

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 9, 2025

4:00 PM

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

Adult Activity Center

Senior Citizens Advisory Board

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 3:41 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Thomas Wells

Julian Sevillano

Javier Figueras

Judith "Jude" Alexander

Absent:

Jean Connelly - excused

Gerardo Alvarez

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY, JUNE AND AUGUST MEETINGS MINUTES WAS MADE BY JULIAN SEVILLANO AND WAS SECONDED BY JUDITH ALEXANDER. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SUPERVISORS REPORT

a. General Updates

Manager Gavarete began her report by announcing the Annual Holiday Luncheon has been rescheduled to December 12th at The Palace. She reported Board members will receive complimentary tickets and are encouraged to express interest quickly due to high demand. The Palace hosts the event, covering food costs, which saves money for the city.

b. Special Events

Aging Like a Pro Mastering Mindfulness Thursday, October 16th at 12:30 p.m., AAC Halloween Spooktacular Friday, October 24th at 1 p.m., The Country Club Pumpkin Float Saturday, October 26th at 6 p.m., A Saturday at the Cinema Showing "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" Saturday, October 25th at 11 a.m., and The 17th Annual William M. Schiff Art Show Friday, November 14th at 6 p.m.

c. Administrative Updates

Director Couceyro began his report by announcing the onboarding of Lorena Silva as the new Country Club Division Director. He also noted the resignation of Fitness and Pool Manager Carlos Llompert, with Daren Gilman and Cassidy Pepin temporarily managing the club until a replacement is hired.

Director Couceyro continued by providing updates on several park projects. The Bark Park, a dog park located under the Underline and featuring artificial turf, is nearing completion and expected to open soon. Dorothy Park is now open, and Blue Road Park will also open soon and be named in honor of David Lawrence. Construction at Phillips Park is scheduled to begin in November as part of a phased \$5 million improvement project. Rotary Park is undergoing a full renovation, including playground upgrades, new landscaping, fencing, and enhanced security lighting. Preparations for the Centennial Concert are ongoing, with painting and awning installations underway. Additional projects include the restoration of the café windows in the historic park area, and pool deck construction anticipated to begin next November. Sergeant Enis Veterans Memorial Park (formerly Tiziano Park) will hold its official opening ceremony on Veterans Day at noon.

Updates on recreational facilities included the planned resurfacing of the Biltmore tennis courts, resurfacing of the JC Park tennis courts with the addition of two new pickleball courts, and improvements to Ruth Bryan Open Park, which will include a rebuilt boardwalk and a potential canoe launch area.

Director Couceyro also reported that the Youth Center is currently seeking a new manager following an unsuccessful initial recruitment round.

At the golf course, recent heavy rainfall—totaling 35 inches in 40 days—caused two large trees to fall on the 9th fairway. The course remains open for walking; however, golf cart usage is limited, which has impacted revenue.

He concluded his report by noting that coordination continues for the Ronald McDonald Pickleball Tournament, including discussions about the use of trolleys for participant transport. This year's tournament will not feature the over-50 group unlike last year's tournament.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Selection of Chairperson

BOARD MEMBER JAVIER FIGUERAS MOTIONED TO NOMINATE JULIAN SEVILLANO AND WAS SECONDED BY JUDITH ALEXANDER. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Selection of Vice Chairperson

BOARD MEMBER THOMAS WELLS MOTIONED TO NOMINATE JUDITH ALEXANDER AND WAS SECONDED BY JULIAN SEVILLANO. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Selection of Board as a Whole Member

BOARD MEMBER Alexander spoke about the potential candidate Olga Girod, and Board Member Wells spoke about the potential candidate Tracy Umansky.

BOARD MEMBER JUDITH ALEXANDER MOTIONED TO NOMINATE OLGA GIROD AND WAS SECONDED BY JULIAN SEVILLANO. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Board Member Sevillano proposed inviting elected officials to future meetings for Q&A sessions, with preliminary brainstorming meetings held beforehand to prepare questions. She also suggested organizing visits to various City departments, including the Police and Fire Departments.

Director Couceyro noted the board member's request and will consider the best approach to facilitate it.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

Next meeting date has been rescheduled from Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 4 p.m. to Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 4 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BOARD MEMBER THOMAS WELLS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AND WAS SECONDED BY JAVIER FIGUERAS. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:56 P.M.

NOTE