

Village of Palmetto Bay  
**Palmetto Bay Partnership Committee Minutes**  
 Wed, Apr 13, 2016 – 6:30 @ Edward & Arlene Feller Community Room at Ludovici Park  
 17641 Old Cutler Road, Palmetto Bay FL 33157

Peter England (Chairman) called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. We waited until Eddie Escobar to arrive in order to have quorum.

1) Roll Call/Attendance:

Juan Alayo	N	Suzanne Gottlieb-Calleja	N	Ben Powell	N
Peter England	Y	Eric Haas	N	Courtney Reeder	N
Eddie Escobar	Y	Susan Hotzman	Y	Dan Yglesias	Y
Hal Feldman	Y	Edward Joffe	Y		
Anthony Gorman	Y	Rick Lujan	N		

Attorney Dexter Lehtinen	N	Clerk Meighan Alexander	N
Manager Ed Silva	Y	Planning & Zoning Darby Desalle	Y

Mayor Flinn attended second half of meeting

2) Approval of Minutes:

Motioned: Edward J.

Seconded: Eddie E.

Approved:

Unanimous	X	In favor	X	Opposed	
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3) Public Comments:

a) Nobody in attendance; therefore opened/closed

4) Chairman's Report:

- a) Peter about his findings from the April 4 Beacon Council meeting. Seminar with FPL Business Development. Not only does FPL have lots of available resource that may be very helpful to our efforts, they are now aware the Palmetto Bay Partnership exists and we are on their radar. FPL has a database, which can project what business is lacking in a geographic area.
- b) Peter shared a conversation with a local business owner who had a very difficult time getting insurance for windstorm, east of US-1. Said this is another hurdle we need to be aware of as we try to foster business in the Village.
- c) Shared that the Palmetto Bay Partnership was on the April 20 Village Council Meeting agenda and that we should individually try to attend.

5) Village Manager Update

- a) Ed Silva provided an update regarding priorities at Village Hall these days.
  - (1) Light Rail meetings are significant time investments and remain a nebulous moving target. Miami-Dade County has been "interesting". A comment at a recent Commissioners meeting was "\$1B spent on roadways in 2015. Nothing on transit." What does that say about mindset?
  - (2) Regarding Tiger grant. \$125M pledge went to \$15M or less on transit. People are now questioning the People's Transportation Plan's 1/2 penny sales tax and where that money should go.
  - (3) Ed was not encouraging about the direction he saw coming from Miami-Dade County and said if it continued, it might end with just extra buses being added to the busway.

- (4) Study showed 16,000 people ride the bus daily on the busway. Low numbers for light rail support, but not indefensible. Buses aren't faster or more convenient, therefore ridership artificially low.
  - (5) Miami-Dade County's \$1.5B Budget for light rail compared similar project in Raleigh-Durham (their budget is \$1.8B). However, Raleigh-Durham needs 75% of their rail line to be suspended, they need to create right-of-way and parking. Miami-Dade County has most of that already in place. Ed Silva felt Miami-Dade County's budget estimate is likely too high. Mayor Flinn (who walked in around 10 minutes prior) added that the South Dade Mayors are politely raising needs of South Dade. County is trying to ignore us, but they can't now that we have a unified voice.
- b) Darby, Ed and Eugene collectively let the Partnership know that over the next few months they expect an influx of developers will propose and plan to build tens of thousands of square feet of residential condos/apartments. Will be five stories or less.
  - c) Mayor Flinn spoke about how external voices were calling for bridges to be added to 77<sup>th</sup> and 87<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Flinn made it known he opposed these bridges as they would bring additional traffic into our Village where it does not belong.
- 6) Sub-Committee Reports
    - a) Charter Review Sub-Committee
      - i) Edward Joffe attended March 23 Charter Revision Committee presentations. They suggested 13 charter changes. Several very controversial, in particular Council seat districting and run-off election rules.
      - ii) Proposal about lobbying where Partnership suggested removal, the Charter Revision Committee suggested language change
      - iii) Regarding annexation proposal, Edward presented and Vice Mayor said he wants a super majority. Vice Mayor said he felt too many proposals for change.
      - iv) At the March 23 meeting Mayor Flinn spoke about Charter and said we were only advisory and he felt the Charter Revision Committee did not take in public comments, but rather just offered their suggestions.
      - v) After discussion, the Palmetto Bay Partnership agreed with Hal's opinion that "We should proceed with the understanding that we are nothing more and nothing less than a semi-formal public opinion regarding potential Charter revisions and we should have our voice heard regardless of what the Charter Revision Committee has to say. We are an important public voice that the Council will hear additively to any other."
      - vi) Edward Joffe to write an email to Meighan detailing our suggested Charter revisions and allow her to report those opinions to the Village Council.
    - b) Business Retention – Sub-Committee believes Village should recognize new, expanded or changed businesses. We should explore how to get ribbon cuttings and exposure on WBAY for businesses as a "Look who's moving in..." effort. Also, a new business should be introduced their representative Council person. Village should consider having a business liaison to walk a business through the confusing processes of becoming an established business in Palmetto Bay. Suggest regularly pulling from occupational licenses applications and inviting them in to a Partnership meeting.

c) Economic Development and Communications sub-committees did not have significant reports to notate.

7) New Business

a) Hal recommended reducing the complexity of the Palmetto Bay Partnership meetings. Proposed to go back to one monthly meeting, which incorporated discussion of all sub-committee topics in approximately the first 30 minutes, followed by the standard committee agenda items. Overall meeting length may increase, but coordination effort for the Village and people's schedule goes down.

Motioned: Hal

Seconded: Anthony

Approved:

Unanimous	X	In favor	X	Opposed	
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8) Next Meeting Date(s):

a) Committee meeting May 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Edward & Arlene Feller Community Room at Ludovici Park.

b) For clarification, this meeting will be the first re-combined sub-committee and regular committee meeting. All future meetings will be once a month.

9) Adjournment:

Motioned: Edward J.

Seconded: Eddie E.

Approved:

Unanimous	X	In favor	X	Opposed	
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Peter England (Chairman) called the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.



Minutes signed by Secretary