

CORAL GABLES

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

Library Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 | 3:00 p.m.
Location: Zoom

LAB MEMBERS	MEETING DATES												APPOINTING ENTITY
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	'21	
James Worm	X	Z	X	Z	X	Z							Mayor Vince Lago
Samuel Boldrick	X	Z	X	Z	X	Z							Vice Mayor Mena
VACANT	X	X	X	X	X	X							Board as a Whole
Myra Silverstein, Chair	X	Z	X	Z	X	Z							City Manager
Charlotte Smiley	X	Z	X	Z	X	E							Commissioner Menendez
Melanie Zargham	-	-	-	-	-	Z							Commissioner Anderson
VACANT	X	X	X	X	X	X							Commissioner Fors

A=Absent E=Excused Absence P=Present X=No Meeting Ph=Present by Phone Z=Zoom - =Former Board Member

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Belkys Perez, Assistant Director, Economic Development Department
 Zeida Sardiñas, Asset Manager, Economic Development Department
 Yenisis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department
 Carolina Vester, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation Department
 Catherine Cathers, Arts & Culture Specialist, Historical Resources & Cultural Arts
 Kara Kautz, Assistant Historic Preservation Officer, Historical Resources & Cultural Arts
 Marni Ardito, Branch Manager, Miami-Dade Public Library System

NOTE: There was **no in-person quorum**; therefore, the information below is a draft summary of items discussed with those via Zoom.

Ms. Silverstein brought the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Perez welcomed and thanked the members for their participation on the Board and welcomed new board member, Ms. Zargham, appointed by Commissioner Anderson. All members both existing and new were asked for self-introductions.

2. Mission of the Library Advisory Board

Ms. Perez explained how the board's mission is to serve in an advisory capacity to City Commission regarding Coral Gables Public Library; to make continuing study of facilities, building, grounds, and future needs of Library; to provide liaison with County regarding proposals affecting Library; and to perform and carry out such other duties and functions of an advisory nature as may be assigned by the Commission.

3. Jean Ward Sculptures

Ms. Cathers informed board members of the reinstallation of three sculptures by the artist Jean Ward. The sculptures were accepted into the city's public art collection in 1995 and placed at the library by Resolution in 2003. The sculptures were removed for restoration in 2016 and have been completed and in storage. The pieces were originally placed in three different locations. The sculptures deteriorated over time. While they were being restored in storage, Cathers said other areas were explored but it is believed that the library grounds remain the best location for the pieces. As stated in the agreement, the County is responsible for maintaining the grounds. Pending the final decision on placement, the City will speak to the County to establish an agreement for the City to maintain the artworks. Several board members expressed their support to return the Jean Ward sculptures to the library location.

4. Recap Coral Gables Literacy Festival

Ms. Vester informed the board members that they started the planning process in late March 2021. Due to Covid-19, there were many obstacles to get this event underway with so many unknowns. This was made more difficult by the fact that the Miami Book Fair and other book fairs weren't having in-person events. Ms. Vester assessed several locations for the event and decided on Youth Center, with its tree canopy which provided shade to the vendors and participants. The City was appreciative for the Library System's participation. They had two vehicles onsite, the Techno bus, and the mobile unit, and they also had a booth set up with several interactive activities. It is estimated that 1,200 to 1,500 people attended the event. The event was from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Since this was the first ever festival, there was a ribbon cutting ceremony. It was and is originally a pilot project, so it was a one-time funded event for the city. The Community Recreation Department has requested to continue to fund the event from its budget. They will know by the end of the fiscal year if the event is approved for funding for oncoming years.

5. Update on temporary Miracle Mile location

Ms. Ardito updated the board members that they've been busy and doing better than a lot of the small branches in their system as far as the amount of people coming in. They have received a lot of positive feedback from guests because they like that they can just walk there since they live close by. Some people are requesting to keep the Miracle Mile location open when the Segovia Street location reopens. There are small tables outside on the sidewalk with umbrellas and laptops are being used instead of desktops. Tablets can be checked out for a month. The location is starting in-person programming. It is open the same hours it had on Segovia Street: Monday through Thursday until 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday until 6 p.m. and closed on Sunday.

6. Open Discussion / Other Business

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Yenesis Gomez, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development Department.