

**SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Minutes of July 7, 2008 meeting**  
**Coral Gables Youth Center**

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

A = Absent

C = Cancelled

E = Excused absence

P = Present

N = No quorum

R = Recessed

S = Sick

**STAFF:**

Fred Couceyro, CPRP  
 Parks & Recreation Director

Luanne Santangelo  
 Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

Paul Hunt  
 Senior Services Coordinator

Anastasia Smith  
 Recreation Specialist – Senior Programs

Judy Kries  
 Recording Secretary

**GUESTS:**

Katie Kreter  
 Coral Gables Resident

Harriet Wolf  
 Coral Gables Resident

1. Catherine Fahringer, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed Katie Kreter and Harriet Wolf to the meeting.
2. Approval of Board minutes from June 2, 2008 Board meeting – A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2008 Board meeting.

3. Approval of Board absences for July 7, 2008 Board meeting – The Board excused Carol Brock from the meeting.
4. Parks and Recreation Director Report – Fred Couceyro said he wanted to give the Board an update on where we are on some of the things that are affecting senior programming. The main item is the University Baptist Church (UBC). He said that, as in the past, we have had discussion about the City purchasing that building as they were moving and that building was going to be available. In anticipation of that happening, UBC has been letting us use that building for a very small rate of rent. In terms of when we started discussions until now when they are ready to go, the appraisal for the property has skyrocketed. The appraisal for the property is in the 17 to 18 million dollar range for that building and the adjoining property. In addition, a large amount of money would need to be expended to update the building and to address ADA issues. The City Manager had a discussion where he informed the Church representative that it did not appear that the City would be able to purchase the building. There could be some fallout from the discussion because we pay very little for use of the Church. Fred Couceyro said he talked with the representative from the Church to get assurance that they would go by the letter of our lease that we previously had with them that they would give us 30 days notice if we have to move our programs. He talked to him to see if there was a way to do some cross partnerships in having them use this facility, etc. If it is cost of room rental, let's look at something that might be more beneficial to the Church, but also would not cripple us financially. He was going to get with his Board and get back with us. Just as a safety measure, Fred Couceyro said he has instructed Luanne Santangelo to work with Paul Hunt and Anastasia Smith to start looking for a new location. He said we might have to get away from one of our needs in terms of searching for space and that is looking for ground floor space. We may have to start looking for second floor space. Now, a second floor space with parking is a plus.

The Board asked about possible use of the Country Club for senior activities. Fred Couceyro said right now the City is undergoing a RFP process. The RFP process is very open and vague. It allows vendors to come in and bid on at minimum the Country Club building and services for that, but also allows them to bid on the tennis area and the golf course. They have had the walk through and the pre-bid conference. The RFP is due on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July, so we have to wait and see what happens.

Fred Couceyro said the other subject he wished to discuss was the budget. He was asked to turn in a proposed 0% budget, a 5% budget, and a 10% budget. He said for Senior Services, for his 0% budget and 5% budget, he turned in a 0% decrease. On the 5% budget, which he turned in as a 0% budget, he took

out the 5% somewhere else. The budget prepared by the City that is being presented to Commission next week at the Budget Workshop has no decrease for Senior Services. In fact, it has a minor increase due to the wage increases that full-time staff gets every year in terms of merit and cost of living increases.

#### 5. Senior Citizens Coordinator Report – Paul Hunt

Paul Hunt passed around and discussed a portfolio given to him by Beth Kofsy, Executive Director of Housing and Assistive Technology, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation which offers design solutions for independent living. They are located at 80 N. E. 40<sup>th</sup> Street in Miami.

#### 6. Recreation Specialist Report

Anastasia Smith said registration has started in July for classes at the Church. Registration is on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Church in the Coffee Lounge. She said she is happy to report that she has 37 people registered for the Weekly Lunch on Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. This week on Wednesday night she has 24 people going to Actors' Playhouse. For the Lunch & Lecture on July 21<sup>st</sup>, the Chief Medical Director for Coral Gables Fire/Rescue, Dr. Hirschman, will be speaking on "Stay Fit, Healthy, and Age Successfully". So far she has 67 people registered and registration has not closed yet. It will take place in the Fellowship Hall. She said 13 people have registered for the Spanish Class on July 11th. She said unfortunately the Basic Scrapbooking and Healthy Life 5 week sessions had to be cancelled due to low registration. On the upside, the Computer Classes that are going to start on July 10<sup>th</sup> are full. She has 38 people registered for Dancercise for the month of July. Anastasia said tomorrow she will be going to the Miami Recreation Therapy Resource Fair. She said the next issue of the Golden Gables will be out by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### 7. Old Business

- Report on Art Show – Dr. Schiff reported on a meeting held by the Art Committee approximately two weeks ago. He asked Paul Hunt if the mailing list used last year has been updated. Paul Hunt said we are using the same mailing list provided by Commissioner Cabrera last year, but it has been purged of the names of those individuals whose mail has been returned. Dr. Schiff asked if the letter from the Mayor's Office re-inviting last year's artists has gone out. Luanne Santangelo said it will be going out about the first of August. Another item discussed at the meeting is that Anastasia Smith needs to know from each artist if the artist's work has been shown previously in the City's show. This tells us how many new pieces

are being shown. Another item discussed was reducing the cost of setting up the show. Last years cost was \$1,800.00, and one idea for reducing the cost is by using volunteers possibly from the Lowe Art Museum or the Coral Gables High Interact Club. We have not solved the problem of how we are going to get items such as shelves and pegboards. Dr. Schiff says he knows someone who may help us out with the layout and setup, but we still need to supply the materials for hanging and mounting the artwork, which will cost about \$1,500.00, and will be our biggest expense. Anastasia has contacted the judges from last year and three of the four judges will be returning. We still need to secure one more judge for photography.

- Report on Sponsorships – Luanne Santangelo discussed the handling of sponsorships. She said that, after approval by the City Manager, the sponsorship packets will be mailed out to businesses that we already know are oriented toward senior programming. She said that after the mail out, what will be crucial is the follow up contact made. If anyone has names of businesses of potential sponsors, please give them to Anastasia Smith so we can put them on the mail out list. We hope to mail the packets in a week or two and start the follow up contact a week later. The introductory letter with the packet has to be signed by either the City Manager or the Mayor and she doesn't know at this time who will sign it. The letter for the donations will go out sometime in early to middle August. Luanne Santangelo said she spoke to the Finance Director, who said the bank account for the Senior Center is set up. Checks should be made out to the City of Coral Gables and it should say somewhere on the check "Donation, Senior Center Event".
- Taxi Program – Paul Hunt said he had nothing new to report on the Taxi Program.
- Village Concept – Paul Hunt said apparently the Coral Gables Community Foundation has decided to take it on as a project.
- Door Hangers - Luanne Santangelo said the Fire Department printed up 500 Help Alert Door Hangers. To receive one, you can call Laura Rodriguez in the Fire Department at 305-460-5576.

## 8. New Business

- Anastasia Smith asked Board members to start thinking about a speaker for the next Annual Senior Luncheon on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2009. Norma Lemberg suggested asking Bob Graham to be the speaker.

9. The next Senior Citizens Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 4, 2008. The meeting will start at 5:00 p.m. and will be held in the Conference Room at the Youth Center, located at 405 University Drive.

10. The meeting adjourned at 5.59 p.m.

DRAFT