

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD
 CITY OF CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER
 405 UNIVERSITY DRIVE
 CORAL GABLES, FL 33134
 TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016 @ 5:30 PM

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	APPOINTED BY:
	15	15	15	15	15	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	
Ignacio G. Borbolla	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	E	Jim Cason
Gordon Sokoloff	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Patricia Keon
Deborah Swain	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vince Lago
Courtney Thompson	P	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	Jeannette Slesnick
Albert Corrada	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	Frank C. Quesada
Chris Morrison	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	Commission-as-a-Whole
Al Smith	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	E	P	City Manager

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

STAFF:

Jessica Keller, Public Works Interim Director
 Antonio Aleman, C. G. Police Sergeant

GUEST:

Jack Schnettler, Atkins Consultant

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

***June 21, 2016 meeting minutes* – Mrs. Swain made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Corrada seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Mrs. Swain made a motion to excuse Mr. Borbolla, Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Swain made a motion to support the installation of the Bike Fix Station at the corner of Salzedo & Giralda, Dr. Sokoloff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Swain made a motion to support the lowering of speed limit on all residential streets to 25 mph, Dr. Sokoloff seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Thompson will be providing an email to Jessica and Jeannette, for discussion at the next meeting. He will provide overall recommendations based on discussion points covered over the past year. Mr. Thompson asked that the email be circulated, to the Board members. He would like the Board to read it and be prepared to discuss at the August meeting, by expressing their opinions. Mr. Thompson believes that to make a difference and make traffic livable, suggestions need to be made and acted upon.

Mr. Thompson asked Commissioner Slesnick to set up a special meeting in November, with the commission for the T.A.B. (assuming that the Comprehensive Transportation Plan will be completed by then).

Mr. Thompson suggested that the City encourage businesses to implement flexible work hours for typical “9 to 5” employees.

Jessica commented she brought this topic up to individual Commissioners during Comprehensive Transportation Plan interviews. She had asked how Commissioners felt about it for City staff – she felt they were indifferent on the issue.

Jessica noted that the City has taken the lead on Sustainability by developing and implementing a Sustainability Masterplan for City Operations. The City is leading by example and the Board could suggest the City do the same related to managing

traffic congestion and subsequently, flexible work hours. Jessica asked the Board how they felt about City staff working from home and they supported the concept as long as staff is still accessible.

Dr. Sokoloff agrees with Mr. Thompson wanting to make a difference with the traffic issues in the City, but asked that the Board not deviate from the over development issues in the City as well. Dr. Sokoloff mentioned that there are cities that are tough when it comes to development in their City, yet Coral Gables has become so lax in allowing excess development, which contributes to the traffic issues.

Mr. Thompson went back to 3 or 4 meetings ago, where it was recommended that other City Boards interact with each other because the traffic and development issues are all related. Jessica said that attempts were made to try and get other Boards to attend our meetings to no avail, therefore it is up to the T.A.B. members to get on the other Boards agendas and attend their meetings.

Dr. Smith asked Jessica, what the City Directors think about all the traffic and development issues going on in the City. Jessica said she could not speak for other Directors but Transportation Professionals typically accept growth must occur but should follow "Smart Growth" Principles (Smart growth means building urban, suburban and rural communities with housing and transportation choices near jobs, shops and schools. This approach supports local economies and protects the environment). Rather than reject growth, transportation professionals focus on mode shifts. With more automobiles passing THROUGH the City than TO the City, smart growth inside the City is prudent. Neighboring cities continue to build which will continue to contribute to the pass through trips. The City should continue to provide and promote transportation choices like bicycling, walking, transit, car share etc. and build dense development where the most options are concentrated.

Mr. Thompson said he thinks what Jessica is saying is understandable, but he believes that the University of Miami has a lot to do with these issues. Mr. Thompson also believes that the University of Miami should contribute more out of pocket as well.

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

Bike Walk Coral Gables – will be donating a bike fix station where you can fix your bike if you needed too. It comes equipped with an air pump and tools; it will be installed at the corner of Salzedo and Giralda.

Resolution for Public Works to put in 25 mph speed limit on all residential streets – an analysis on speed was done on a number of streets throughout the City and the analysis supported the lowering of the speed limit to 25 mph. The County approved the speed reduction on July 8, 2016. The next step is to take it to the Commission and ask that they direct staff and begin developing a plan for implementing 25 mph speed limit on all residential streets. Staff still needs to negotiate the number and location of speed limit signs with the County, the original analysis stated about 600 signs would be needed but staff believe 600 is not needed therefore the County was open to negotiating a lesser number.

TRAFFIC PROJECTS UPDATE:

Public Kick off Meeting for the CTP – June 22, 2016 at the Coral Gables Library. Jack provided the Board with a power point hand out that was presented at the meeting. The power point show presented the background and details itself, of the plan and some exercises were also provided in which the public was encouraged to write their questions and concerns regarding the CTP. The Cities web-site, TV Channel and other informative sites were provided for public input and or concerns on the CTP, as well as a spreadsheet/map of the traffic zones and the hotspots (hotspots constitutes a large number of complaints). Mr. Morrison asked for a copy of the hotspots on each zone to be forwarded to the pertaining Board member. The last sheet has the northern area tracking traffic controls. Jack said this is not in final form yet, because staff is double checking all of the control postings.

Miracle Mile Project - Jessica will provide the Board with the Miracle Mile update at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Possible Street Closures - Mrs. Swain heard that a number of streets were closed off along LeJeune Rd. & 57th Avenue many years ago, this caused problems. She’s also heard that some residents are trying to close off streets further to stop bicyclist and pedestrians from entering Coral Gables. Jessica is aware of the street closures and it involves the east area of Ponce de Leon Blvd (Aledo & Cadima). Jessica

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will inform the Board, when the community meetings in reference to these street closures are scheduled.

OLD BUSINESS:

City of Coral Gables Parking Day – Mrs. Swain mentioned to the Board members that Parking Day is in September and if anyone is a business owner, they should participate.

ADJOURNED:

6:30 pm