

TRAFFIC ADVISORY BOARD  
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2011 5:30 P.M.

- MINUTES MEETING -

<b>MEMBERS</b>	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	<b>APPOINTED BY:</b>
	10	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	
Rene Alvarez									A	E	P	E	Jim Cason
Larry D. Kries	P	P	+	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Maria Anderson
Deborah Swain	P	P	+	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
VACANT	-		+	P	P	P	#	-	-	-	-	-	William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Herbert F. Osle									P	A	E	A	Frank C. Quesada
Donna Kupper	P	P	+	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commission-as-a-Whole
VACANT	P	A	+	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	A	City Manager

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

**STAFF:**

Glenn Kephart, Public Works Director  
 James Kay, Engineering Division Supervisor  
 Jeannette Reyes, Clerical Assistant II  
 Ludwik Janiga, Civil Engineer  
 Jesus Garcia, C. G. Police Sergeant  
 Joe Fleres, C. G. Police Officer  
 Alvaro Escalona, C.G. Police Officer

**GUEST:**

Mr. and Mrs. Alisa Weiner, Coral Gables Residents  
 Ian Martinez, Coral Gables resident and concerned parent  
 Jay Jefferson, Secretary of Carver Elementary PTA Board  
 Amber Morabito, Carver Elementary concerned parent  
 Leeann Thompson, Carver Elementary concerned parent  
 Michelle White, Carver Elementary concerned parent  
 Belkys, Carver Elementary concerned parent

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**AGENDA ITEM 1 – CARVER ELEMENTARY PARKING ISSUES:**

Mrs. Swain asked Board members permission to go out of agenda order to allow Mr. Ian Martinez, former member of the T.A.B., and parents supporting Carver Elementary parking issues to make their presentation.

Mr. Martinez, a parent of Carver Elementary student, said there are (13) parking spaces for 477 families of off street parking, of the (13) parking spaces, the majority are designated “No Parking 7 am to 9 pm” making it a free ticket zone for parking enforcement. Dr. Johnson, School Principal of Carver Elementary, stated the PTA, parents and school administration feel strongly that this situation cannot continue because in her opinion, may become a life safety issue and it’s inconvenient for parents to pick-up/drop off their children. Parents, the administration and PTA suggested for a (15) minute loading zone signage which would allow a (15) minute drop-off in the mornings and 15 minute pick-up in the afternoons.

Mr. Martinez advised Mr. Kephart that he told Lourdes Alfonsin-Ruiz, Assistant City Attorney, he did not get the (3) day meeting notice, as per ordinance. He stated he received this Board’s meeting notice on Friday at 4pm in the afternoon. Mr. Martinez further said he made an effort to make sure people attended this meeting. *After further review, Mr. Ian Martinez was advised of this meeting on Friday between 2:00 and 2:30. Mr. Kephart also spoke with Mr. Martinez approximately on September 1<sup>st</sup>, responding to Mr. Martinez’s e-mail sent 8/31/2011. During their conversation Mr. Kephart mentioned to Mr. Martinez of the next scheduled TAB meeting of September 20, 2011.*

Mr. Jay Jefferson, Carver Elementary PTA Secretary, has a kindergartener and said it is mandated that he walk his child into the classroom and be present when he picks up. The existing “No Parking” signs in front of the school forbid him from accomplishing this due to fear of getting a citation. He said the PTA would like to see an opportunity for parents to be able to drop-off / pick-up their children without fear of being cited. The PTA is asking for a change in signage to allow them to do this.

**Amber Morabito, parent** of a Carver kindergartener. She stated she was shocked, coming from California, that she couldn’t stop to drop-off her child. She also said she understands the parking issue but believes that a loading and unloading zone should be reasonable.

**Leeann Thompson, parent** of a Carver 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. She said years ago, Miami-Dade County school buses used to load and unload in front of the school and understands not being able to park there, but now busses load around the side of the school. She added, since busses are not parking in front of the school, parents should be allowed (15) minutes to drop-off and pick-up their children. Mrs. Thompson stated due to her severe arthritis in her knees, makes it harder to park down on Grand Avenue and having to walk to pick-up her child.

**Mitchell White, parent** of a Carver 1<sup>st</sup> grader and 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. She too expressed concerns of the no parking and having to drive in order to find parking.

**Belkys, parent** of a Carver kindergartener also expressed concerns of the parking situation at the school.

Mr. Martinez said their fear is that something eventually is going to happen due to the high volume of traffic and cut through traffic trying to get off on US1 and into Coconut Grove. He said if at least 20 cars can be taken off the area and have them park without the fear of having to be moved, he believes that will alleviate the situation.

Sergeant Garcia stated that he and Mr. Kephart attended a meeting with Dr. Johnson. Sergeant Garcia mentioned that Harvey Bernstein, Miami-Dade County Public Works, was also present as he reviews school zones circulation and accumulation and issues in question. During this meeting, one of the issues mentioned was that the width of the roadway doesn't effectively allow parking in a two-way traffic street. He said it was discussed to make it a one way, temporarily, but it didn't work. Mrs. Swain asked if this was new due to the median, since she was under the impression busses no longer park there and will impede traffic circles. Sgt. Garcia stated he doesn't remember the exact words, but they did not want to change the signs on Grand Avenue due to the safety of the kids. Mr. Kephart said they discussed Lincoln when looking into the temporary drop-off. Sgt. Garcia mentioned Miami-Dade County's (5) year plan consisting of taking some of the school grounds to allow for more parking. Mr. Martinez said 5 years is a long time and the situation is now. Mr. Martinez said the situation they are trying to avoid is getting a \$40 ticket.

Sgt. Garcia explained that Carver Elementary and Carver Middle have multiple dismissal times and during those specific times it causes a grid lock. Officer Escalona has been able to maintain the in and out time between 9 and 11 minutes for 80% of the traffic and has a lane of travel for vehicles to drive through as well as a fire engine or an apparatus truck. He has the vehicles stack up north bound on the Lincoln Road side even though it reads no parking; he also has traffic minimized to the entrance of the school. There are some individuals who are willing to jeopardize the whole flow of traffic for 80% of the people and his main concern is the safety of the children.

Mrs. Swain asked if the (15) minutes on Grand Avenue is allowed, what would be the consequences. Officer Fleres responded there are (2) crosswalks, one lighted crosswalk with a signal and the one without the signal has no crossing guard. He said cars cannot park there because it is not safe for a child or parent to use the crosswalks and it's not safe to go in between cars to get to the crosswalk. Officer Fleres said he spoke with the school's principal last year about these concerns but she was unable to change due to Miami-Dade County's concern about the children which becomes priority over the traffic.

Mrs. Swain asked how many parking spaces can there be up on to the crosswalk. Officer Fleres said 9 additional cars just before the 2<sup>nd</sup> crosswalk. Mrs. Swain strongly supports a resolution both satisfactory and timely so that the problem is resolved quickly. Mr. Kephart said even though they met with Miami-Dade County and City of Coral Gables Police in hopes of finding a reasonable solution, they left the meeting without a good solution. Mrs. Swain suggested a work shop where all the parents can attend and discuss the parking issue and other traffic laws. Mr.

Traffic Advisory Board Meeting

September 20, 2011

Continued

Kephart suggested Sgt. Garcia take the lead with the school to organize the work shop, Public Works will participate and invite Miami-Dade County representatives to also attend.

Officer Fleres suggested postponing traffic citations on Grand Avenue only, until the issue is resolved. He added this would have to be discussed with the Parking Department as well as Police. Mrs. Thompson suggested for the school and PTA to address parents as far as the reason for maintaining the flow of traffic for the safety of the children. Mrs. Morabito suggested for a diagram be included, as a hand out, so parents are aware of the areas of discussion.

Mr. Jefferson recapped on the temporary stoppage of citations on Grand Avenue, immediately, in front of the school. He also said the issues on Lincoln will be included in the workshop so the PTA and Administration for parents to have an understanding and know the importance of adhering to traffic laws. Mr. Jefferson suggested drafting an email for the school population on the subject of temporary stoppage of citation on Grand Avenue until the traffic issue is resolved. Mrs. Kupper suggested making sure the Principal signs off on the e-mail before submitting. Mrs. Swain wants to be informed of the workshop date and asked that Rene Alvarez, TAB member, who is in that zone is invited and if Mr. Alvarez in not able to attend, she wants to be notified.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

• **August 16, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

Mrs. Swain asked the Board besides the name correction on page 3, if there are any additional corrections to the minutes. Officer Fleres mentioned to correct his rank from Lieutenant to Officer.

Mrs. Swain asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Kries made a motion and Mrs. Kupper seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Mr. Kay said in addition to the Neighborhood Renaissance Projects (NRP), the projects still on-going are the Ponce de Leon Boulevard which is 98 % complete and Segovia Street is 50% complete.

Mr. Kephart briefly discussed NRP description of projects. Mrs. Swain asked while the street resurfacing project is going on can they check against the bicycle master plan and make sure that when doing the final stripping, it is included. Mr. Kephart responded yes and asked the Board to look at page 14 where it mentions the restoration of bike paths. Mr. Kephart added there are various traffic calming request, in which the Board has a list of. He said staff is getting data in order to start narrowing down projects that could become real projects.

**TRAFFIC PROJECTS UPDATE:**

Mr. Kay presented the Board a spread sheet with the status of projects. He mentioned there are four new project locations: (1) **Segovia Circle** between Alhambra and Segovia to improve the

Traffic Advisory Board Meeting

September 20, 2011

Continued

entrance way; (2) **Riviera Drive** between Segovia and Anastasia, staff is looking at preliminary design work and then will meet with the residents to discuss, as per the neighborhood representative Raquel; (3) Intersection of **Anderson and Riviera** studies being done; (4) **Veragua & Douglas Road**, Mr. Kay met with the County to discuss residents request for a closure and the County denied the request. Mr. Kay stated staff is looking at mid-block crossing or speed tables instead. Mrs. Kupper asked what the average speed on Douglas is and suggested a speed table. Mr. Kay said data is needed.

**POLICE UPDATES:**

Sgt. Garcia provided the Board with the survey done on 400 Candia. The survey was conducted on August 9, 2011 through the 16<sup>th</sup>. 1,500 vehicles were surveyed, out of those 1,500 vehicles, 29 vehicles were over the limit. The average speed was 18.2, 85 percentile on that one was 21. Vehicles that traveled over 40 were 0, over 50 was 1 and over 30 were 28. Sgt. Garcia said there is not much of a speeding issue there. Ludwik asked about the volume which Sgt. Garcia stated under 500 per day.

Sgt. Garcia added that on Galiano and Zamora he received a call from the Coral Gables Preparatory School, requesting stop signs be added on Galiano. Sgt. Garcia does see an issue there and requested a study from Miami-Dade County. Mr. Kephart stated staff will contact Miami-Dade County and request the study.

Sgt. Garcia received calls regarding the speeding on Segovia, especially when workers are present. He said the speed on Segovia is 35 mph and said being that there is a single lane with a bike lane, dropping the speed to 30 mph may be a consideration. Mr. Kephart stated staff will evaluate.

Sgt. Garcia mentioned a recent accident on US1, at the 100 block, where the individual went airborne into The Collection and towards 12 vehicles from The Collection. He said the individual was intoxicated and was arrested. Sgt. Garcia discussed illuminated speed signs FDOT wanted to provide (fully funded). These are similar to those on Key Biscayne which displays car speed and as speed increases, it blinks faster. He said there was meeting were issues with funding was discussed and now FDOT want to provide the City the sign however they can not fund the installation and the maintenance. Sgt. Garcia asked if there was another way to fund the installation/maintenance of the sign since he feels it will help tremendously as far as fatalities are concerned. Mr. Kephart asked where the sign will be located and Sgt. Garcia said he believes it will be in the center median, going south bound just before the bend. Sgt. Garcia stated these same signs are on LeJeune at the school zones. Mr. Kephart said those signs are not the City's responsibility. Mr. Kay stated the County is in charge of every traffic control device in our City and we can ask Miami-Dade County to control this one as well. Mr. Kephart said staff will discuss.

Sgt. Garcia asked if staff received any feed back regarding the list submitted to Miami-Dade County on issues mentioned during a previous TAB meeting. As per Ludwik, Jeannette and Mr. Kay, the only response received was regarding the sign on University, which according to the County it is an appropriate sign. Mrs. Kupper mentioned after pressing the button to cross, she

Traffic Advisory Board Meeting

September 20, 2011

Continued

had to wait for 4 cars before being able to cross. Members of the Board agree the sign is confusing. Mr. Kay mentioned to Miami-Dade County that the request to evaluate the sign was initiated by the Police Department and they still agreed that the sign was an appropriate sign.

Mr. Kupper reported to Police that at Old Cutler Road there are cars on Cutler turning left to get on to Red Road to go to Gulliver. She said, the kids who live in Snapper Creek, whose parents want to go to Pine Crest, are going on the grass, to come up south bound on Old Cutler and take a right. Officer Fleres suggested monitoring the timing of the traffic light and will also monitor the area.

**NOTES:**

Mrs. Weiner made an announcement that Miami-Dade County Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee has a meeting on September 27, 2011 in the downtown area. Mrs. Swain provided Jeannette with the information to forward via e-mail to the Board.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

The Advisory Board members wished James Kay congratulations and best wishes for his upcoming retirement, and expressed their appreciation for his service to the City and to the Advisory Board.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting Adjourned at 6:53 p.m.