

# City of Coral Gables

## Meeting Minutes

### Parking Advisory Board

405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
www.coralgables.com

---

Thursday, April 22, 2021

8:00 AM

The Board meets the fourth Thursday of  
the month.

Coral Gables City Hall  
405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables FL 33134

---

#### CALL TO ORDER

The PAB began at 08:05 A.M.

#### ROLL CALL

Javier Betancourt Present

**Present:** 4 - Rua, Perez, Holian and Garay

#### 1 Public Comments

- No Public Comments.

#### 2 Guest Former PAB Chair Dorothy Thomson

- PAB Chair Betancourt introduced former PAB Chair Dorothy Thomson to new members and welcomed her.
- Mrs. Thomson expressed her thanks to the PAB and provided a brief history of her capacity with City of Coral Gables as a member of several community boards, the Commission and Mayor (1985). Mrs. Thomson wished the PAB the best in its future endeavors.
- PAB Member Gabriel Garay welcomed her and thanked her for her service.
- PAB joined together to present a gift certificate to Mrs. Thomson and posed for a picture to commemorate the moment.

#### 3 Approval of March 25, 2021 Minutes

- On a Motion from PAB member Garay, Seconded by PAB member Perez, the PAB approved the March 25, 2021 meeting minutes unanimously.

#### 4 3400 Ponce Residential Permit Zone

- The PAB briefly discussed parking on Ponce in the craft section between Camilo Ave and Bird Road.

#### 5 Ponce ROW Monthly Permits

- Parking Director met with local businesses, Mayor Lago,

Commissioner Fors and Assistant City Manager regarding parking around the 3400 and 3600 block of Ponce. One of the items discussed was to try to steer the construction workers away from parking in the area. Another item was to allow the businesses to purchase monthly parking permits (\$80.00 per month) on Sarto Ave. for their employees to park on-street.

- Chair Betancourt asked if measure could be introduced as a six-month Pilot Program.
- PAB Member Perez asked if there was feedback about the proposed measure from Mr. Gordon Sokoloff who had brought the issue to the PAB at the January meeting.
- PAB Member Holian asked how this would impact public parking; and Director responded on-street parking would continue as is for the public.
- On a Motion from Member Perez, Seconded by Member Rua, a six-month pilot program was recommended. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

## **6 Miracle Mile Overlay**

- Planning and Zoning Director Ramon Trias spoke about the zoning code. He referred to George Merrick (founder) who completed the planning and development of City of Coral Gables in the 1930's. In 1926 Zoning became a national program and has become an important tool in making Coral Gables the beautiful City it is now.
- Dir. Trias explained that prior to 2001 there was no code requirement to provide parking in a building on Miracle Mile; for buildings that were one or two stories approved by code. Presently, four and six story buildings are approved to be built on Miracle Mile which require parking by code.
- Chair Betancourt asked if one and two story buildings are also part of the code requiring an extension of parking (remote parking).

## **7 BBB Operational Report - Gene Kowalski**

- Block by Block Service Manager Gene Kowalski exposed several issues Block by Block is experiencing in reference to the damage done from the Skateboarders on Giralda Plaza and Miracle Mile; as well as cleanup from the trees, local businesses, and the public. He also mentioned the Bollards (250 lbs.) are constantly moved back to their place by BBB staff.
- Parking Director Kevin Kinney further stressed that the cleanup of streetscape on Miracle Mile and Giralda Plaza has become very difficult due to the Skateboarders in terms of the pavers and street furniture. The PAB discussed action and regulations to prevent skateboarders from damaging the pavers, bollards, and street furniture.
- On a Motion by Member Rua, Seconded by Chair Betancourt, the PAB asked the City to implement modifications to street furniture to prevent skateboarders from damaging the pavers, bollards, and street furniture; and asking the CGPD to monitor skateboarders on Giralda Plaza and

Miracle Mile. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

- Pictures of damaged street furniture will be sent to the City Manager's Office and the Police Chief.
- PAB Member Rua suggested the City should have a Police Officer assigned to focus on the public behavior to prevent further damage to the pavers, bollards, and street furniture.
- Mr. Kowalski gave an example of the abuse and damage being done by businesses on Miracle Mile and Giralda Plaza; not keeping to code.
- Chair Betancourt asked BBB to provide a report on a quarterly basis including pictures, pounds of trash, and issues encountered by BBB.

#### **8 Recognition – Staff Ambassador of the Month**

- Gene introduced Sully to the PAB and said the following:  
“Sully Silva started as an Ambassador and has worked her way up to Team Lead Supervisor. Sully Silva has always been an employee that goes above and beyond from day one. Sully Silva takes great pride and ownership of the Mile. Sully Silva is that employee that comes to work early and leaves late, making sure everything is done right the first time. Sully Silva's attention to detail goes way beyond approach. She has become our paver expert, in seeing the pavers uneven, sinking or loose. Fixing the pavers is no easy task, sometimes having to remove ten pavers just to fix one. Sully Silva motivates all the Ambassadors and creates harmony while doing so. Team Lead Supervisor Sully Silva sets the example that others should follow.”

#### **9 Budget Priority for Trolley**

- Parking Director asked PAB if they preferred to extend service hours on weekdays or continue Saturday service tentatively from 7am - 8pm. Parking Director said City would have the funds from an FDOT grant by the summer and would like to begin this service ASAP.
- By consensus, the Board unanimously approved prioritizing the extension of service hours on Saturdays.

#### **10 Open Discussion**

- Chair Betancourt requested Parking Director invite more guests to the PAB meetings as the PAB is interested in hearing more from the public and parking issues.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The PAB adjourned at 09:15 A.M.

### **NOTE**