

CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

Economic Development Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

Wednesday | November 3, 2021 | 8:00 a.m.

Location: Zoom and Police and Fire Headquarters (PFHQ), Community Meeting Room A
2151 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, FL 33134

EDB MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTING ENTITY
	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	
Julio Grabiell	Z	Z	Z	P	P	P	X	P	P	A	P		Mayor Vince Lago
Olga Ramudo, Chair	P	E	Z	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	A		Vice Mayor Michael Mena
Stuart McGregor	Z	E	Z	P	P	Z	X	E	E	E	P		Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez
Tania Cruz-Gimenez	-	-	-	-	-	Z	X	E	P	P	A		Commissioner Rhonda Anderson
Mary Snow	-	-	-	-	-	P	X	P	P	P	P		Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Barbara Perez	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P		City Manager Peter Iglesias
Thad Adams	-	-	Z	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	P		Chamber of Commerce

A=Absent E=Excused Absence P=Present X=No Meeting Ph=Present by Phone Z=Zoom - =Former Board Member

Staff and Guests:

Julian H. Perez, AICP, CFM, Director, Economic Development Department
 Belkys Perez, Assistant Director, Economic Development Department
 Zeida Sardiñas, Asset Manager, Economic Development Department
 Francesca Valdes, Business Development Coordinator, Economic Development Department
 Leticia Perez, International Business Development Coordinator, Economic Development Department
 Yenis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department
 Kevin Kinney, Parking Director, Parking Department

Mr. Stuart McGregor brought the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

1. Review and approval of October 6, 2021, Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes.
Mr. Grabiell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Mr. Adams seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. There was no discussion regarding the minutes.

2. Mobility Hub Intro

Mr. Kinney and Ms. Sardiñas provided the Board members with a presentation of the Coral Gables Mobility Hub to be located at 245 Andalusia Avenue the site of the current parking garage which was built 61 years ago. Mr. Kinney explained that in the 60's garages were built solely for cars not for people. The concept of a Mobility Hub is a facility that will take the City through the next 50 years. The City is looking at the Mobility Hub as a flexible building that can accommodate drone deliveries, have the

ability to convert floors to other uses as transportation changes, house electric vehicle charging, and car ride sharing options, to name a few.

Mr. Kinney answered several questions related to roof top activities, accessibility to Miracle Mile, final design concept, elevator locations and safety.

3. Economic Study Update

Mr. Perez updated Board members that Florida International University Metropolitan Center was selected for the City's Economic Study. The Department hopes to kick off the project by the end of November or the first week of December. The first phase of the project is to be heavy on data collection and data analysis. The intent is to get a complete overview of the City's economy in order to move forward with a corporate strategy. The second output of the project will be developing a sub-element of the comprehensive plan entitled economic development. Mr. Perez believes it is important to bring economic development to the forefront under Chapter 163 for the Florida Statute, which is the statute that establishes the local government comprehensive planning process.

4. Business Tax License Report

Ms. Valdes updated Board members on the new and upcoming businesses in Coral Gables. Currently, the vacancy rate is about 10.5% for Miracle Mile, 6.5% for the Central Business District and 2% for all other areas of the City.

5. Open Discussion

Mr. McGregor inquired if the Beacon Council or City has focused on attracting firms from New York City to Coral Gables.

Mr. Perez explained that the City of Coral Gables does not have the resources. However, he explained that the City has found its own brand identity in technology. The City promotes itself as a smart city that is growing its technology infrastructure. Mr. Perez says the City has a series of partnerships with Silicon Valley, Google and the University of Miami that assist with these efforts.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yenisis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department.