

CITY OF CORAL GABLES WATERWAY ADVISORY BOARD
 CORAL GABLES LIBRARY – CONFERENCE ROOM
 WEDNESDAY, March 1st, 2017 5:30 P.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	DISTRICT	J 17	F 17	M 17	A 17	M 17	J 17	J 17	APPOINTED BY:
Jeff Hicks	2	A	P	A					James C. Cason
Hector Fortun		P	P	A					Frank C. Quesada
Juan A. Galan Jr	3	P	P	A					Patricia Keon
Manny Chamizo	1	P	P	P					Vince Lago
Laura Roberts	2	P	P	P					Jeannette Slesnick
Douglas Yoder	7	P	A	P					Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
David A. Schwedel	4	-	-	P					Commission-As-A-Whole
Vacant		-	-						Commission-As-A-Whole
Vacant		-	-						Board-As-A-Whole

P – Present
E – Excused Absence
A – Absent
(-) – No Appointment
(*) – No Meeting

STAFF:

Jorge Acevedo, Utilities Division Director/Board Secretary

GUESTS:

Armando L. Vilaboy, South Florida Water Management District Regional Representative

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Chamizo called the meeting to order at 6:16 PM

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

Mr. Chamizo moved to approved meeting minutes for February 1st, 2017, second by Mr. Yoder – approved unanimously.

MOTIONS:

Mr. Yoder moved to request City staff from Budget to prepare an analysis of operating cost and capital projects associated with the services provided on Coral Gables Waterways. Seconded by Mrs. Roberts – approved.

Presentation/Discussion

Mr. Armando Vilaboy, South Florida Water Management District Regional Representative, presented information at the meeting, and provides the following summary of the presentation:

Discussion with the Coral Gables Waterway Advisory Board focused on several areas flood control, water quality, right of way and salt water intrusion.

Topics:

G-93: Structure operation and primary function which is salt water intrusion prevention however the structure also operates to move water into the eastern section of C-3 (Coral Gables Canal) during rain events. The structure is operated by the District but the canals are not managed by the District. The canal on the west side of the structure is managed by Miami Dade County and the east side is managed by the City of Coral Gables.

S-122: We discussed this structure as well and the C-2 canal both the canal and structure are maintained by the District. We do maintain a 40-foot easement on the Coral Gables side of the canal. We work with the Village of Pincrest and the City of Coral Gables to make sure the area upstream of the structure is cleaned regularly. Because the structure runs through extremely populated areas items inevitably find their way into the canal, because of this S-122 is not on a normal maintenance cycle instead it is monitored throughout the year and during the rainy season to make sure there is no backed up material up stream of the structure.

C-3 Dredging: The District does not have any interests along the C-3 canal east of G-93 however it does maintain flow rights east of the structure. The District did however partner in a cost share project to increase conveyance on C-3 with the City of Coral Gables in late 2012. The dredging took place on either side of the 40th street bridge. The total cost was 1,000,000 and the District gave the City 500,000.

We also discussed the Dredging of the channel leading to Biscayne Bay, as there has been interest over the years in dredging that section of the canal. This section of the canal would have to be discussed with the Army Corps of Engineers. This comes up in records as a non-natural feature and was like dredged in the past to allow more access to the bay.

Assistance: As we discussed, while we have limited interests in most of the Coral Gables canals, we are always willing to assist. We discussed the District canal criteria and identifying areas along the canal where vegetation maybe an issue to conveyance in the future we can help provide information on this issue as well as help the City identify some areas that could affect conveyance in the future.

Members discussed the City's storm water utility fee; that it is a revenue source for maintenance and storm water utility infrastructure repair; mentioned runoff issues; discussed the purpose of storm water maintenance work by multiple agencies is to maintain drainage functionality and flow, not aesthetics or navigability.

Top 5 Priorities Discussion

Members recommended discussing the top 5 at the next meeting; mentioned developing an informational flyer or newsletter for residents of the waterway; discussed potential for opening up Blue Road open space for accessibility to waterway; recommended inviting someone from Parks Department to talk about the area at a future meeting. Members raised concerns about the impact of the Lejeune bridge project on the waterways; staff has been in contact with the County about those concerns and will continue to coordinate with the County as the project progresses.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday April 5, 2017 to be held at the *Coral Gables Library* at 5:30 PM

DRAFT