

**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Minutes of December 01, 2008 meeting**  
**Coral Gables Youth Center**

MEMBERS	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	APPOINTED BY
Catherine Fahringer	P	P	P	E	P							Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Norma Lemberg	P	P	E	P	P							Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Esther Castiglia	V	E	P	A	E							Comm. Maria Anderson
Dr. William Schiff	P	P	P	P	P							Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Frank Lynn	P	P	P	P	P							Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Ginger Jochem	P	P	P	P	E							City Manager David Brown
Carol Brock	P	P	P	P	P							Senior Citizens Advisory Board

A = Absent

C = Cancelled

E = Excused absence

P = Present

N = No quorum

R = Recessed

S = Sick

V = Vacant Position

**STAFF:**

Luanne Santangelo  
 Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

Paul Hunt  
 Senior Citizens Coordinator

Anastasia Smith  
 Recreation Specialist – Senior Programs

Tricia Spencer  
 Recording Secretary

**GUESTS:**

Katie Kreter, resident  
 Coral Gables

1. Carol Brock called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.
2. Approval of Board minutes from November 3, 2008 Board meeting – A motion was made by Dr. W. Schiff and seconded by N. Lemberg to approve the meeting minutes of November 3, 2008. Motion was passed unanimously.
3. Chairperson Carol Brock introduced and welcomed our guest, Katie Kreger and new recording secretary, Tricia Spencer to the meeting.

#### **4. Senior Services Report – Paul Hunt**

Mr. Hunt said that he had 3 major items to report:

(1) He attended the Mayor's Conference on Senior Transportation on Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008. There were several models presented that are currently in place throughout the country, however, the current legislation in place in Florida would pose challenges in operations.

The Board would like to proceed with the Taxi program and Transportation Committee established at the August meeting composed of Norma Lemberg, Ginger Jochem and Paul Hunt.

The Board would like for Mr. Hunt to develop the program model that would work in Coral Gables; contact Coral Gables Taxi regarding their interest in partnering with the City; set a meeting with the transportation committee and report the progress at the January Board meeting.

Carol Brock mentioned that on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. there is a District 6 meeting at the University of Miami to discuss their 5 year transportation plan for roads, bridges, etc.

(2) Mr. Hunt worked with the Fire department on the Special Needs list (updating) for disaster evacuations. Carol asked how many residents are currently on the list. Mr. Hunt replied that there were probably about 23 people on this list, but to keep in mind that not all are elderly.

Mr. Hunt went on to discuss an issue with the DNR order of individuals and acceptability of a copy of the state form by EMT's.

(3) Property Taxes – Many calls were received related to the new guidelines and exemptions.

Carol Brock suggested publicizing the information in Golden Gables for next year. It was also suggested that someone from the county appraiser's office or tax collector's office come in and do a presentation on Coral Gables T.V.

#### **5. Old Business**

##### **a. Report on Senior Center Programs – Anastasia Smith**

Anastasia Smith reported on attendance at events and programs over the last month and provided a synopsis on the upcoming Holiday Luncheon on December 15.

The party will be a social gathering with seniors in the community doing performances. Someone is going to recite a poem, 12 tap dancers called the Liftetts from the Senior Lift Center are going to do 3 performances in full costumes. A senior guitarist will perform along

with some ladies from the Senior Center. Refreshments will be served and guests are asked to bring an unwrapped toy to donate to needy children (in cooperation with the CGFD).

Anastasia reported on the Annual Luncheon. She has received quotes from the Biltmore Hotel and the Coral Gables Women's Club. She also contacted Governor Crist who said that it is too early to commit to February 2009. She contacted Senator Bob Graham's staff who told her that the senator will be going on vacation between February to April.

Anastasia asked for assistance from the Board in garnering a speaker. Catherine Fahringer said that at the Art show she spoke to Commissioner Wayne "Chip" Withers who is very interested in the senior programs. Commissioner Withers put her in touch with the CEO of the Bank of Coral Gables, Mr. Terry E. Best who is interested in sponsorship of the Senior events. She sent Mr. Best a copy of the sponsorship packet and will be meeting with him to discuss. She asked Carol Brock to accompany her to this meeting. Kay will report the progress at the next meeting.

The Board continued to discuss speakers and agreed that someone in the entertainment field would be preferred.

#### **b. Senior Art Show – Dr. Schiff/Anastasia Smith**

Dr. Schiff said that the Senior Art Show was a tremendous success. The final numbers were: 39 artists, 115 pieces of art work, and an approximate attendance of 170. (150 who signed the book + 15% additional who did not).

Dr. Schiff and the Board discussed several changes to next year's event. 1. Drop the Novice category; 2. Establish a criteria for judging; 3. Better sound system; and, 4. Spotlight during the presentation of awards.

The board thanked Dr. Schiff for doing such a wonderful job at the Art show and commended him for it.

Carol Brock and the board presented Anastasia Smith and Letty Ellis with a gift of appreciation for the wonderful job they did in planning and implementing the Art show.

The Board also presented Jacob and Helen Shaham with an award and thanked Adam Rosenbloom for their continued work, generosity and support of the Senior Art Show. Mr. Shaham said that The Palace have received numerous honors but in his 30 years of working with seniors this is the first time that he has ever received an award from seniors for what he's devoted his whole life to.

Dr. Schiff reminded Carol Brock to send thank you letters to the Commissioners for attending the event and helping at the Art show.

## **6. New Business**

### **a. Coral Gables @ Home – discussion**

Carol asked Luanne Santangelo to relay the call she received from a senior resident regarding Coral Gables @ Home. Luanne went on to paraphrase the conversation stating that the resident said that she thought that Coral Gables @ Home was a city program and that she wasn't quite sure what the \$500 fee was for. Her immediate needs, because of declining health, were shopping, transportation and meals. Ms. Santangelo explained to the resident that Coral Gables @ Home is a separate entity from the city. Ms. Santangelo went on to explain that the program is voluntary and available to those who would like to take advantage of the services it will provide.

Board members conveyed that in discussions they have had with seniors in the community that there is confusion about the program. Many seniors perceive Coral Gables @ Home as a city program and don't quite understand the \$500 membership fee or that there are additional fees for many of the services rendered (i.e. home repairs etc.)

The Board made note of the article in The Neighbors section of the Miami Herald. While this article made it clear that Coral Gables @ Home its own entity, it was vague about the fee and additional payments for services.

Luanne Santangelo stated that in her meeting with Marli Lutz, Executive Director of Coral Gables @ Home, she offered Ms. Lutz the opportunity to attend events and activities held at the University Baptist Church to distribute information and answer any questions that individuals may have (Morning Coffee Club; weekly lunch; monthly lunch).

The Board further discussed their concerns and the need to clarify that Coral Gables @ Home is a separate entity from the City and the Senior Services we currently provide; the need to further explain the fees, benefits of membership and additional fees for services; and advertising on City media sources (City's main telephone hold line advertising Coral Gables @ Home).

It was decided that Board Chair, Carol Brock will send an email to Fred Couceyro outlining their concerns and ask Mr. Couceyro to bring their issues to the City Manager. Carol will follow up with Board members regarding further communications.

## **7. Report of Board Members**

No reports given.

## **8. Date and time of next meeting**

Monday, January 5, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Coral Gables Youth Center located at 405 University Drive.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.