

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 2, 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

*Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin
Vice Chairperson Celia Suarez
Board Member Jean Connelly
Board Member Edward English
Board Member Julian Sevillano
Board Member Richard Thurer*

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting began at 4:04pm

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Chairperson Berlin, Vice Chairperson Suarez, Board Member Connelly, Board Member English, Board Member Groves, Board Member Sevillano and Board Member Thurer

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES WAS MADE BY CELIA SUAREZ AND SECONDED BY RICHARD THURER. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

a. Holiday Luncheon

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson began her report by going over the upcoming Annual Luncheon on December 10th and highlighted some of the attractions of the event. Board Chair Jim Berlin requested that the Board have a table at the event to help promote the Senior Advisory Board and that the flyer be updated to reflect new board member Margaret Groves. Katherine said she will be able to accommodate both requests.

b. General Updates

Katherine also shared with the Board the upcoming Spring registration dates which begins December 6th for residents. Spring programming will begin in January and run through the month of May. The AAC calendar is still in process but will be shared with the Board when completed. Chair Jim Berlin asked if Brain HQ will be on the upcoming calendar of programs in the Spring. Katherine is working on adding the program but needs to finalize the purchasing of the licenses. She will be meeting with Board member Julian Sevillano and Dr. Peter Kallestrup for program setup.

The Alzheimer's luncheon was cancelled due to lack of enrollment and has been rescheduled to Tuesday, February 8th 2022.

Commissioner Menendez's sponsored movie series at the Coral Gables cinema will be a Saturday matinee on December 18th and will feature the film "Some Like it Hot".

Office hours for Senator Marco Rubio are continuing at the center and is scheduled for December 14th 2022.

The Adult Activity Center will be closed on Friday, December 24th and the 25th for the Christmas holiday.

Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro added to the Supervisor's report by going over administrative items. Fred shared with the Board that due to the lack of staff to fill part time vacancies, we have begun working with the HR department to put together a compensation plan for wage increases for part time staff to make the department more competitive. This increase of pay rates would add between \$400,000-\$500,000 to our budget for part-time salaries. Board member Celia Suarez commented that the proposed \$2-3 dollar increase per hour should be increased more than the based on the market and lack of staff. Fred expressed that the wages were set based on the competitive wages found in similar positions and what the City could responsibly allot at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Master Plan Referendum

A last-minute item was added to the agenda. Director Couceyro gave a brief summary of what the Parks and Youth Center Master Plans are and what was considered when constructing the plans. Fred also explained possible benefits to the redesign or additions to the Youth Center and what current park projects are currently underway in tandem with the goals identified within the Master Plan.

Director Couceyro then stated that after the Master Plan was adopted by the Commission, meetings began with City Manager's office, Finance, and with many of the commissioners in Sunshine meetings on how to now fund the Master Plan. The option that is currently being discussed is a voter referendum and they would like to add this item to the November 2022 voting ballot. The estimated amount for the referendum total would be \$160 million. A PowerPoint on funding options was shared with the Board and via Zoom for any public present.

During the presentation a breakdown of the capital improvement phasing totals and a timetable of tranches of funds that would be borrowed in terms of years was presented along with an estimated amount that would be added to taxes based on the house values. Fred also stated that by going out for a voter referendum that this would not limit the City the ability to lobby for additional or alternative funding opportunities.

Starting in December, our department will work with the contractor AECOM who put together our Master Plan to create a campaign on how go out for referendum for any master plan. The Commission will make a decision in January if they would like to pursue this option and then the deadline to be added for voting is June 2022. If the City decides to pursue this option of funding, staff will have community meetings leading into June to inform residents and answer questions about the bond. But ethically, City staff is not allowed to lobby for the referendum.

Jim Berlin asked if the City has ever done a voter referendum before. Fred explained that from his knowledge the City has never done a referendum. When the Youth Center was constructed in the 1990's the City had used a Revenue Debt Loan but that is not a feasible option for this amount of money given the state of current projects in the city.

Celia Suarez made the comment that it is going to be very important to connect with the populations that would benefit the most from this master plan and to hone in on the growing senior populations to help reinforce support for this referendum.

Board member Richard Thurer brought up the progress of the proposed Mobility Hub. Director Couceyro explained that the construction of this building is on a tight timeline because of the funding mechanism being used so construction should begin soon. A discussion about the new mobility hub was had amongst the Board and staff. Feedback that Fred has heard in passing is that there seems to be some hesitation on the appearance and the height of the building.

A MOTION IN SUPPORT OF THE MASTER PLAN AS PRESENTED AND THE ONGOING EFFORTS TO COMPLETE THE MASTER PLAN WAS MADE BY RICHARD THURER AND SECOND BY JULIAN SEVILLANO. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. List of Agencies/Organizations for Community Outreach Opportunities
- b. Outreach Powerpoint Presentation

In attempts to bring exposure to the Center to increase attendance, AAC Supervisor asked the Board to provide lists of locations of organizations or agencies that the Board thought would help spread community engagement. This will help increase our program volunteers and programming options. AAC Supervisor Katherine presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board that she hopes to use as a visual aid when visiting any potential outreach locations. Items included in the presentation were fees, available programs, support groups and special events.

The Board suggested to add indoor air-conditioning fitness classes to the presentation along with free parking at the center and a slide on volunteer opportunities.

Celia Suarez wanted to know if the free Zoom fitness classes will continue. Katherine shared with the Board that virtual class participation has dwindled for fitness so those classes will end starting in the new year. Book Club and Embracing Ageing will remain free and on Zoom.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Information Booth at Harvest Market/Farmers Market

The last meeting, the Senior Board had wanted to have an information booth at the upcoming Harvest Market or Farmer's Market event series to help promote the Center along with the Senior Advisory Board. After a brief discussion with staff, the Board had decided to select a Farmer's Market date in February 2022 but will confirm an exact date during the January meeting.

b. Speaker on Lobbying Resolution

Administrative assistant Sarah Espino spoke to the Board about last meeting's motion requesting the City to support House Bill 105 Regulation of Smoking By Counties And Municipalities and Senate Bill 224 Regulation Of Smoking In Public Places As Introduced In To The State Legislation. It was advised by the City Clerk's office to designate one member from the Board to speak on behalf of the Board at Commission if the Commission needs any clarification.

Board member Richard Thurer wanted to add additional State and House Bills to the resolution that is to be presented to commission that tie in with the regulation of tobacco and nicotine products. The bills that were discussed and requested to be added are as follows:

SB 1022: Preemption of the Regulation of Tobacco and Nicotine Products**GENERAL BILL by Ausley**

Preemption of the Regulation of Tobacco and Nicotine Products; Repealing provisions relating to preemption of the regulation of tobacco and nicotine products, respectively, etc.

HB 6081: Preemption of the Regulation of Tobacco and Nicotine Products**GENERAL BILL by Hunschofsky**

Preemption of the Regulation of Tobacco and Nicotine Products; Repeals provisions relating to regulation of tobacco & nicotine products.

A MOTION REQUESTING SENATE BILL 1022 PREEMPTION OF THE REGULATION OF TOBACCO AND NICOTINE PRODUCTS AND HOUSE BILL 6081 PREEMPTION OF THE REGULATION OF TOBACCO AND NICOTINE PRODUCTS BE ADDED TO THE RESOLUTION THAT WAS PROPOSED DURING THE NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING THAT REQUESTED CITY SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 105 REGULATION OF SMOKING BY COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES AND SENATE BILL 224 REGULATION OF SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES AS INTRODUCED IN TO THE STATE LEGISLATION WAS MADE BY CELIA SUAREZ AND SECOND BY JULIAN SEVILLANO. ALL IN FAVOR, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION NOMINATING RICHARD THURER TO SPEAK ON BEAHLF OF THE BOARD AT THE JANUARY 11TH COMMISSION MEETING ABOUT THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR SB 224, HB 105, SB 1022 AND HB 6081 WAS MADE BY JIM BERLIN AND SECONDED BY CELIA SUAREZ. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

Next meeting is scheduled for January 6th 2022 at 4pm

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:29pm.

NOTE