

City of Coral Gables

www.coralgables.com



Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 17, 2023

3:00 PM

Police and Fire Headquarters, Community Meeting Room

Library Advisory Board

Chairperson Myra E. Silverstein

Board Member Daniel "Worth" Carson

Board Member Ruben Figueras

Board Member Leticia L. Milian

Board Member Alfredo Sarria

Board Member Charlotte Smiley

Board Member Melanie Zargham

The Library Advisory Board will be holding its Regular Meeting on Monday April 17, 2023, commencing at 3:00 p.m. While the Advisory is back to live in-person meetings, members of the public may participate in person but are also able to participate via the Zoom platform. Members of the public may join the meeting via Zoom at (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84956880376>). 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 by dialing: 305-461-6769 Meeting ID: 849 568 80376

CALL TO ORDER

This April 17th, 2023 Library Advisory Board (LAB) was called to order by Chairperson Myra E. Silverstein at 3:09 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Chairperson Silverstein, Board Member Figueras, Board Member Sarria, Board Member Smiley and Board Member Zargham
Absent: 2 - Board Member "Worth" Carson and Board Member Milian

1 WELCOME REMARKS (Facilitated by Chairperson Myra Silverstein)

The Board was welcomed by Chairperson Silverstein, who expressed gratitude for the library tour that took place at the previous LAB meeting and emphasized the privileged of the Board to preview the renovated space prior to opening.

2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[23-5597](#) Library Advisory Board Meeting of December 14, 2022.

Attachments: [12.14.22 - LAB Meeting Minutes](#)

This Minutes was approved

Yeas: 5 - Chairperson Silverstein, Board Member Figueras, Board Member Sarria, Board Member Smiley and Board Member Zargham
Absent: 2 - Board Member "Worth" Carson and Board Member Milian

[23-5598](#) Library Advisory Board Meeting of February 8, 2023.

Attachments: [2.8.23 - LAB Meeting Minutes](#)

This Minutes was approved

Yeas: 5 - Chairperson Silverstein, Board Member Figueras, Board Member Sarria, Board Member Smiley and Board Member Zargham
Absent: 2 - Board Member "Worth" Carson and Board Member Milian

3 LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE (Facilitated by Miami-Dade County Public Library System Representative)

Board Liaison Zeida Sardinias, shared an update from the Miami-Dade Public Library System (MDPLS) Director Ray Baker as unfortunately, neither he nor Lisa Thompson, the usual library representative, could attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. Here is the content of the email update.

- 1) We are expecting to have our Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) Inspection sometime during the week of April 17th;
- 2) Furniture deliveries continue to come in and will continue to arrive throughout April;
- 3) If we pass the TCO inspection mentioned above, we will schedule the transfer of our internet connection from the temporary location to the Segovia Street location
- 4) We will then begin delivering books, equipment, and other items to the library, with staff onsite to begin setting up the branch for re-opening
- 5) If all of the above falls into place, we expect to re-open in mid-May
- 6) Any hiccups in any of the above, especially passing inspection, could alter that timeline.

Ms. Sardinias mentioned that she would keep track of the inspection mentioned by Director Baker and provide updates to the Board on the results. She also expressed her suspicion that MDPLS will not receive the final Certificate of Occupancy until November 2023, when they receive and install their air conditioning unit. When a board member asked if there were any other pending items, Zeida confirmed that there were none as far as she knew. Kara Kautz, the Acting Historical and Cultural Arts Director, explained that all trades would be called in to ensure all requirements were met before the TCO was granted. Another board member asked if the AC would be fixed before the grand reopening of the Library, which led to a discussion among the board members on the topic.

A board member inquired whether the Miracle Mile's temporary library location will remain open as that location has been incredibly successful, to which Ms. Sardinias replied that we had inquired and MDPLS Director Baker stated that the location would close. The Board then discussed possible reasons why the temporary Library could not remain open.

The Board looked back on the entire renovation process, from recognizing its need to its completion.

4 OPEN DISCUSSION/ OTHER BUSINESS/ BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Board Member Alfredo Sarria inquired about an email he received concerning the Board and Committee's reception. Staff Liaison Ms. Sardinas explained that the City hosts the event annually, and that Board Secretary Anamy Garcia will facilitate invitations for all Board members.

Board Member Sarria also inquired about the little library project, which led to a discussion about the project's popularity, locations, and book acquisition.

Ms. Sardinas then asked what other projects the Board would be interested in working on as the Library renovation comes to a close.

Board Member Alfredo Sarria inquired about an email he received regarding the Board and Committee's reception; Ms. Sardinas stated that the City hosts the event every year, and we will facilitate the invitation for everyone on the Board

Board Member Sarria further inquired about the little library project, which sparked a conversation on the Little Library, its popularity, locations, and book acquisition.

Staff Liaison Sardinas stated that as the renovation of the Library comes to a close, what other projects would the Board be interested in working on?

Board Member Smiley inquired about the cleaning of the exterior of the Library as she was told previously that this item would be addressed with the renovation of the Library, and it has yet to be addressed.

Board Member Smiley further stated that she would like to see various books with historic significance return to the Library; Ms. Sardinas noted that some of the furniture removed from the Library has been restored and will be at the historic section of George Fink Studio on Ponce de Leon. Ms. Kautz stated that City has an interlocal agreement with MDPLS which delineated the ownership of items within the Library. When the renovation began, City-owned items were returned to the City. Ms. Kautz further stated that the 1920s books referred by Board Member Smiley are currently and will remain in the City's archives.

Board Member Ruben Figueras stated that he would like the Library Advisory Board to be involved in the literacy fest as the event began after the close of the Library; Board Member Figueras further suggested the Library Advisory Board collaborates with the School Community Relations Committee with the festival.

Board Member Figueras also inquired about the reappointment process. Staff Liaison, Sardinas informed the Board Member of the process, and other Board Members assisted.

Staff Liaison Sardinas informed the Board that she had visited the exterior of the Library with Members of the MDPLS and City Staff to address issues in the exterior of the property and maintenance of the landscaping.

Board Member Melanie Zargham inquired about the artwork the Board assisted with selecting. Board Liaison Sardinas stated that Catherine Cathers, the City's Arts & Culture Specialist, was working on bringing the item back to the Library. Ms. Kautz indicated that she had visited the MDPLS Archivist to see the paintings that had left the Branch during the remodel that should return when the Library reopens. Board Member Smiley stated that the Board had received an inventory of all the City-owned items housed at the Library. Chairperson Silverstein noted that she had the inventory and would circulate a copy to the Board.

The Board discussed the Library as a voting precinct and the temporary precinct

at the Youth Center. The Board also discussed the programming at the Library as an interest of the Board.

5 ADJOURNMENT

The Board Adjourned at 3:48 PM.

NOTE