning and Zoning Board Presentation](#)
[Excerpts from Planning and Zoning Board Minutes](#)
[Draft Ordinance](#)
[Draft Ordinance Clean Copy](#)
[E-4 Signed Cover Memo](#)
[Draft Ordinance Version 2](#)
[cover sheet chapter 74 01-11-11](#)
[E-2 Signed Cover Memo](#)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES PROVIDING FOR TEXT AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, CHAPTER 74, ARTICLE III, DIVISION 1, 2, 3, AND 4 ENTITLED "STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING," PROVIDING FOR UPDATES TO THE PARKING PROVISIONS AND PROCEDURES, CHANGES TO VALET PARKING PROVISIONS, ENACTMENT OF A NEW DIVISION 5 TO PROVIDE FOR A "PARKING REPLACEMENT ASSESSMENT," A NEW DIVISION 6 TO PROVIDE FOR OVERSIGHT OF PUBLIC USE PARKING WITHIN A PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT, AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, REPEALER, CODIFICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[Note for the Record: The verbatim transcript for Agenda Item E-2 is available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk and in Legistar].

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Withers, that this motion be adopted by Ordinance Number 2011-01. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 4 - Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Withers and Mayor Slesnick II

Absent : 1 - Commissioner Anderson

City Clerk Item No. 21

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-02**E.-3. 10-0772**

Conditional Use. An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, granting conditional use site plan approval pursuant to Zoning Code Article 3, Development Review, Division 4, Conditional Uses, for a bank drive-through facility within the Commercial Limited (CL) District on the property legally described as Lots 23-34, Block 3, Biltmore Section (595 Biltmore Way - Northern Trust Bank), Coral Gables, Florida; providing for severability, repealer, codification, and an effective date. (Passed on First Reading December 14, 2010)

Attachments:

[12 14 10 CC Cover Memo - Northern Trust Bank - 1st Reading](#)
[12 14 10 Exhibit A: Ordinance - Northern Trust Bank - 1st reading](#)
[12 14 10 Exhibit B: 11 03 10 PZB Staff report](#)
[12 14 10 Exhibit D: 11 03 10 PZB Meeting Minutes](#)
[12 14 10 Exhibit E: Updated Public Comments](#)
[12 14 10 Exhibit C: Applicant's submittal package](#)
[E-5 Signed Cover Memo](#)
[01 11 11 CC Cover Memo - Northern Trust Bank - 2nd Reading](#)
[01 11 11 Exhibit A - Ordinance re Northern Trust Bank - 2nd reading](#)
[E-3 Signed Cover Memo](#)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA GRANTING CONDITIONAL USE APPROVAL PURSUANT TO ZONING CODE ARTICLE 3, DEVELOPMENT REVIEW, DIVISION 4, CONDITIONAL USES, FOR A BANK DRIVE-THROUGH FACILITY WITHIN THE COMMERCIAL LIMITED (CL) DISTRICT ON THE PROPERTY LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS LOTS 23-34, BLOCK 3, BILTMORE SECTION (595 BILTMORE WAY - NORTHERN TRUST BANK), CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, REPEALER, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[Note for the Record: Commissioner Withers prefaced his remarks by stating that when this matter was addressed, there was a loss of several parking spaces; further inquiring as to whether said parking spaces are going to be restored?- is the City still maintaining that?- whereby Laura Russo, Esquire and Attorney for the Applicant referred said question to Ms. Hirsch, Vice President of Real Estate, Northern Trust Bank, who explained that before, those spaces were a casualty of the traffic circle, and what was built out with the circle; and therefore, the parking spaces no longer exist; further stating that Northern Trust Bank had been paying for said spaces on an annual basis, as evidenced by its payment in the last round of billing; further expressing uncertainty as to how said matter will be handled in the future; further reminding the City Commission that said parking spaces are now being taken up by some green space with the traffic circle being created.

Commissioner Withers further inquired of Ms. Hirsch as to whether a determination should now be made as to how said matter shall be handled in the future? Ms. Hirsch stated that the new drive through facility and the replacement thereof does not take away any of the existing parking spaces, adding that Northern Bank is open to

discussion regarding how they will handle this matter; further responding that the parking configuration was previously being paid for because of the new street configuration; however she assumes that that the bank will not have to pay for same in the future because said spaces no longer exist.

Following Commissioner Withers uncertainty as to how said matter will be dealt with, Parking Director Kevin Kinney stated that he could provide further clarification, stating that Northern Trust Bank had not been billed for the spaces during this year; further explaining that they were short in disabled spaces on site; and therefore Northern Trust Bank had requested disabled spaces on the street, and that they were paying for same].

A motion was made by Commissioner Withers, seconded by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., that this motion be adopted by Ordinance Number 2011-02. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 4 - Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Withers, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr. and Mayor Slesnick II

Absent : 1 - Commissioner Anderson

City Clerk Item No. 22

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

- E.-4. 10-0727** An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables authorizing entering into an Amended and Restated Agreement for Operation of the Coral Gables Museum with Coral Gables Museum Corp., with regard to city-owned property at 285 Aragon Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida; and providing for severability, repealer, codification and an effective date. (Passed on First Reading January 11, 2011)

Attachments: [PAB 11-02-10 Mtg Minutes Excerpt.pdf](#)
[Museum Cover Memo.pdf](#)
[Museum Ordinance.pdf](#)
[Museum - Amended and Restated Lease.pdf](#)
[Museum Global Comparison.pdf](#)
[E-4 Signed Cover Memo](#)
[Richard Namon's Correspondence](#)
[Commission cover 1 25 11 \(Museum\).pdf](#)
[Ordinance - 1 25 11_Museum_.pdf](#)
[Amended and restated agreement 1 25 11.docx.pdf](#)
[Museum Mission Statement - revised 1 25 11.docx.pdf](#)

[Note for the Record: The verbatim transcript for Agenda Item E-4 is available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk and in Legistar].

A motion was made by Commissioner Withers, seconded by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., that this motion be approved as an Ordinance on First Reading. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 4 - Commissioner Withers, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr. and Mayor Slesnick II

Absent : 1 - Commissioner Anderson

City Clerk Item No. 22

F. CITY COMMISSION ITEMS**None**

City Clerk Item No. 23

G. BOARDS/COMMITTEES ITEMS**None**

City Clerk Item No. 24

H. CITY MANAGER ITEMS**None**

City Clerk Item No. 25

I. CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS**None**

City Clerk Item No. 26

J. CITY CLERK ITEMS**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-10**

- J.-1. **10-0818** Resolution of the City Commission confirming the election of an individual, as a member of the City of Coral Gables Retirement Board (Participating General Employee Representative), for a term beginning January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012.

Attachments: [R-2010 - Draft - Confirmation of Retirement Board Elections - General Employee F](#)
[Cover Memo - General Employee Representative](#)
[J-1 Signed Cover Memo](#)
[Certification and Declaration of the Coral Gables Retirement Board Election](#)
[Cover Memo with Tabulation of Results - Nominating Petitions and Acceptance Le](#)

RESOLUTION WITH ATTACHMENT, ACCEPTING THE CITY CLERK'S CERTIFICATE AND DECLARATION OF RESULTS, THEREBY CONFIRMING THE ELECTION OF DONALD "RUSTY" HILL, AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES RETIREMENT BOARD (PARTICIPATING GENERAL EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE), FOR A TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2011 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012.

[Note for the Record: Following the referencing of Agenda Item J-1 by the Mayor Slesnick, City Clerk Walter Foeman prefaced his remarks by stating that this item was before the City Commission to request that the Commission approve the City Clerk's

Certification and Declaration of Results from the recently held Retirement Board Election of January 4th through 7, 2011, to elect a Participating General Employee Representative; further stating that following the end of the qualifying period of December 17, 2011, that there were three nominating petitions that were filed for candidates Donald "Rusty" Hill, Shafee Mohammed and Raymond Vorsteg; further stating that following the closing of the polls, and the canvass of the vote count of the total votes cast, the results were as follows: Donald Rusty Hill received 50 votes (52.63% of the votes cast), Shafee Mohammed received 15 votes (15.79% of the votes cast), and Raymond Vorsteg received 27 votes (28.42% of the votes cast); further stating that there were 2 votes rejected (2.11% of the votes cast) and one undervote (1.05%); finally, the City Clerk requested that the City Commission approve the resolution confirming the election of Donald "Rusty" Hill as a Participating General Employee to the Retirement Board].

A motion was made by Commissioner Withers, seconded by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., that this motion be adopted by Resolution Number 2011-10. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 4 - Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Withers and Mayor Slesnick II

Absent : 1 - Commissioner Anderson

City Clerk Item No. 27

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-11

J.-2. 10-0819

Resolution of the City Commission confirming the election of Troy Easley who ran unopposed, as a member of the City of Coral Gables retirement board (Participating Firefighter Representative), for a term beginning January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012.

Attachments: [R-2010 - Draft - Confirmation of Retirement Board Elections-Firefighter Represent Cover Memo - Firefighter Representative - Troy Easley](#)
[J-2 Signed Cover Memo](#)

RESOLUTION WITH ATTACHMENT, ACCEPTING THE CITY CLERK'S CERTIFICATION AND DECLARATION OF RESULTS, THEREBY CONFIRMING THE RE-ELECTION OF TROY EASLEY WHO RAN UNOPPOSED, AS A MEMBER OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES RETIREMENT BOARD (PARTICIPATING FIRE FIGHTER REPRESENTATIVE), FOR A TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2011 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2012.

[Note for the Record: Following the introduction to Agenda Item J-2 by Mayor Slesnick City Clerk Foeman stated that this matter before the City Commission was also related to Retirement Board Election, more particularly the election of a

Participating Firefighter to said board; further stating that following the end of the qualifying period of December 17, 2011, there was only one nominating petition submitted, namely that of Troy Easley, who ran unopposed; further requesting that the City Commission approve the resolution confirming the re-election of Troy Easley as a Participating Firefighter Representative to the Retirement Board].

A motion was made by Commissioner Withers, seconded by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., that this motion be adopted by Resolution Number 2011-11. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas : 4 - Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Withers, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr. and Mayor Slesnick II

Absent : 1 - Commissioner Anderson

City Clerk Item No. 28

Non Agenda Items

Non Agenda 11-0551 Discussion on search for new City Attorney.

[Note for the Record: The verbatim transcript for this Item is available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk and in Legistar].

This Agenda Item was Discussed and Filed

City Clerk Item No. 29

K. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mayor Slesnick: Any other official business?- if not, we are going to go down the line starting with Commissioner Cabrera about any personal items.

Commissioner Cabrera: We had a deferral on E-2 this morning, and E-2 was a fairly thick document; do we keep E-2?- do we give it back to staff?- I've got lots of notes...

Commissioner Withers: I'm just going to leave mine.

Commissioner Cabrera: Give it back.

Mayor Slesnick: If you keep it, we'll just have staff note that you've kept yours.

Commissioner Cabrera: I'll give staff my package back minus the notes, because I wrote in some of the documents. So we'll leave that on top of the dais for staff to come behind and pick up. Yesterday I was on hold....

Mayor Slesnick: You said E-2, it was E-1.

Commissioner Cabrera: Oh, was it?- E-1 - was it the Board of Adjustment appeal?- I've got to go through it. I'm sorry, I misspoke, it was E-1. No, no, that's fine, I just want to take out mine, I can give everything else back, it's a pretty thick document that's the reason I was trying to save a tree or two. Yesterday I was on hold as I was calling City Hall and had an opportunity to listen to our auto attendant message, and part of the recording was...

Commissioner Withers: Hurricane season.

Commissioner Cabrera: No, that's good though, a little premature. No, it was about the downtown area being a destination for shopping and restaurants and stores were mentioned in the message. At the end of the message, for more information go on to shopcoralgables.com; and I want to couch my comments by saying, I consider myself as most of you a big proponent of the downtown district and of the merchandisers and restaurants that are in our downtown; and I try very hard to help them whether it's the one hour parking during the holidays, or its "Giralda Under the Stars" that we all support, or keeping the downtown area clean, and having the right amount of service

crews on the weekends, whatever it is, I think that I try -- my voting record and my public record, I think pretty much speaks for itself, but I was uncomfortable with the message because specific stores were mentioned, stores that I happen to shop at, and I thought to myself for a minute, well what if I were a retailer and I was calling the City for something and my store's name didn't come up?- and what if I was a citizen and I heard that message and I thought to myself, is the City of Coral Gables doing advertising now for the downtown area?- and if so, are these stores paying for the advertising?- and I looked at it more as a policy decision, and so I'd like us to consider not having that kind of message on the auto attendant, because I think it could send a wrong message, not that it did, but it could send a wrong message. So, I for one would feel more comfortable if we promote the whole downtown experience and talk about coming to the downtown area and having plenty of parking, and having many stores open late at night, whatever the message is to be more of a macro message than to mention Seasons 52, or Montica Jewelers, or Leather World, or Café Abbrachi, those are some of the establishments that were...and we all like these establishments and I think we all shop at them, or eat in those establishments, but I'd feel more comfortable if we took that off.

Mayor Slesnick: Great - bother me.

Commissioner Cabrera: You were on hold too?

Mayor Slesnick: Yes.

Commissioner Cabrera: Oh, OK. Alright, well I appreciate that. So we are going to go ahead as a policy and...

Mayor Slesnick: Mr. Manager, I thought it was a little unusual that we were mentioning specific stores and restaurants.

City Manager Salerno: I agree we should change that.

Commissioner Cabrera: Thank you. Last and certainly not least, you casually mentioned it a couple of minutes ago, I think it was last Friday the 7th, was that last Friday?- yes, last Friday, January 7th we all received, I'm assuming we all received, an e-mail from the City Attorney's office asking us about our availability for an upcoming meeting with PriceWaterhouse and personnel from the City, to go over some of the work that PriceWaterhouse has done and while I'm excited about following up on this

issue, I'm just wondering January 28th is a long time away, and you know, this thing just continues to drag, and I'm just wondering if this date could be pushed up?

Mayor Slesnick: I asked the Manager that yesterday.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK.

Mayor Slesnick: Mr. Manager you want to...

City Manager Salerno: Sure Mayor. The date was arrived at based upon the availability of a number of individuals that would be participating in that status briefing, and the folks that we have involved are very busy folks, very capable folks, from attorneys, consultants, etc., and as you can imagine it's difficult to try to find the time that was available. So the date of the 28th for the outside consultants turned out to be the best date that everybody could commit to. There were one or two earlier dates, but it wasn't - the outside consultants thought it would be best, there are periods of time for one week in there where PriceWaterhouse representatives are not available, another half a week, etc., so it's a function of trying to get everybody involved, and the 28th was far enough outside that it was workable for the five members of the City Commission, which as far as I understand all five Commissioners have agreed to the 28th. So we've got, it seems to be agreement that everybody can make it on that date. I would have preferred a sooner date, but it had nothing to do with the availability of staff, it had to do with the availability of our outside folks.

Mayor Slesnick: And Ralph, I was concerned too, and I was convinced after talking to the City Manager that he had actually tried to have a couple of earlier dates considered and it just didn't work for all of our attorneys and people and so forth, but I would just add to that, if I may Ralph...

Commissioner Cabrera: Yes, I'm listening.

Mayor Slesnick:... is that, Mr. Manager and I think we all agree, and I think you do too, that once these briefings are through that we sort of put this whole process into overdrive and move along as quickly as with the appropriate business attitude, I don't mean quick to skip steps, but I just mean as quickly as we can. Hopefully, after the briefing you'll have some clear direction.

Commissioner Cabrera: That's it for me.

Mayor Slesnick: Mr. Kerdyk.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Just a few items Mr. Mayor. The first one being the fact that of course the City of Coral Gables has a great downtown area, I mean, that's said for sure, and one of the things we try to do is create new tenants. I think that the Economic Sustainability Office is out doing that, and also part of that Economic Sustainability Office is monitoring the existing tenant's performance. Mr. City Manager I would like to, since it's an especially crucial area at this time with the economy so difficult and knowing from my profession that there are more and more stores becoming vacant, and more and more hardships on tenants, I would like maybe on a periodic, maybe every quarter have an economic sustainability report that's given to the City Commission, maybe have Cindy come up here and provide us a little guidance on where we stand with our existing tenants and the recruitment of new tenants to our City in general. So we stay up - abreast of what's going on, and it could be as easy as her coming in front of us and just giving us a review of where we stand on both those items there. I think that would be beneficial for not only the Commission here, but also the residents and of course the property owners in the downtown business core. If you could arrange that, that would be great. The second issue is that we have a very vigilant Code Enforcement Department, and I say that with sincerity and of course they are out there all the time monitoring houses and buildings and they are citing houses and buildings when there is a repair and maintenance issue. I've had a couple of cases, one came to me just recently, where the estate had a lien against it for four hundred and sum odd thousand dollars; and I know the City does a very good job of mitigating those because we are trying to get compliance issues, but apparently what happened here, and has happened in a couple other cases is there were elderly involved; and when the notice went to the elderly, and we do everything right, we post the notice on the door; we send it to the elderly and they sign off on it, but maybe there is a way that we could be a little bit more passionate and make sure that we try to not only to reach out to them, the elderly or anybody in the house like that, that has repair maintenance; and maybe try to contact the second person that maybe could step in and repair the house, because again what we are trying to do is get some closure or trying to improve the structure itself. In this one case the property languished for 3-4 years because this elderly person, I couldn't tell you what was the exact scenario, but I assume that she didn't have the capabilities of taking care of the house. So again, I'm not talking about the mitigation of fees, I'm not up here talking about the mitigation of fees, I'm talking more specifically about, when we have a house that is in need of repair and maintenance there is maybe some other mechanism that we can do. We work with the

Fire Department because I think that they have a list of all of our elderly in the City of Coral Gables, and see if there is a next of kin that we could reach out to and try to get them to take care of the facility. Just a comment and maybe you can think that one through and get back to me as far as that item goes. That's it.

Mayor Slesnick: Chip.

Commissioner Withers: Yes, one quick issue; and I was reminded when Gables High School was here today. I was in Tallahassee yesterday at a quarterly meeting of the Tobacco Advisory Council, and there is quite a shake up going on in the Department of Health, but one of the last directives that the parting Attorney General, McCollum left was challenge the rights of individual communities, universities, etc. to I guess pass laws and ordinances on the Clean Air Act, which really comes into play is some universities are attempting to become "smoke-free," or if a City decides to have a park "smoke-free," or even a City building, a public space like a plaza "smoke-free," the State of Florida Attorney General says it's not in our right to do so; and I don't know where we want to pursue that, but it's one of those again, the State taking away a little bit more of our own autonomy and our own authority to pursue it. So Don, I don't know if you heard of this, or League of Cities, its relatively new. This concerns me whenever State of Florida tries to mandate something in our public spaces or our public schools. I know that Dade County School Board, I know that the universities around the State are going after the decision, maybe it's something the League of Cities wants to look at, I don't know. So just a comment.

Mayor Slesnick: Excuse me one second. Chris, Chris, don't go.

Commissioner Withers: Maybe you can find out a little bit more about the decision and see how we want to pursue it. I know that we are trying to look at clean air ordinances in our public parks, in our plazas, maybe even make Miracle Mile "smoke-free downtown," I don't know what's in store for us, but I'd hate to have that authority usurp from us, if we wanted to move forward.

Interim City Attorney Alfonsin: I will definitely look into it.

Commissioner Withers: That's it.

Mayor Slesnick: And I will work with the City Attorney on talking with the League of Mayors, the League of Cities.

Commissioner Withers: And see what they say. I don't know how you feel about it, that's how I feel.

Mayor Slesnick: Let me say this, I'm a "smoke-free" person, and I think public spots "smoke-free" is wonderful.

Commissioner Cabrera: I'm a leaf blower free person.

Mayor Slesnick: And that creates smoke.

Commissioner Cabrera: Oh man, that's so much worse than smoking.

Commissioner Withers: It's not just the "smoke-free," it's just the idea that they have the right to mandate, you know....

Mayor Slesnick: And I'm not sure they do.

Commissioner Withers: That's it.

Mayor Slesnick: Mr. Manager do you have anything?

City Manager Salerno: Nothing Mayor.

Commissioner Cabrera: Can I bring one last thing, do you mind?- before you go on?

Mayor Slesnick: No.

Commissioner Cabrera: We all received an e-mail yesterday from Gordon Sokolof, Dr. Sokolof, who happens to be my dentist. While I know it's a challenge to fix a 40-year old elevator, because I know it's very old, if not older than 40-years old; we need to tackle this issue because there are plenty of folks that are handicap; and I think if the ADA got wind of us having a non-compliant elevator in a public parking garage, it would not be a good thing for us.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: That's a mess. I agree.

Mayor Slesnick: I absolutely agree.

Commissioner Cabrera: I just see a sense of urgency, not just because it's Gordon Sokolof, the guy that works on my teeth, but the fact is that he's brought it up to us. I think he sent it to all five of us.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: He did. He did.

Commissioner Cabrera: And I just think it needs to get the urgency that it requires. Pardon me?

Mayor Slesnick: He brought it to your attention when he was doing the drill. (Laughter)

Commissioner Cabrera: No, no he actually e-mailed me at the same time he e-mailed you.

Mayor Slesnick: Well I know; and I believe by the way, that my last view of a related e-mail was Maria Menendez or Dona Spain, I forget, maybe Dona, or maybe Maria, I think it was Maria instructing Glenn to take a look at that, or it was Dona instructing Kevin to take a look at that...

City Attorney Salerno: Dona.

Mayor Slesnick:...so there are people...you are absolutely right, you are absolutely right.

Commissioner Cabrera: That's just a bad one. I know it's dirty and I know that's a different challenge altogether, but if somebody can't get down from the elevator or can't get up to the parking space and has to use a staircase, it just makes it impossible for the use.

Mayor Slesnick: Thank you. Absolutely agree that you know, just to the people of Coral Gables what Commissioner Cabrera has brought up, we have two older garages in our downtown area, we have three, one of them is involved in the Palace project and if that should get underway, which we hope it does in the very near future, that will resolve that garage's issues which is the one furthest east on Andalusia, but the other two are large facilities, they are dated facilities, they do have dirt and other problems, they do have spaulding problems, and they do have elevator problems. We know that, we are trying our best to address those things, it is expensive and we are looking for

the money, and what we'd really like to do is redevelop the garages, and the City Manager and the Commission have taken some steps to try to make that more attractive to private industry to partner with us on that, but that just hasn't happened yet, and it would take a while even if we started down that road. I just have a couple things and it goes along kind of what....

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: By the way, if I could just interject, that's part of the big picture with the parking, transportation and everything.

Commissioner Cabrera: It is - absolutely, it's part of the huge picture.

Mayor Slesnick: Vice Mayor Kerdyk was talking about the downtown business and that is in the last two or so months on behalf of this Commission, and with the help of the Chamber and the B.I.D., we have probably cut 9-10 ribbons in downtown Coral Gables. Some people kind of dismiss, well you know Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioners are out cutting ribbons, they should be doing more important things, well guess what?- the ribbon-cuttings that we take part in are symbols of business coming back with the new economy, and hopefully the new economy and new businesses opening and people taking the chance to invest in new businesses, and so it's very important, and it's our recognition of these people trying to bring life to downtown Coral Gables. I think that, that's the most ribbons we've cut in some time.

Commissioner Cabrera: You got some criticism over that?

Mayor Slesnick: No, I mean some people will take pot-shots at politicians being out and about doing ribbon-cuttings, kissing babies, and hugging people, but the fact is there a lot of things that we do away from this dais are very important for the interaction between ourselves and the citizens of this City, and it is important to recognize people who are doing good things, and I think that we all agree to that; but what I really want to truly hone in on is that there is hope out there for a new economic era with the kinds of things that are happening. The biggest ribbon we probably cut was Seasons 52, which is like what Commissioner Cabrera talked about earlier, about two hundred and something employees, Shula's down in South Gables is another hundred and something employees, and then it goes down to some of the smaller little businesses with maybe four or five or six employees to keep a business open six days a week. So it's all good news, and it's all new jobs, and it's all new economic development, and so we look forward to more of that happening; and last night we entertained a delegation from the nation of South Africa who are looking for the

possibility of establishing a Consulate here in South Florida, and they came to look at Coral Gables as a possible site for that Consulate, and of course that would be an amazing fit for us to bring in another country as part of our international community, and someone else looking for space and so forth. Now, we're in competition with downtown Miami, Brickell, and other places, but at least we were given the opportunity and the chance, and I know that the Manager's team will continue to work on that, and that was just something of interest to me. With that we will close this meeting. We had had our first meeting, shorter meeting than usual, but at least we have moved along and any other final comments?- if not we wish everyone a great, wonderful, healthy and happy 2011, and we will be back here in two weeks for our second meeting of the year. We'll adjourn.

City Clerk Item No. 30

ADJOURNMENT

[Note for the Record: There being no further business on the Regular City Commission Meeting Agenda. The Commission of the City of Coral Gables adjourned its meeting at 10:53 am on January 11, 2011. The next regular meeting of the City Commission has been scheduled for January 25, 2011, beginning 9 a.m.]

DONALD D. SLESNICK
MAYOR

ATTEST:

WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK