

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 3, 2025

4:00 PM

<https://coralgables.zoom.us/j/86149844627>

Adult Activity Center

Senior Citizens Advisory Board

Chairperson Celia Suarez
Vice Chairperson Kelley Schild
Board Member - Judith Alexander
Board Member James Berlin
Board Member Jean H. Connelly
Board Member Javier Figueras
Board Member Julian Sevillano

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 4:23pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Board member Julian Sevillano, Board member James "Jim" Berlin, Board member Judith "Jude" Alexander, Chair Celia Suarez, Board member Javier Figueras, Board member Jean Connelly and Vice-chair Kelley Schild

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION TO APPROVE LAST MEETINGS MINUTES WAS MADE BY JAMES "JIM" BERLIN AND WAS SECONDED BY JEAN CONNELLY. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

a. General Updates

AAC Manager Norma Gavarette Gavarrete began the supervisor's report by discussing some new programs including the Writing Workshop, English Conversations and the wonderful turnout for the Spanish iPhone Workshop on Monday March 31st with one scheduled in English on Monday April 7th. Norma then continued to show the AAC Tech Squad flyer with the board notifying them that AAC staff are available at all office hours to assist any AAC members with issues they may be experiencing with their phones or computers.

AAC Manager Norma Gavarrete then discussed the upcoming Centennial Birthday Luncheon scheduled for Friday April 11th, sharing that tickets had sold out in three days and that plans are well under way with such as scheduling the performances and partnering with the City's Communications department to provide the Audio Recording booth available to all attendees of the luncheon. Norma then mentioned how she had only recently received the voting registration list with the 73 different 100-year-old or older registered voters living within city limits, she then mailed each of them an invitation inviting them to the Centennial Birthday Luncheon, noting that even without the letters they have 5 centennial RSVP's.

Board Vice Chairperson Kelley Schild then asked Norma if she had any luck reaching out to any other ALF's, Norma responded that she had not heard back from any of the other facilities outside of The Palace. Kelley then inquired as to whether a press release following the luncheon may be possible to help put the event on display, Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro stated that marketing will be covering the event and see if Michael Rocha can do some sort of video to post on social media.

AAC Manager Norma Gavarrete then mentioned the West Palm Beach Norton Art Museum Field Trip scheduled for April 25th that sold out in 38 minutes. Stating that transportation will be shuttles driven by AAC Supervisor Gregory Walters and another full-time staff member from the Venetian Pool. Board Chairperson Celia Suarez then inquired about members being able to transport themselves, Norma stated that members who do not have tickets can drive themselves but will be responsible for purchasing their own ticket for the museum and getting their own table at the restaurant. Norma then mentioned the upcoming A Saturday at the Cinema showing on April 26th at 11am with a showing of "The Wizard of Oz" at the Coral Gables Art Cinema.

b. Special Events

Centennial Birthday Luncheon - Friday April 11th at 1p.m.

c. Administrative Updates

Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday - April 19 at 10 a.m., Literacy Festival - Saturday, May 17 at 11 a.m., Memorial Day Ceremony - Monday, May 26 at 9 a.m. and Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration - Friday, July 4 at 5 p.m.

Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro began by discussing the renaming of Sunrise Harbor Park for Peter & Sally Jude on April 12th, he then mentioned the hope of opening both Dorothy Park and Blue Road Park by the end of April beginning of May.

Director Couceyro then discussed the plaque that the board had requested, stating that following discussions with the City Manager there will be two separate plaques. One plaque will honor the opening of the AAC that was shown in the previous meeting and a second honoring Letty for serving as the first AAC Supervisor. Board member James "Jim" Berlin then inquired whether the plaques would be tied into the Centennial Birthday Luncheon, Director Couceyro responded that they would not be due to the event being at a separate facility, but they may be able to tie them into another event in the future.

Director Couceyro then began discussing the upcoming Centennial celebrations scheduled throughout the city including the play written by Jude Morris to be performed on April 28th and the orchestra concert in the bottom of the Venetian Pool like what was done on the 90th anniversary on December 13th. Director Couceyro then discussed the upcoming Eggstreme Egg Hunt, Gentle Egg Hunt, and Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt all scheduled on the day before Easter.

Board member James "Jim" Berlin then asked if there would still be a May meeting with the pending elections, Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro responded that there would still be a May board meeting. Director Couceyro then stated that the first commission meeting following the elections would be on May 20th, which is typically where the first assignment changes may be made based off the election outcome. Board member Judith "Jude" Alexander then inquired as to the process to become the Board-as-a-Whole member, Director Couceyro responded that at the first meeting after the May meeting you would need to have applied on the City Clerks website, be nominated by a sitting board member, and voted in by the board members.

NEW BUSINESS

Board member Julian Sevillano began by discussing an upcoming mass scheduled to take place at UM on April 11th, the same day as the Centennial Birthday Luncheon, to commemorate the centennial of the school that requires a free ticket for admittance. Julian then mentioned that the archbishop will be attending and extended an invite to any board members who would like to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Board member Jean Connelly made note of the positive feedback she has been hearing from AAC members about how welcome and helpful the AAC staff is. Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro stated that this is great to hear citing the increase in parking costs as a clear indicator of the growing popularity of the AAC. Board Chairperson Celia Suarez then made note of the specific changes that AAC Manager Norma Gavarrete has brought into the AAC. Board member Julian Sevillano then mentioned AAC Supervisor Gregory Walters how helpful he has been in his position.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 1 at 4 p.m

ADJOURNMENT

NOTE