

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS
 CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2017 8:00 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY:
	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	
Patricia Sowers	P	E	P	P	P	P	P					Raul Valdes-Fauli
Blake Sando	P	E	P	P	P	P	P					Patricia Keon
Richard Whittington	P	P	P	P	P	EA	E					Vince Lago
Marie-Ilene Whitehurst	P	E	P	E	P	P	P					Frank C. Quesada
												Michael Mena

P – Present
E – Excused Absence
A – Absent
(-) – No Appointment
(*) – No Meeting

STAFF:

1. Raquel Elejabarrieta, Director of Labor Relations and Risk Management / ADA Coordinator
2. Lorena Garrido, Public Works Department
3. Eglys Hernandez, Labor Relations and Risk Management

GUEST:

1. None.

CITIZEN ADVISORS:

1. Bonnie Blaire
2. Debbie Dietz, Disability Independence Group (DIG)

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Sando called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

MEETING ABSENCE:

Dr. Whittington was excused. Newly appointed member, Mr. Mesa was absent.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

- No minutes to approve.

July’s meeting minutes will be presented during September’s meeting for approval.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mrs. Elejabarrieta reported Mrs. Baumgartner, Board Chair, is no longer with the Board. Mayor Valdes-Fauli appointed a new member, Mr. Adrian Mesa. He was invited to attend this meeting. However, he is not present.

Mrs. Elejabarrieta introduced Ms. Eglys Hernandez. She stated Eglys will be handling the support aspects of the Board going forward. Although Lorena will no longer be handling this task, she will continue to assist as needed.

Mr. Sando thanked Lorena for supporting the Board for many years.

Mr. Sando also welcomed Eglys to the Board.

BOARD-RELATED COMMISSION ITEMS: None.

CITY UPDATE: None.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Mrs. Whitehurst reported she attended the Commission meeting where the two resolutions recommended by the Board were presented.

Mrs. Elejabarrieta said both resolutions were approved. She added Parks & Recreation staff was on hand at the meeting and also discussed the Special Olympics. The City will be moving forward with a Special Olympics Team and bocce ball was the selected sport. She added this sport was selected because it's an easy sport, you don't have to be athletic to play and different individuals with different disabilities can participate. Also, the existing batting cages can be easily be retrofitted for this sport.

Mrs. Blaire suggested that Mark from the Special Olympics be invited to a future Board meeting to discuss the Special Olympics and Coral Gables' new role. Mrs. Elejabarrieta agreed and added Parks & Recreation staff should also be invited to attend.

Mrs. Sowers shared Bird Bowl has a bowling program which her son goes to. Mrs. Whitehurst added her son attends a Special Olympics bowling team at the City of Doral.

PROGRAM: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mrs. Elejabarrieta reported they started working on the program to recognize businesses and organizations in the City that have demonstrated a commitment to the principles of inclusion and that have enhanced opportunities for disabled persons to fully and effectively participate in

everyday community life. She mentioned Debbie (DIG) is working on an idea which will complement this program well. Debbie mentioned they are working to put together a Social Club, which will fit right in with the City's recognition program. The concept is to socially meet with adults in the Coral Gables community. Since the City has greater events in the community, this will be a great start. John Martin's is an example of a restaurant that has great activities such as Irish dancing, trivia night and even karaoke night. DIG would meet with the restaurants in order to organize the dinner with a set menu and price. This will allow individuals with disability to go and meeting in groups and also plan ahead what they want to eat, how much it will cost and tips. The idea is to have them feel comfortable in this social setting. DIG can also educate and train restaurants on ADA accessibility.

Mr. Sando stated when he watched the City Commission meeting where these resolutions were passed, there was a comment made about coordinating with businesses and the Chamber. Mrs. Elejabarrieta said they are working on this. The idea is to partner up with the Chamber to recognize businesses as well as support and train them on the benefits of being inclusive, hiring individuals with disability and how to be more accessible. This could be recognition/presentation during the Chamber's breakfast.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Whitehurst made a motion nominating Mr. Sando as the Board's Chair. Mrs. Sowers seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Sowers made a motion nominating Mrs. Whitehurst as the Board's Vice-Chair. Mr. Sando seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Sando requested the Board's schedule and previous year's annual Board report.

Mrs. Whitehurst asked about citizen advisor roles and if it would be good to expand how many advisors we have to the Board. Mrs. Blaire explained that citizen advisors are persons with special expertise in the area of disability. The initial group of citizen advisors came from those persons who were invited to the Board to do special presentations such as Virginia Jacko, The Miami Lighthouse for the Blind. Citizen advisors are great resources to enhance the Board's knowledge.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned 8:57 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, September 6, 2017, 8:00 am to be held at the *Coral Gables Youth Center's Conference Room.*