

# CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

## Economic Development Board Meeting Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday | November 4, 2020 | 8:00 a.m.  
Location: Zoom and City Hall Commission Chambers  
405 Biltmore Way, 2nd floor, Coral Gables, FL 33134

EDB MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTING ENTITY
	'20	'20	'20	'20	'20	'20	'20	'20	'20	'20	'20	'20	
Julio Grabiell	X	P	P	X	X	X	X	X	E	E	Z		Mayor Raúl Valdés-Fauli
Olga Ramudo, Chair	X	E	P	X	X	X	X	X	Z	Z	P		Commissioner Michael Mena
Stuart McGregor	X	P	P	X	X	X	X	X	Z	Z	Z		Commissioner Patricia Keon
Bradley Barreto	X	E	P	X	X	X	X	X	Z	Z	P		Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Manuel Niebla	X	P	P	X	X	X	X	X	E	Z	P		Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.

A=Absent E=Excused Absence P=Present X=No Meeting Ph=Present by Phone Z=Zoom - =Former Board Member

### Staff and Guests:

Julian H. Perez, AICP, CFM Director, Economic Development Department  
 Belkys Perez, Assistant Director, Economic Development Department  
 Zeida Sardiñas, Asset Manager, Economic Development Department  
 Francesca Valdes, Business Development Coordinator, Economic Development Department  
 Leticia Perez, International Business Development Coordinator, Economic Development Department  
 Yenis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department  
 Jordan Hernandez, Office Assistant, Economic Development Department

Ms. Ramudo brought the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

### 1. Review and approval of October 7, 2020 Economic Development Board Meeting Minutes

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

### 2. Economic Development Dept. Update

#### *Business Grant Program/Cares Act Relief Funds*

Mr. Perez updated Board members on the status of two grants submitted on behalf of the City for the Cares Act relief fund. The two grants the City submitted were approved by the Board of County Commissioners - technical workshop grant & small business recovery grant. The Department is reaching out to all our partners so that they can assist in spreading the word about the grants to our business community. The Small Business Recovery Grant is designed to financially assist businesses that demonstrate they have experienced a negative financial impact as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Small Business Recovery Grant funds total to \$750,000. The Technical Workshops funds total \$100,000. The workshops provide businesses with the technological tools and

methodologies that are readily available in the market to improve their communication and/or interactions with customers and suppliers in an efficient and cost-effective manner; upgrade their business processes to mitigate the current financial impacts created by COVID-19; retain and retool their existing workforce; and establish a resilient and adaptable business process to weather current and/or future disasters or crises.

*Business Recovery Task Force Update 21:40*

Mr. Perez updated Board members on the progress of the Task Force with respect to the reopening phases. The Task Force, which was divided into groups based on industry sectors, is evaluating the guidelines for phase three of the reopening plan.

*Expanding the Board discussion 26:40*

Ms. Perez informed Board members that their recommendation to expand the Board will be discussed at the next commission meeting, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Perez read the title of the item. Board members expressed their interest in making the proposed two new members of the Board voting members.

*Small Business Saturday Proclamation 37:40*

Ms. Perez updated Board members on the Small Business Saturday Proclamation being presented at the November 10<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. The Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce will receive the proclamation. Board members were encouraged to shop local this upcoming holiday season.

**3. Business Tax License Report 39:20**

Ms. Valdes updated Board members of the new and upcoming businesses in Coral Gables.

**4. Open Discussion**

The Illuminate Coral Gables project is moving forward. The event is an illuminated art exhibition which is scheduled for mid-January. One of the focal points of the project will be an exhibition from artist Kiki Smith who will create illuminated, one-of-a-kind constellation pieces.

Coral Gables will also soon launch a murals project on Miracle Mile in partnership with the BID. The murals are very happy, uplifting, hometown murals, creating very beautiful backdrops for photos. The goal is to attract more people to the downtown.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yenesis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department.