

TRAFFIC ADVISORY BOARD
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2014 5:30 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	M 13	J 13	J 13	A 13	S 13	O 13	N 13	D 13	J 14	F 14	M 14	A 14	APPOINTED BY:
Ignacio G. Borbolla	+	P	A	+	+	+	P	P	P	+	A	P	Jim Cason
Gordon Sokoloff	+	P	P	+	+	+	P	P	P	+	P	P	Patricia Keon
Deborah Swain	+	P	P	+	+	+	P	P	P	+	P	P	Vince Lago
Chris Morrison	+	A	(#)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Ralph De La Grana	+	A	P	+	+	+	P	E	A	+	A	E	Frank C. Quesada
Donna Kupper	+	P	P	+	+	+	P	P	P	+	P	P	Commission-as-a-Whole
VACANT	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	City Manager

P - Present
E - Excused Absence
A - Absent
*** - New Member**
+ - No Meeting
(#) Resigned

STAFF:

Yamilet Senespleda, Public Works City Engineer/Senior Traffic Engineer
Ludwik Janiga, Public Works Civil Engineer
Jeannette Reyes, Public Works Clerical Assistant II
Edward Hudak, Major, Coral Gables Police Department

GUEST:

Alisa Weiner, Coral Gables resident.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Swain called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

January 18, 2014 Meeting Minutes – Mrs. Kupper made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Mr. Sokoloff second the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

ABSENCE:

Mr. Ralph De La Grana - Mrs. Kupper made a motion to excuse Mr. Ralph De La Grana absence, Mr. Borbolla second the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Swain announced the new appointees Mr. Chris Morrison and Mr. De La Grana. Mr. Morrison was appointed by Commissioner Kerdyk and Mr. De La Grana was appointed by Commissioner Quesada to replace Mr. Arrizurieta.

Mr. Morrison recommended adding the new map showing all 7 zones to the *Citizen Guide to Traffic Calming* brochure.

MOTIONS:

Mr. Morrison made a motion to approve the UHealth building and the alignment on Dickenson Drive as designed. Mr. Borbolla second the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Sokoloff made a motion to request the speed limit at Gables by the Sea be reduced to 20 mph. Mr. Morrison second the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Miller & Alhambra resident meeting – Yamilet advised that 3 of the corner residents verbally approved the traffic circle and are currently working with the fourth resident. Staff will be meeting with the resident to discuss his concerns. Once all residents verbally approve, ballots will be mailed-out and then Miami-Dade County will be the final approver.

Mrs. Swain briefed Mr. Morrison on the traffic issue at Miller & Alhambra. Mrs. Swain asked to have a discussion and determination from the Board as to whether they support what is being proposed.

Mr. Morrison mentioned the same problem occurred in the past when there were certain projects that should have gone before the TAB, for example the Bacardi building, when area residents complained to the TAB about what had been planned and designed. The TAB was at a loss because the Board didn't have a presentation as to what was proposed. The director of Public Works at the time obtained a presentation from Tim Plummer and made it a public meeting with the neighbors.

Mrs. Swain explained that a few years ago the City had no money for more improvements so there were no projects going before the Board for any sort of approval, therefore the City missed the routine of bringing projects before the Board and the Board was bypassed. The Board is now trying to identify current projects and keep them on a list. City staff is creating a list of outstanding projects. Residents brought the issue on Miller and San Amaro which was constructed since she's been on the Board. The board has not seen the traffic count of this project. Ms. Swain went to the residents meeting and saw the presentation which was after the

last Board meeting. Mrs. Swain explained that the issue is that there was a traffic light at the intersection of San Amaro and Miller and a stop sign at Alhambra, crossing Miller with kidney shape diverters only turning right. When the roundabout was placed, diverters were removed while the roundabout was being constructed there was a 4-way stop sign. Upon completion of the roundabout, the 4-way stop sign was removed and then it was realized that there was an increase in traffic with high speed. The traffic study confirmed this increase. Major Hudak provided the Board with the Miller/Red, Miller/San Amaro and South Alhambra and Miller crash Data.

Miller & Red

2011	seven (7) accidents reported
2012	ten (10) accidents reported
2013	ten (10) accidents reported

Miller & San Amaro

2011	six (6) accidents reported
2012	two (2) accidents reported
2013	twelve (12) accidents reported

South Alhambra & Miller

2011	three (3) accidents reported
2012	two (2) accidents reported
2013	six (6) accidents reported

Mrs. Swain said the issue on Miller is actually volume and speed. Mr. Morrison asked where the process is at now. Mrs. Swain stated that at last night's neighborhood meeting, a 4-way stop sign was requested until the roundabout is complete. Mrs. Kupper stated she did not attend the meeting but drove through the intersection and in her opinion, if engineering recommends it and the traffic study supports it, she supports it. She also commented that the traffic circles that have been installed have not really lessened accidents and asked for Major Hudak's comments.

Major Hudak stated speed is not necessarily the issue on a lot of the residential streets. They are not going over 30 mph.

Yamilet explained the reason traffic circles are not constructed close to each other: traffic does not stop; there are drivers that do not like to drive around roundabouts so they will take other routes and in the mean-time, volume decreased but promoted speed. The only spot that the speed is being decreased is at the circle and not in between.

Mr. Borbolla asked if there have been studies that circles reduce the severity of the accidents. Yamilet said yes.

Major Hudak said that education for people on how to navigate circles will go a long way. Alisa Weiner commented on the lighting at San Amaro and Miller stating it is excellent, she also suggested that at meetings would be helpful to have education as to what speed limit to go on a roundabout.

Mrs. Swain summarized that residents want a circle and in the interim, they've asked for a 4-way stop sign. Yamilet commented that Miami Dade County will not approve a temporary 4-way stop sign. If they allow it, they will ask staff for a 4-way stop warrant study. After the study is approved and it is installed, they will not allow a traffic circle. Board members indicated they would like to see the intersection before taking action.

UHealth – Yamilet provided the Board with copies of the proposed project. The project consists of two projects, the UHealth building and changing the alignment of Dickenson Drive. Mrs. Swain asked for a summary on the results of the traffic study. Yamilet said the traffic study results advise that the building will not impact the traffic in the area and the intersections will still work fine. The results of the study include projects, the UHealth Bldg and the alignment of Dickenson Drive. The study also show how the traffic will circulate the building and the parking, per the study they do not see an issues with traffic. Mr. Morrison asked how the parking is being handled. Yamilet said there is existing parking, but the traffic circulation was changed due to the Dickenson Drive alignment.

Bike/Pedestrian Master Plan - Mrs. Swain learned yesterday from Mr. Pino that this was submitted to the County in order to meet the grant's requirements; it had to be submitted to the County by a certain date. The next step will be to submit it to the City Commission for approval; she looked at a draft but not the submitted version. Mrs. Swain reiterated the functions of the Traffic Advisory Boards and committees rules:

Pursuant to Resolution No. 2005-17, the Board shall encourage public input on traffic-calming measures and disseminate information on the alternatives available to the community through the implementation of a Citywide Traffic Calming Plan, and will provide recommendations to the City Commission for its implementation. The Board will also serve as an Oversight Committee for transportation-related projects which will include the Coral Gables Trolley System and the Municipal Transportation Improvement Program. That the ultimate goal shall be to bring back the streets to the resident.

Mrs. Swain said in support of that she believes it's important the bicycle and pedestrian master plan is supported by the TAB, as done in the past with the prior bicycle master plan to make sure when improvements are made that they are following the master plan. The emphasis that she has from reviewing the draft is that it is important to have a safe passage way for people on bicycles between the University of Miami and downtown Coral Gables. Mrs. Swain deferred it to the expert and supports the plan and will like to see Board do the same.

Mrs. Kupper proposed that the Board read the bicycle and pedestrian master plan, copies provided, and discuss it at the next TAB meeting. Mr. Borbolla requested there be a presentation at the next meeting. Yamilet will have staff look into it.

Gables by the Sea request to lower speed limit to 20 mph - Mrs. Kupper provided the Board with a list of resident's names, petitioning the lowering of speed limit to 20 mph at Gables by the Sea. There are 530 homes behind the gates of Gables by the Sea, 425 belong to the Gables, the rest belong to the Village of Pinecrest therefore they have interlocal agreements. Because of the

uniqueness of their community there is a lot of overlap between the Pinecrest Police and Coral Gables Police. They help patrol each other's areas and keep each other in tune with what's happening on both sides, Pinecrest and Coral Gables. Pinecrest implemented a 20 mph speed limit on their side of the enclosed gated area in Gables by the Sea and it has worked. It took a couple of months of Police enforcement, but it worked. The list provided include names of the residents proposing to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph on Lugo and San Pedro. In 2001, 2006 and 2007 staff looked at other plans and ideas in traffic calming in Miami-Dade County; they looked at speed tables, garden islands, bump outs, brick or stamp concrete and stripping. The next step will be for staff to meet with the County and discuss the 20 mph reduction. Mrs. Kupper will provide staff with information from the Village of Pinecrest relating to the process required to reduce the speed limit.

Agave property application for DRC - Mrs. Swain suggested the Board review the package provided to discuss at the next TAB meeting. Mr. Sokoloff suggested everyone go online and see the scope of the project as the hand-out does not show how huge the project really is.

100 Alhambra Circle project - Mrs. Swain asked about the DRC status on the Alhambra Circle project. Yamilet said it went to DRC last year in August, next it will be going through the Planning and Zoning Board. Mrs. Swain suggested the Board review the packet provided to discuss at the next meeting.

Trolley route across US1 – to be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Morrison explained that when the trolley first started, the question was why not allow the trolley into the neighborhood. It was said that it was never intended to serve residential neighborhoods. When they looked into this last time, there is a Coconut Grove circulator which is a small bus that goes from Coconut Grove station to Douglas Road station and they charge \$.25. This was a problem because Coral Gables Trolley is free and people asked why they had to pay \$.25. The concern at the time was that there was a limited amount of Trolleys and they had already ended the route east west on Miracle Mile due to low ridership. Why the redundancy in service, why have our trolley go there when it's already served by the Coconut Grove circulator. The approach at that time which the County agreed, they ran the Coconut Grove connector up an additional two blocks on Grand and turned it around before it came back up Douglas and across US1 and they were satisfied with that. However neighborhood wasn't, they still wanted to be served by the Trolley and so they felt it was a redundancy in service. Mr. Morrison will like the Board to be aware of this and now because this will come up again.

POLICE UPDATE:

Report of accidents on Ponce Corridor (consultant review) – to be discussed at the next meeting

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm