

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
Property Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 8, 2014, 8:00 a.m.
1 Alhambra Plaza, Suite 617, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	APPOINTING ENTITY
	'14												
Luis Espino Vice-Chair	P												Mayor Jim Cason
Jack Elmore	P												Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Stuart McGregor	E												Commissioner Patricia Keon
Valerie Quemada	E												Commissioner Vince Lago
Tony Gonzalez	P												Commissioner Frank Quesada
Valentin Lopez Chair	P												City Manager Patrick Salerno
Derrek L. Space	P												City Commission

A = Absent
E = Excused Absence
P = Present
X = No Meeting

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Leonard Roberts, Assistant Director, Economic Sustainability Department

Jorge Casuso, Business Development Analyst, Economic Sustainability Department

Meeting Motion Summary:

A motion to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2014 meeting was passed unanimously.

Mr. Lopez brought the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

1. Review and approval of the Property Advisory Board Minutes of August 11, 2014.

Mr. Elmore made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2014 Board meeting. Mr. Gonzalez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Introduction of new PAB member Derrek Space

Mr. Space said his family has lived in Coral Gables since 1986 and has been “heavily involved” with the community. He left in 1997 to go to school, worked in New York and decided to come back three years ago with his wife and two children. He currently works as a financial planner for AIG. He thought it was a good idea to get involved.

3. Presentation by Mr. Roberts on “Why Coral Gables?”

Mr. Roberts made a power point presentation to the board highlighting the reasons businesses choose to locate in Coral Gables. He said the City markets itself as a great place to “live, work and play.” The City also posts a “brag list” on its website with notable awards, including the Livcom Award it won last year as one of the most livable cities in the world. He said the City has a stable office/commercial market with leases going for an average of \$33 a square foot, compared to \$38 for Brickell. Mr. Roberts also reviewed some of the City’s recent accomplishments, including initiatives to foster smart growth and the Neighborhood Renaissance Program that is funding capital projects across Coral Gables. Among the major projects are the extensive renovation of Ingraham Park on south side of the City and the Alhambra streetscape project that added news landscaping along the corporate corridor.

Mr. Roberts said that the City is moving forward with the Miracle Mile and Giralda Avenue streetscape projects. The Miracle Mile Streetscape calls for wider sidewalks, the installation of improved urban lighting, a new tree canopy and extensive gardens and landscaping that will set the stage for the incorporation of outdoor dining and public art. The Giralda Streetscape will create a single surface, curb-free street on the 100 block that will include landscaping, public art and decorative street lighting. Mr. Roberts also informed the Board that the Historical Resources Board would review a proposal for new Civic monuments at the traffic circles on Segovia Street at Coral Way and at Biltmore Way. He also showed renderings of more than a half dozen proposed mixed-use projects, including major developments at the Old Spanish Village Site, the Publix site on LeJeune Road and at 2020 Salzedo.

4. Other Business

Mr. Roberts announced that “Giralda Under the Stars” would begin November 7 and continue every first Friday through March, when restaurants on the 100 block of Giralda Avenue will bring out their tables and chairs for outdoor dining. He also announced that Jazz in the Gables would kick off its fifth season of free lunchtime concerts in January.

Mr. Espino suggested that proposed leases be brought to the Board for its input before they are negotiated by staff. Mr. Lopez said this had been brought up before and that there were logistical issues because the Board only met once a month. Mr. Roberts said staff needed to qualify tenants and that tenants didn’t want to further delay the process. Mr. Roberts said the Board plays an important role by helping spread the word that Coral Gables is a prime place to do business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 a.m.

The next Property Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 2014, at 8:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jorge Casuso, Economic Development Analyst - Economic and Cultural Development