

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 9, 2026

9:30 AM

Sister Cities Conference Room - Coral Gables Museum

Coral Gables Merrick House Governing Board

Chairperson Genevieve Orr
Board Member Mary Beth Burke
Board Member Carmen Cason
Board Member Bonnie Crouch Seipp
Board Member Alexis Ehrenhaft
Board Member Maria C. O'Naghten
Board Member Susan Rodriguez

The Merrick House Governing Board will be holding its Regular Meeting on Monday, February 9, 2026, commencing at 9:30 am EST.

Members of the public may join the meeting via Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83315833193>.

In addition, a dedicated phone line will be available so that any individual who does not wish (or is unable) to use Zoom may listen to and participate in the meeting.

Meeting ID: 833 1583 3193

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Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/koHpBvqy7>
305-461-6769 (Coral Gables local number)

To speak to the Merrick House Governing Board on an Agenda Item, please “Raise your Hand” or send a message to one of the meeting hosts using the Zoom Platform.

If you joined the meeting via telephone, you can “Raise your hand” by pressing *9.

The public may also comment on an item on the agenda using the City’s already-established e-comment function which may be found on the City’s website at:

(www.coralgables.com/commissionmeetings) once the meeting’s agenda is published

or by sending an email to cityclerk@coralgables.com prior to the start of the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was Called to Order at 9:30 AM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Board Member Ehrenhaft, Board Member Onaghten and Board Member Rodriguez

Absent: 2 - Board Member Cason and Vice Chairperson Burke

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[26-1166](#)

Merrick House Meeting Minutes for January 12, 2026

A motion was made by Board member O'Naghten, seconded by Board member Ehrenhaft, to approve the minutes for the January 12, 2026, meeting. This motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 5 - Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Board Member Ehrenhaft, Board Member Onaghten and Board Member Rodriguez

Absent: 2 - Board Member Cason and Vice Chairperson Burke

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Blue Tooth Speaker** - Chairperson Orr mentioned that the House could use a blue tooth speaker for events.

2. **October Event** - This board has chosen October 11, 2026, to have a "Harvest" event at the Merrick House.

A motion was made by Board member O'Naghten, seconded by Board member Rodriguez, to have a Harvest event at the Merrick House on Sunday, October 11, 2026. This motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 5 - Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Board Member Ehrenhaft, Board Member Onaghten and Board Member Rodriguez

Absent: 2 - Board Member Cason and Vice Chairperson Burke

3. **Graphic Identity** - Chairperson Orr has had discussions with Nicole DeLuque, Communications & Media Manager, regarding this issue.

4. **Merchandise** - Chairperson Orr would like to explore selling water bottles, tea towels, and general merchandise. Staff advised there may be an overlap with the Economic Development Department.

5. **Sensitivity Training** - Chairperson Orr would like sensitivity training for all docents and board members.

6. **Visitors** - Board members requested a tally of visitors to the House for the year.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Junior League of Miami Event - This event was well attended.

Chairperson Orr would like to close the second floor of the House to tours if there are more than 25 people attending any event at the House.

2. Vintage Market - Scheduled for March 14, 2026, 11am - 5pm. Currently have 25 vendors signed up. Vendors pay \$100 per table. Board member Seipp discussed needing items for the Merrick House table to sell.
3. Spring Event - To be called, "Petals & Pastimes, An Ode to Althea Merrick." Scheduled for April 19, 2026, 1:00pm - 4:00pm with a rain date of April 25, 2026.

Belle Fleur - Mario Hernandez, International Floral Designer
Croquet going on throughout event
O'Miami poetry craft event
Food truck (gelato, coffee, sandwiches)
Tea garden
Vintage Lily Pulitzer runway show
Music - Don Slesnick III's band
Popcorn
Honey vendor or ready to grow herbs
Symphonettes volunteers
Jams and Herb vendor

Proposed Schedule:

1:00pm - 4:00pm - Music, Croquet, Poetry Crafts
2:00pm - 3:00pm - Belle Fleur, Floral Designs
3:00pm - 4:00pm - Vintage Lily Pulitzer Runway Show

A motion was made by Board member Seipp, seconded by Board member O'Naghten, to approve the Spring event title, Petals & Pastimes- An Ode to Althea. This motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 5 - Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Board Member Ehrenhaft, Board Member Onaghten and Board Member Rodriguez

Absent: 2 - Board Member Cason and Vice Chairperson Burke

A motion was made by Board member O'Naghten, seconded by Board member Seipp. to approve the following schedule for the Petals & Pastimes event: Poetry crafts, Croquet, Music 1:00pm - 4:00pm, Belle Fleur floral designs by Mario Hernandez 2:00pm - 3:00pm, Vintage Lily Pulitzer runway show 3:00pm - 4:00pm. This motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 3 - Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr and Board Member Onaghten

Nays: 2 - Board Member Ehrenhaft and Board Member Rodriguez

Absent: 2 - Board Member Cason and Vice Chairperson Burke

VI. CITY COMMISSION ITEMS

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

IX. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was Adjourned at 10:49 AM.

NOTE