

CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

Economic Development Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

Wednesday | March 1, 2023 | 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
	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23	
James Kohnstamm	X	P	P										Mayor Vince Lago
Olga Ramudo, Chair	X	P	P										Vice Mayor Michael Mena
Stuart McGregor	X	P	P										Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez
Tania Cruz-Gimenez	X	A	P										Commissioner Rhonda Anderson
Mary Snow	X	P	P										Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Barbara Perez	X	E	P										City Manager Peter Iglesias
Thad Adams	X	P	E										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:

Belkys Perez, Director, Economic Development Department

Francesca Valdes, Business Development Coordinator, Economic Development Department

Leticia Perez, International Business Development Coordinator, Economic Development Department

Yenisis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department

Chairwoman Ms. Olga Ramudo brought the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m.

1. Excuse Board members absences from February 1, 2023

Mr. McGregor made a motion to excuse Ms. Barbara Perez's absence from the February 1, 2023 meeting. Mr. Kohnstamm seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. There was no discussion regarding the absences.

2. Excuse Board member's absence

Ms. Barbara Perez made a motion to excuse today's absence for Mr. Adams. Mr. McGregor seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. There was no discussion regarding the absences.

3. Review and approval of February 1, 2023, Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. McGregor made a motion to approve the meeting minutes and Ms. Barbara Perez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. There was no discussion regarding the minutes.

4. Economic Development Activities:

a) Visitation Program

Mrs. Belkys Perez informed the Board of the City's interest in understanding the needs of the business community. On February 22nd, she met with the Beacon Council and Coral Gables Chamber to discuss the creation of a survey and business visitation program to send out to the businesses. The goal is to keep the survey to only a few questions and target 30 large companies the first year. Depending on the response, the program could expand. Mr. Kohnstamm commended the department for putting together this program. To his knowledge, no municipality in Miami-Dade County has a sustained Economic Development visitation program.

b) Competitive Assessment Update

Mrs. Belkys Perez updated the Board regarding a recent conversation with Dr. Murray who is finalizing the Economic Development Competitive Assessment before it is presented to the Board at the next meeting on May 3, 2023.

c) Broker Event

Mrs. Valdes provided the Board with flyers and informed them that tomorrow, March 2nd, the Department will be hosting an event with Miami Commercial spotlighting Coral Gables. The Mayor will be attending. Mrs. Belkys Perez, IT Director Raimundo Rodulfo and Sustainability Specialist Matt Anderson will be presenting on all the things that make Coral Gables special. Guests will hear about new developments and later board a trolley for a tour of our mixed-use residential projects.

d) Moon Over the Gables

Mrs. Belkys Perez informed the Board that the City has partnered with the Coral Gables Community Foundation to host the public art activation Moon Over the Gables. The project will take place March 9 – 25, 2023, Thursday through Saturday at Ponce Circle Park. For further information, please visit moonoverthegables.com. Mrs. Snow informed the Board the moon will rise at 5:00 p.m. every night. There are events planned every night. The exhibit has been featured all over the world. Restaurants will be providing special for the month of March.

5. International Affairs

Ms. Leticia Perez informed the Board that on February 22, 2023, St. Lucia celebrated their 44th Anniversary of Independence & Flag Raising Ceremony in the garden at the Merrick House. There was 35-40 people in attendance.

6. Business Tax License Report

Mrs. Valdes updated the Board on the new and upcoming businesses in Coral Gables.

7. Open Discussion

Ms. Ramudo mentioned that the paseos and parking garage #1 are in deplorable conditions, rusted, dirty and in need of maintenance.

After some discussion and questions, the Board agreed to make a motion for action to the City Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Kohnstamm that the Board recommends a review of cleaning the parking garages, paseos and elevator maintenance because it has a direct impact on the retail, vitality and economic development of the downtown. Additionally, recommending activating the paseos with public art. The motion was seconded by Mr. McGregor. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Belkys Perez informed the Board that due to Administrative Order 2020-01, the April 5, 2023, Economic Development Board meeting needs to be cancelled as it falls on the week before Easter. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Yenysis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department.

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