

# City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
[www.coralgables.com](http://www.coralgables.com)



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 4, 2021

4:00 PM

The Board meets the first Thursday of each month.  
Adult Activity Center, 2 Andalusia Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33134  
**Senior Citizens Advisory Board**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Meeting began at 4:08pm**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:**

**Celia Suarez**

**Edward English**

**Julian Sevillano**

**Jim Berlin**

**Jane Mass -Virtual**

**Richard Thurer-Virtual**

**Absent:**

**Joan Valdes**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**A motion to approve the minutes from November was made by Jim Berlin and second by Julian Sevillano. Motion passed unanimously.**

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

The Adult Activity Center's Supervisor Katherine Anderson began her report by going over a brief situational report for COVID Vaccines and how the AAC is still being used as a vaccination site by the Coral Gables Fire department. The AAC staff helped with scheduling vaccination appointments. Staff reported that many residents that were contacted have already been vaccination.

Jim Berlin asked how many homes the Fire department were able to reach for those that were home bound. Katherine was unable to provide that information due to Fire keeping their own records of those contacted.

Katherine continued her report with updating the Board on reopening plans for the Adult Activity Center. Unfortunately, we are still mimicking Dade County's emergency orders and until there is less than a 5% positivity rate within the County, adult centers will remain closed. Department director Fred Couceyro added that we are still looking to have reopening plans ready for when we are given the okay by City management.

Katherine spoke to the Board about her attendance to the virtual conference of the Florida Association of Senior Centers which spotlighted the reopening of senior centers and how they implemented COVID guidelines. They also spoke about how many of these centers are requiring employees to be vaccinated prior to returning to work. Katherine also received some ideas for future virtual adult programming that she might want to implement at the center.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. AAC All-Access Pass**

Katherine Anderson informed the Board about the implementation of a new Adult Activity Center All Access Pass and how it will benefit staff and our members. This pass will be free to anyone wishing to participate in programming or AAC held events and will need to be renewed annually. Requiring all participants to enroll in this pass, staff will be able to check-in anyone entering the building, track if each participant has current documents uploaded to their accounts, in the event of a COVID case we can contact trace other participants in the group or activity, and this will allow staff to monitor our usage numbers.

Jim Berlin wanted to know if this pass will be able to be used at other facilities. Katherine informed the board that this membership pass can only be used at the AAC however the key fob each member will receive can be setup to be used at multiple locations so duplicate fobs will not be needed.

Celia Suarez asked if this access pass will be for non-residents as well. Katherine expressed to the board, anyone, no matter their residence status, will be required to register for access pass. Celia voiced that she is in support of the Access Pass however for an easy transition, she asked that City staff take extra marketing efforts to advertise this pass as a positive addition to the safety of those in the center.

Jim Berlin asked that when its time for the Adult Activity Center to reopen, will patrons be required to be vaccinated. Katherine advised that at this time, we are not allowed to require any of our patrons to be vaccinated to enter.

The Board vocalized their support of the new AAC Access pass, but no motion was made.

### **b. Parking at the AAC**

Before moving on to the next discussion item on the agenda, Katherine quickly updated the Board about the AARP and the Age Friendly Network. She sent them the master plan surveys that were conducted early 2019 and received word back the AARP has accepted the surveys. She will meet with the AARP for the new steps in the action plan. However, we will not be able to finalize any of the items until the department's master plan is completed.

Katherine began the next topic of discussion with reminding the Board of the original parking agreement that was included in the contract between The Palace and the AAC. The parking agreement states that The Palace is to provide 35 free valet parking spots to AAC patrons through the valet lot in the front entrance to The Palace. The center will no longer be validating parking passes to users of the AAC. If patrons would like to park in the parking garage, it will be at the expense of the patron. There is no longer a spending authority permitted to cover the \$50,000 annual bill for parking and The Palace cannot provide the City with any kind of discount pricing.

The Board had a general discussion about the possible complications to this parking arrangement. Department Director Fred Couceyro will follow-up with the Board after more discussions are had following the reopening of the center. If the valet parking isn't fulling the parking need for the center, the City will look at other options. But due to the amount of spending and the post COVID cost recovery attempts, the AAC will need to take advantage of the free resource included in the contract between the two parties. The Board's concerns will be shared with City management.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. General Election Information**

Staff went over the upcoming April elections with the Board and gave them information on the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce Virtual Meet and Greet for the candidates. Board secretary Sarah Espino went over the board term limits with the Board and notified them if they would like to be reappointed to the Senior Advisory Board again, to please use the link that was emailed to them from the City Clerks office. Sarah will reach out to the City Clerk's office for technical support and have all the links reissued.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Jim Berlin asked about the progress of the ADA automatic doors that were funded for the AAC. Katherine notified the Board that the plans and permitting applications have already been submitted to the City and will have an update for the next board meeting.

Jim Berlin also asked that the AAC staff look into putting a temporary drop-off parking spot to allow for patrons to be dropped off at the center in a safe manner. Katherine said she would bring it up to administration and let the board know the following meeting.

Julian Sevillano spoke to the board about his Brain training program and gave them an update on testing through his work for Dementia.

**ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 1st, 2021 at 4:00p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm

**NOTE**