

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
WATERWAY ADVISORY BOARD
 HYBRID MEETING AT CITY HALL/ZOOM
 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2021 - 5:30 P.M.
 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	District	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	S	O	APPOINTED BY:
			20	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	
Manny Chamizo	2	*	P	P	P	P	P*	P	P	*	P	Vince Lago
Carla Isaias	3	*	P	E	P	P	P*	P*	-	*	-	Jorge L. Fors
Juan A. Galan Jr	3	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P*	*	E	Rhonda Anderson
Alex Stancioff	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	*	P	Kirk Menendez
Anthony Lopez	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P*	*	A	Michael Mena
Douglas Yoder	CR	*	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	Peter Iglesias
Bertram Goldsmith	7	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	Commission-As-A-Whole
John Swain	2	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	Commission-As-A-Whole
Andria Codina Miyares	6	*	A	P	P	P	E	E	P	*	A	Board-As-A-Whole

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

STAFF:

Jorge Acevedo, Utilities Division Director/Board Secretary
 Ramon Trias, Assistant Director of Planning (Development Services)
 Hermes Diaz, Director of Public Works
 Tiffany Crumbley, Recording Secretary
 Lt. Henry Barnet, Marine Patrol
 Velier Zaccheco, Marine Patrol

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by the chairman. The roll call was done and quorum was met.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

Doug Yoder made a motion to *“Approve the minutes of June 2, 2021”* The motion was seconded by *Bertram Goldsmith, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.*

NEW BUSINESS:

- Board elections commenced for chairperson and vice chair. *A motion was made by Doug Yoder to “Reappoint Manny Chamizo to serve as the chairperson of the board.” The motion was seconded by John Swain, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.*
- *A motion was made by John Swain to “Appoint Doug Yoder to serve as the vice chairperson of the board.” The motion was seconded by Bertram Goldsmith, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.*

PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSIONS:

Board welcomed Ramon Trias, Assistant Director of Planning (Development Services) who provided a Coral Gables Waterway presentation for the Board. Mr. Trias discussed the map, zoning code for the waterways and requirements for docks permitted or variance required (typically for mangroves).

Mr. Acevedo shared a presentation with the Board discussing the City Code of Ordinances Chapter 86: Article I Section 86-3, illegal discharging of garbage, trash, etc., into the waterways and stormwater management systems. He spoke regarding any violations of this section and penalties associated with it that are outlined in the City of Coral Gables Code of Ordinances, specifically of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and the City of Coral Gables Code Enforcement department along with Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) assists us in enforcing. He stated regarding Article II: Vessels and Waterway Safety Section 86-26, endangering life or property with a watercraft which is monitored by the Marine Patrol. Mr. Acevedo discussed Article III: Canal Maintenance Section 86-118, overgrowth of trees or shrubbery extending over the canal prohibited and Section 86-119(b) Failure to properly maintain retaining walls abutting canal; mooring structures for docking vessels and other watercraft, it is the property owner’s responsibility to maintain. He stated that Public Works staff, namely Ron Crumbley, Waterway Coordinator (part time employee) is working diligently responding to requests for graffiti removal at bridges, maintenance of turbidity barrier, debris removal including seaweed during the rainy season, tide monitoring, reporting of illegal discharges and performing maintenance inspections of the waterway for tree trimming and inspections of docks requiring maintenance and/or repairs, currently issuing courtesy notices to residents of violations on a case by case basis with plans to enforce in the future. The chairperson stated the need for a regular maintenance program of the trees and shrubbery extending over the canal being done every six month or annually to prevent the need for code enforcement calls.

- Hermes Diaz, Director of Public Works addressed the Board regarding bridge maintenance program, stating that we have a total of eleven (11) bridges in the City of Coral Gables that we are responsible for having maintained four (4) of them in the last two (2) years, addressing nominal things like ceiling cracks, painting, addressing signage that may be

faded/missing or not up to date. There was a brief discussion with the Board on the subject matter.

- Mr. Acevedo reported that staff has been completing tree pruning requests along City owned facilities and monitoring tides and King Tides this month. Board member Stancioff inquired about the required width of 30ft with lifts that extend beyond the docks on each side of the Mahi Canal with an action plan. Hermes stated that staff will take a closer look at the Mahi Canal waterway and put together an action plan for implementation.
- Mr. Chamizo discussed possible No Wake Zone signage on Caballero before the marina every Saturday and Sunday between 4pm and 6pm.

Marine Patrol Report

- The chairperson remarked that there was a problem with people fishing on the Orduna Bridge (Ponce & US1) where his son's shirt got caught on a hook while riding in the boat, he reported this incident to the City of Coral Gables and request enforcement from Marine patrol. Lt. Henry Barnet, Marine Patrol states that they are aware of people fishing on the bridges. The chairperson requested that there be enforcement on Saturday and Sunday between 4pm and 6pm on the Mahi Canal right at the turn on Caballero.

DISCUSSIONS:

- Board member Goldsmith states that the landscapers (SFM) are cutting the grass and the drains are being clogged from landscape debris, request that they clean or clear debris from the drains.
- Board member Yoder inquired about the water quality status with FIU regarding any detection of septic tank offloading that may affect the bay. Mr. Acevedo replied that there is a meeting scheduled next week with Tiffany Troxler of FIU. Mr. Yoder also spoke of the possibility of septic to sewer conversions.
- Board member John Swain provided a presentation on Ruth Bryan Owen Park for the Board to review. Ruth Bryan Owen Park is located on Granada and Bird Rd, people have created a makeshift canoe launch, which is also used for paddleboards, kayakers, and requests that the City of Coral Gables create a proper canoe launch, repair the barbecue (BBQ) area, add a water fountain, add a bike rack and add more trash cans.

A motion was made by John Swain recommending "Ruth Bryan Owen Park. (aka: The Girl Scout Hut.) Is one of the only two places on the main waterway where canoeists and kayakers can regularly launch their watercraft. For safety reasons, the Waterway Advisory Board recommends that the City install a proper canoe launch at Ruth Bryan Owen Park. The Board also recommends the City repair the BBQ area, add a water fountain, add a bike rack and add more trash cans." The motion was seconded by Bertram Goldsmith, voted upon, and adopted unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:26PM

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.