

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 1, 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

CALL TO ORDER

@4:07pm

ROLL CALL

Present:

Celia Suarez

Edward English

Jim Berlin

Julian Sevillano

Richard Thurer-Virtual/Public

Absent :

Jean H Connelly

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve the June Minutes was made by Celia Suarez and was second by Julian Sevillano. All in favor, passed unanimously.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson began her report with a review of the EEAP form and procedures of how to request wellness checks using the same form. Edward English suggested that the City of Coral Gables and Miami-Dade County should have separate records of all those enlisted in the Emergency & Evacuation Assistance Program to make sure that the records are accurate. Katherine discussed ideas on how to share the EEAP information to our Residents. Possible ideas were discussed amongst the Board but for the time being copies of the application will be provided at the Center along with signage. The digital version and website link will be shared with the Board.

Katherine shared with the Board that starting Monday July 26th, Fall registration will open up for Residents and Youth Center Members. Two weeks later, registration will open for non-residents on August 9th.

Katherine shared that there has been a lot of interest for Fall programming at the AAC already. Class sizes have increased again and there have not been any wait lists at this time. However, she is having difficulty obtaining volunteers to teach the classes.

Maria Felitas will begin her new Barre class in September which she has been getting certified for the last six months. With adding this higher intensity class, the Center hopes to attract more of the 50–60-year-old demographic.

Administrative Supervisor Mitch Zuriarrain spoke briefly on the War Memorial Youth Center and the reverted clause established within the contract between the City and the War Memorial Association. Katherine and Mitch also spoke about the variety of memberships at the Youth Center. The Bridge Club is not a membership through the Youth Center but was using the Youth Center and the AAC as a place to meet. They are no longer using city facilities. However, we do offer Bridge classes through the AAC for beginners and intermediate players.

Katherine Anderson shared that in the upcoming months the AAC will be hosting a series of events. In August it will be National Senior Citizen's Day and we will be hosting an in-person Resource Seminar. Expected speakers will include a representative from Baptist Health, Crime Watch and SHINE. Edward English suggested that a Scam Prevention speaker be included.

September will be World Alzheimer's Month and Katherine would like the

help of the Board to create an event to educate about the disease. Celia Suarez mentioned bringing in a panel that identifies ways of prevention. Julian Sevillano volunteered to help in organizing the event and to utilize his resources at the Research Center to bring in doctors.

Julian Sevillano made a motion in the support of creating an event to highlight World Alzheimer's Month. The motioned was second by Celia Suarez. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mitch Zuriarrain gave a light update on the Master Plan documents that are expected to go to Commission in August for adoption. There are two separate plans: a plan for the Community Recreation department as a whole and an additional master plan specifically for the War Memorial Youth Center. He briefly described the potential options created by AECOM that were added in the Youth Center Master Plan. The favorable option was the complete knock down of the Youth Center and a newly designed building be developed on the existing plot of land. No design elements were included in the proposed option. Jim Berlin asked if adult programming will be incorporated in the new center. Mitch stated that if the property is primarily used for youth programming, he doesn't see why additional adult programming could not be included.

Celia Suarez asked if the City has recuperated coming out of the last year from COVID. Mitch explained that there are still spending restrictions and that we were instructed that any additional funding next fiscal year will depend on the summer season revenues. If we can generate enough revenues than we could potentially receive back funding that was cut due to budget reductions.

OLD BUSINESS**a. Set Dates for Commissioner Introductions to SAB**

Celia Suarez suggested in doing a Meet & Greet with the Commissioners and the Board. Administrative Assistant Sarah Espino explained to the Board if they were to invite more than two commissioners at a time to the same function then we would need to provide written notice to the public at least two weeks in advance. Sarah also informed the Board that there is not a designated Commissioner to each board. If a Commissioner has any interests in a specific Board, this is something that commissioner has taken upon themselves.

Sarah also asked in what order the Board would like to meet with the Commissioners. It was stated that in September they would like to meet with Commissioner Menendez and to then meet with Commissioner Anderson in October.

b. Review Goals and Objectives for the SAB

Jim Berlin asked each Board member to come up with goals or projects they would like to achieve during this next term on the board. Celia Suarez began stating that she believes the Board needs to increase their visibility as the Senior Advisory Board. The Board needs to try to listen in on Commission meeting and events to learn of issues affecting their demographic. She also suggested that the AAC post the Board's meeting dates so those interested can join to share their issues or opinions.

Celia also asked to set up a workshop with the Senior Advisory Board to discuss these goals and issues they would like to address in the next coming term. Mitch explained that a workshop or a strategic planning session is possible but will need to be on the record and posted to the public. Katherine will email the Board for possible meeting dates and will help create an agenda with the Board's discussion points and it will be shared via email.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

a. Next Meeting Date

The August advisory board meeting will not be held. A Strategic Planning meeting will be held in its place at the Adult Activity Center. Date and time are still to be determined.

The next advisory board meeting is set for September 2nd at 4 pm at the Adult Activity Center.

b. Board Member Recommendations

Vice Mayor Mena has not appointed someone to the board at this time. If any of the Board members have a recommendation to the Senior Board, to please share their contact information with staff to pass along to the City Clerk's office.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm

NOTE