

# City of Coral Gables

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



## Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 12, 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, January 12, 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](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/koHpBvqy73054616769) (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](http://www.coralgables.com/commissionmeetings)) once the meeting’s agenda is published or by sending an email to [cityclerk@coralgables.com](mailto:cityclerk@coralgables.com) prior to the start of the meeting.

## I. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was Called to Order at 9:28 AM.

## II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 - Board Member Meagher, Board Member Cason, Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke, Board Member Ehrenhaft and Board Member Onaghten

## III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. [25-1159](#) Merrick House Meeting Minutes for November 10, 2025

A motion was made by Board member Seipp, seconded by Board member Ehrenhaft, to approve the minutes for the November 10, 2025, Merrick House Board meeting. This motion passed unanimously.

**Yeas:** 7 - Board Member Meagher, Board Member Cason, Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke, Board Member Ehrenhaft and Board Member Onaghten

2. [26-1008](#) Merrick House Meeting Minutes for December 8, 2025

A motion was made by Board member Seipp, seconded by Board member Ehrenhaft, to approve the minutes for the December 8, 2025, meeting. This motion passed unanimously.

**Yeas:** 7 - Board Member Meagher, Board Member Cason, Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke, Board Member Ehrenhaft and Board Member Onaghten

## IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Centennial** - Board members are looking for ideas to celebrate the centennial with the community.
2. **Spring Event** - This board is exploring ideas for this event. Board member Rodriguez will explore food trucks. Spring event scheduled for Sunday April 19th, with a rain date of Sunday April 25th . Idea: tea sandwiches, flower demonstrations
3. **May Event** - The game of croquet was very popular in the 1920s and 1930s. Chairperson Orr was able to find professional croquet players available for \$150 to give lessons. Others ideas: Maypole, flower event.
4. **Tasks** - Chairperson Orr discussed the distribution of tasks for each event by the House. These tasks need to be spread among all board members.
5. **Junior League of Miami Event** - Scheduled for January 24th. The tours will be abbreviated and there will be docents.

6. Cheers to the Next 100 Years - Scheduled for April 20th. Ideas: band playing ragtime, dance floor with dance instructors doing the Charleston, champagne truck, Coral Gables marching band and cake.
7. Mold - Chairperson Orr would like for the books at the House to be treated for mold. there are humidity issues at he house.
8. December Open House - Board member Rodriguez is taking this task and may add a toy drop off.

## V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Million Dollar Mermaid - This event was sold out and a great success. The 8 foot banner will be donated to the Venetian Pool. Miami-Dade Library will add Annette Kellerman's book to a specialized children's section.

Donald Selznick donated items aboriginal items for fundraising.

A motion was made by Vice chairperson Burke, seconded by Board member Cason, to use the money collected from the aboriginal donated items to reimburse Chairperson Orr for the cost of the banner used for the Million Dollar Mermaid event. This motion passed unanimously.

Yeas: 7 - Board Member Meagher, Board Member Cason, Board Member Crouch  
Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke, Board Member Ehrenhaft  
and Board Member Onaghten

2. Joanne's Appreciation Dinner - Chairperson Orr now has Venmo. Please forward the \$50 payment if you have not done so.
3. Vintage Market - Scheduled for March 14th. No tours will occur, the House will be open. Board members discussed needing new items to sell for this event.
4. Veteran's Day Concert - Scheduled for Sunday, November 8th.
5. Docents Pot Luck Dinner - Scheduled for October 18th

## VI. CITY COMMISSION ITEMS

## VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

## VIII. ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

### NOTE