

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2010, 8:00 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	N 09	D 09	J 10	F 10	M 10	A 10	M 10	J 10	J 10	A 10	S 10	O 10	APPOINTED BY:
Linda Scarcell-Degrave	*	P	*	*	P	*	P	*	A	*	*	E	Donald D. Slesnick, II
Sandra Mannis	*	P	*	*	P	*	P	*	P	*	*	P	Maria Anderson
Emile A. De Boyrie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Bonnie Blaire	*	P	*	*	P	*	P	*	P	*	*	P	William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Richard Whittington	*	P	*	*	P	*	P	*	P	*	*	P	Wayne "Chip" Withers

P - Present
E - Excused Absence
A - Absent
(*) No Meeting

Staff:

Glenn Kephart, Public Works Director
James J. Kay, Engineering Division Supervisor
Lorena Garrido, Central Division Supervisor

Guests:

Officer Denham, Police Department
Sergeant Frevola, Police Department
Brad Rosenblatt, Parking Advisory Board Member/
Business Improvement District President

Mrs. Blaire called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

Mrs. Blaire requested for Board members, staff and guests to introduce themselves to familiarize the new Board member (Mr. De Boyrie) as well as new staff (Glenn Kephart & Lorena Garrido) assisting the Board.

Secretary's Report

Mr. Kephart reported that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is looking at local communities pertaining to bus stops and their accessibility. After a scheduled conference call with FDOT, specific information regarding this will be attained and passed on to the Board. He stated if improvements are needed, the City will have to coordinate these with Miami-Dade Transit.

Mrs. Blaire said this topic should be placed to our next meeting's agenda of December 8, 2010.

Mr. Kay reported the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will start another project along LeJeune Road to meet ADA requirements for sidewalks. This project will start early 2011 to address some issues with poles and sidewalks not being wide enough for wheelchair access.

Board-Related Commission Items

Mrs. Blaire informed October is national disability affairs month and that the City does a proclamation during this month declaring it “Americans with Disabilities Month”.

Mrs. Blaire motioned that in recognition of October being National Disability Month, the City of Coral Gables shall issue its annual proclamation recognizing its participation in the National Disability Month. Mrs. Mannis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Garrido stated she would follow-up with the City Clerk’s Office and advise Board members when the date of the proclamation presentation is confirmed.

City Update – None

Board Members Reports

Mrs. Blaire welcomed the new Board member, Mr. Emile DeBoyrie.

Mrs. Blaire reviewed the purpose and the reasons for the establishment of this Board and stated they are as follows:

1. To act as an advocacy group for issues affecting persons with disabilities and thereby developing and advocacy program to positively impact the quality of life for citizens with the disabilities in the community;
2. To undertake responsibility to facilitate and promote city community partnerships and projects and research affecting persons with disabilities;
3. To identify City resources as well as State and County resources which can be tapped or channeled toward providing opportunities for a better quality of life for persons with disabilities.

Mrs. Blaire introduced Mr. Brad Rosenblatt who is a member of the Parking Advisory Board and President of the Business Improvement District to share the following with the Board:

Mr. Rosenblatt discussed a project he’s been working on along with the Business Improvement District (BID) to provide persons with disabilities with free valet parking in the downtown area. He stated he met with the three valet parking providers of the downtown area to establish this program. As a result of this effort, the program was established. Mr. Rosenblatt is asking for the Board to assist him with promotional ideas to get the word out.

In addition, Mr. Rosenblatt stated that the City’s Parking Department has collected over 100 placards that have been improperly used. He also reported that the valet service is being utilized to identify those who abuse the free valet program as a form of enforcement. In addition, Mr. Rosenblatt said the City’s Parking Department has drafted a resolution to increase parking fines, specifically for those abusing ADA placards but this has not yet been adopted by the City of

Coral Gables. He stated this was requested by Miami-Dade County to have local municipalities address parking fines since they have not been increased for over ten (10) years. He suggested that this Board look into this resolution and that he would have the Parking Director forward a copy of this resolution for review.

Mr. Rosenblatt also informed the Board that all the coin parking meters in downtown will be removed within the next year and replaced with the pay-to-park stations.

Mr. Rosenblatt asked the Board for suggestions regarding promotional ideas for the free valet program. Sergeant Frevola recommended contacting the City Manager's Office, Communications Division to possibly have a public service announcement made. In addition, she said that these announcements may be posted on YouTube which is another means of getting the information out. Mr. Kay added that this may be advertised inside the Coral Gables Trolley, and Sergeant Frevola mentioned the Trollinet Broadcast System in the Trolley may also be used.

Mr. Rosenblatt asked if there was an e-mail list of disabled Coral Gables residents used by the Board for communication purposes. Mrs. Blaire responded no and stated it is a violation of privacy laws and also prohibited by HIPAA to collect and publish this type of information. Mrs. Blaire mentioned that communication is a subject that needs work by this Board and should be placed in future agendas.

Mrs. Blaire mentioned that when considering promotional materials, the socially correct language needs to be used when referring to persons with disabilities. She said an example of this was the name change of this Board from Handicap Advisory Board to the existing name because the word "handicap" was no longer appropriate. She also commented that the word "disabled" was an acceptable word, but is not sure if it's still considered appropriate. Mrs. Mannis mentioned she heard of the term "differently-able" and felt it's a good suggestion instead of "disabled".

Mr. Rosenblatt requested some kind of resolution from the Board supporting the initiative of the Business Improvement District (BID) and the Parking Advisory Board to create a permanent centralized ADA valet parking program in the downtown and to work with these groups in advocating, promoting and partnering in this project.

Mrs. Mannis made a motion to support the initiative by the BID and Parking Advisory Board for a permanent centralized ADA valet parking program in the downtown along with a commitment by this Board to work along with them in advocacy in these related issues. Dr. Whittington seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Blaire noted that previous meeting minutes have not been approved and she suggested to table the March 3, 2010 and May 5, 2010 minutes. She also suggested for these minutes to be forwarded to members for mark-up and be ready with suggestions/approval before December's meeting.

Mrs. Blaire asked for comments and additions or corrections to the July 7, 2010 hand prepared record of the Board meeting. After additions were made, it was agreed that those pages become the official meeting record by the members, and each member who attended that meeting of July 7, 2010, signed those pages, with additions and/or corrections, each indicating approval of the contents.

Disabled Parking Enforcement Patrol

Mrs. Blaire stated that disabled parking fines go to the County but since our City has an enforcement patrol program for disabled parking, our City receives an additional portion of the fine money. In addition to this, at the end of the year there's another additional percentage of money given to those municipalities that have an enforcement patrol program.

Mrs. Blaire said that for this reason, our City retained this enforcement patrol program. She mentioned that in June 2010, a meeting was held in the Coral Gables Police Department with Officer Denham, Sergeant Frevola and Trish Rodriguez. Officer Denham and Sergeant Frevola did a nation-wide data search for similar programs. Mrs. Blaire stated that in order to keep this program up and running, new volunteers need to be trained and must pass security clearance/background check.

Sergeant Frevola updated the Board on the program's status. The City's Human Resources Department is currently looking into all volunteer/intern programs. She stated that the first step to make this happen is to have a Police Officer assigned as the Disabled Parking Enforcement Coordinator who will be in charge of the volunteer training and dedicated to the program and this Board. Sergeant Frevola stated the process for the selection of an Officer will begin shortly and they will report to the Board in December.

Mrs. Blaire noted that there is a cost associated with the volunteer training, approximately \$50.00 per trainee, which comes from Public Works funds.

Sergeant Frevola asked about the monies collected from fines which are given to the City, if they go into programs for the disabled. Mr. Kephart responded that he didn't know but would follow-up with the Finance Department.

Mrs. Blaire stated that because of the statute, ADA fines collected by the City can't be used for ADA required capital improvements.

Mr. Kay commented that there has to be a very strict accounting of the money. Mrs. Blaire stated Public Works prepares a yearly report to be submitted to the County to receive these funds.

Mr. Kephart asked what time of year is the report typically submitted, fiscal or calendar year. Ms. Blaire said she didn't know. Past year's minutes should contain that information in the Secretary's Report.

Mr. Rosenblatt confirmed that he believed our City received about \$18,000.00 this past year from the ADA tickets issued. He stated this amount comes from the County and goes to the Public Works Department to be used for accessibility issues such as the Disabled Parking Enforcement Patrol.

Mrs. Blaire asked for an affirmation of support from Board members to proceed with the Police Department to enhance the Disabled Parking Enforcement Patrol program which was unanimous.

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Sergeant Frevola asked for guidance regarding emergency crisis and disasters pertaining to disabled persons in the community. She stated that a database system needs to be established to be able to contact disabled persons in these situations. She also mentioned that the County has a database list of registered persons, but it's not practical to access the County system during emergencies. A system needs to be established for our City to have a list of its residents that have special needs and/or need assistance during emergencies. Officer Denham stated that these residents will have to register voluntarily.

Mrs. Blaire suggested that the City Attorney needs to be involved in order to establish a formal system that will allow the City to obtain such information as well as maintain or use it. She also stated that we need to look at the cost of such a database.

Sergeant Frevola stated that Officer Denham is working on a grant for lojacks to be used for tracking and locating those citizens with special situations such as advanced Alzheimer's patients who cannot assist in their own rescue.

Mrs. Blaire announced an upcoming television show about a local young couple with Down Syndrome, "Monica and David", who are getting married. Further information may be obtained at www.monicaanddavid.com. Mrs. Blaire also shared a Miami Herald article on the Friendship Circle Program from the Chabad Center in Kendall. Able-bodied youngsters team-up with disabled youngsters to provide social activities and other programs.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.