

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS
 CITY OF CORAL PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
 2151 Salzedo Street, 4th Floor, Asst Chief Conf Room Coral Gables 33134
 WEDNESDAY, April 3, 2024
 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY:
	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	
Jennifer Ward Sando	*	P	P	P									Mayor Vince Lago
Justine Chichester			P	P									Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Mary Palacio-Pike	*	P	P	P									Commissioner Kirk Menendez
Bonnie Blaire	*	P	P	P									Commissioner Melissa Castro
Vanessa Bedoya	*	P	E	P									Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
													Ex-Officio Member Chamber of Commerce

PZ = Via Zoom

A – Absent
 E – Excused Absence
 (-) – No Appointment
 (*) – No Meeting
 (**)-No Meeting – COVID19

BOARD MEMBERS:

QUORUM: Quorum was reached.

STAFF:

Raquel Elejabarrieta – Human Resources Director
 Eglys Hernandez – P/T Administrative Assistant Labor Relations & Risk Management
 Catie Hastings – Park & Recreation – D.E.I. Coordinator
 Police Officer Natalie Flores
 Ana Lam, Crime Watch Volunteer

GUEST:

CITIZEN ADVISORS:

Deborah Dietz
 Jennifer Durocher, Director of UM-NSU Card

PUBLIC GUEST:

Raquel Linares, Director Jobs, Best Buddies International

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 10:01am

MEETING ABSENCE: None

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

March 6, 2024
 Motion by: Bonnie Blaire / 2nd Vanessa Bedoya / Approved unanimously.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: None

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Palacio-Pike stated she wanted to commence by congratulating Board Member Vanessa Bedoya, who just received the Businesswoman Award from the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Palacio-Pike also advised the Sando family is going to be honored and recognized as Champions at the upcoming UM Card 30-year anniversary gala.

Reel Abilities Film Festival – Catie Hastings, Park & Recreations (Exhibit 1)

Ms. Hastings advised the board regarding this film festival, which focuses mainly on stories of people with disabilities. Ms. Hastings provided information about the organization, how it works and advised bringing this to the City of Coral Gables at a much smaller scale for January 24- 26, 2025. Ms. Hastings advised the three movies being looked at to be included in the showings at various locations throughout the city.

Ms. Hastings advised one of the requirements for hosting this festival is that immediately after each screening there be a panel discussion. Ms. Hastings advised she would like the panels to consist of various speakers.

Ms. Hastings stated there is also a committee which must be set up and she would like a member of the Advisory Board to be a member of this committee. Ms. Hastings advised the duties which the committee will have to provide.

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised Ms. Hastings would like to have one board member to be part of this committee and after further discussion, the board determined to nominate Ms. Chichester to be the board member to be part of the committee.

Motion was made:

To nominate Board member Ms. Justine Chichester, to be part of the Reel Abilities committee

Motion by: Bonnie Blaire / 2nd Vanessa Bedoya / Approved unanimously.

Ms. Hastings provided a time frame to the board and requested assistance from the board obtaining information about other interested parties to make up the committee.

The board was advised to contact Ms. Hastings directly regarding recommendations.

Ms. Blaire asked what the board can do to show support for this project. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated the board could make a motion.

Motion was made:

To support bringing Reel Abilities to the City of Coral Gables.

Motion by: Bonnie Blaire / 2nd by: Vanessa Bedoya / Approved unanimously.

Best Buddies Program / Training – Ms. Raquel Linares

Ms. Linares of Best Buddies addressed the board regarding the training/services regarding inclusive hiring provided by Best Buddies. Ms. Linares advised Best Buddies not only aids in obtaining jobs for its program's participants, but also provides employment assistance with a coach, provides training for interested parties, assist with individual concerns serving as a mediator and can provide training for staff.

Ms. Linares provided information to the Board regarding the upcoming Ed Ansin Best Buddies Friendship Walk in Miami on April 6, 2024, at Loan Depot Park (**Exhibit 2**).

Ms. Palacio-Pike asked what the difference between Project Search and Project Victory programs is. Ms. Linares provided a brief description of each of the programs.

Ms. Elejabarrieta shared the wonderful services provided by Best Buddies recently with a current City of Coral Gables employee from Best Buddies program.

OLD BUSINESS:

Update: Autism Awareness Month Events

Ms. Palacio-Pike provided update regarding the Autism Caravan which took place on April 2, 2024, and how wonderful it turned out.

Ms. Palacio-Pike advised City Hall was lit up last night, April 1, 2024, in blue for Autism Acceptance Month.

Ms. Palacio-Pike advised reference upcoming My Squad event, Battle of the Badges Kickball Game, Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 6:00pm (**Exhibit 3**).

Ms. Lam reminded the Board of the QR Code and decal which the county came out with for families with children with Autism. Dr. Durocher provided information regarding UM Card program in collaboration with Miami-Dade County Commissioner Raquel Regalado, whereas it allows for authorities to be made aware immediately that someone in the car or home has autism.

Ms. Lam advised along with Officer Flores; they are working on providing a self defense class for participants in My Squad.

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised the board for the upcoming April 16, 2024, city commission meeting the following will be taking place, presentation of Proclamation Autism Acceptance Month, received by the Coral Gables Police Department, Resolution Principals of Inclusion and Renewal of Project Victory contract for three years.

Ms. Elejabarrieta shared with the board stock pictures taken at Giralda Plaza with participants who are disabled.

Ms. Chichester provided board information regarding the upcoming DIG Supper Club, next event pizza night on April 29, 2024, 6:30pm to 8:30pm (**Exhibit 4**).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEXT MEETING: May 1, 2024

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 11:15am

Motion by: Jennifer Ward Sando / 2nd Vanessa Bedoya / Approved unanimously.

EXHIBIT 1

ReelAbilities

FILM FESTIVAL

CORAL
GABLES®
THE CITY BEAUTIFUL



ABOUT REELABILITIES

ReelAbilities Film Festival is the largest film festival in the world dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories, and artistic expressions of people with different abilities.

Founded in New York in 2007, the festival presents award-winning films by and about people with disabilities in multiple locations throughout the city. Post-screening discussions and other engaging programs bring communities together to explore, discuss, embrace, and celebrate the diversity of our shared human experience.



ReelAbilities
Coral Gables

JANUARY 24 – 26, 2025

CORAL
GABLES
THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

FRIDAY

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Location: Salvadore Park Playground

Time: 5 – 8:45 p.m.

Event Capacity: Uncapped

Attendance Fee: \$0

VIP: Yes

RecTrac: No

A Golden Hour ribbon cutting ceremony to inaugurate ReelAbilities Coral Gables with popcorn, music, bubbles, and sponsorship showcase as the sun sets.

Outdoor screening of family friendly short films selected by committee for a combined run time of approximately 60 minutes and an interactive panel discussion for 30 minutes. At least one panelist will be a child with a disability who is using social media as a platform for advocacy.



SATURDAY SPORTS

Location: Youth Canter Theater and Gymnasium

Time: 12:30 – 4: 30 p.m.

Event Capacity: 80 (film), 20 (clinic)

Attendance Fees: Film Only: \$10 Film and Clinic: \$25

VIP: Yes

RecTrac: Yes

Screening of *The Rebound*: “Follow the Miami Heat Wheels on their quest for their first-ever NWBA Championship. The cameras don’t stop when the players leave the court: this film follows them through daily life with a disability as they reach for new heights.”

Panel discussion with Miami Heat Wheels and FIFA World Cup.

Wheelchair Basketball Clinic with Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces. No wheelchair or experience needed to participate.



SUNDAY COMMUNITY

Location: Adult Activity Center Great Room

Time: 4 – 6 p.m.

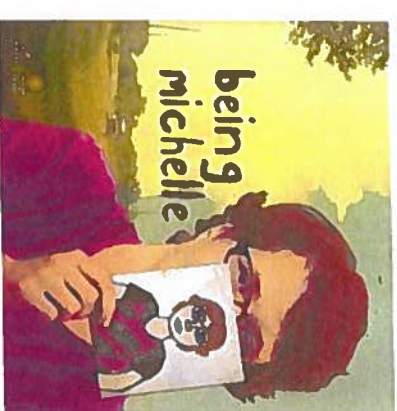
Event Capacity: 80 (adjust to match occupancy of AAC Great Room)

VIP: Yes

RecTrac: Yes

Screening of *Being Michelle*: “An award-winning feature-length documentary film about a deaf woman with autism who survived incarceration and abuse and now uses her artwork to depict the trauma she survived and heal from her past.”

Panel discussion with former City Attorney, and Autism dad, Craig Leen. Deaf Polk County Sheriff's Officer Luis Abru. The Wallet Card champion, Deborah Dietz. Moderated by UM CARD Executive Director, Dr. Michael Alessandri.



MINI SCREENING

DECEMBER 18 – MY SQUAD

Location: DEI Clubhouse

Time: 6 – 9 p.m.

Event Capacity: Uncapped

Attendance Fee: \$5

VIP: No

RecTrac: Yes

1. Eat pizza for dinner
2. Take pictures on the ReelAbilities Coral Gables Red Carpet and enjoy an exclusive Film Festival Sneak Preview of *My Eyes are Up Here*, a comedy about relationships.
3. Round table discussion about dating with Dr. Alexis Bitting over a decadent dessert of chocolate fondue.



BOARD ROLE

- Appoint one board member to the ReelAbilities Committee
- Suggest committee members to invite
- Suggest speakers, panelists, moderators to bring to the committee
- Attend city planning meetings
- Suggest sponsorship and partnership opportunities
- Refer volunteers
- Share and promote
- Attend ribbon cutting and screening events

COMMITTEE ROLE

- Attend three Committee meetings to be held in-person, during evening hours, for 2 hours each.
- View up to 20 films (via online link from home) and provide a feedback form for each completed film.
- Edit the draft proposal to suggest other themes or venues
- Suggest speakers, moderators, sponsors, and volunteers
- Share and promote the film festival
- Attend film festival event
- Opportunity to participate in Adventure Day on October 12

IDEAL COMMITTEE

- Disabled people
- Disability advocates
- Parents
- Educators (public and private schools, all levels)
- Cultural Arts
- Social Hubs (people who know everyone)
- PROFESSORS! (film, education, law, therapy)
- Comfortable with tech-heavy involvement

EXHIBIT 2

BEST BUDDIES



ED ANSIN BEST BUDDIES FRIENDSHIP WALK



Ed Ansin Best Buddies Friendship Walk

Save the Date & Register Today!

SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH @ 8:00AM

loanDepotpark-Marlins Stadium

501 Marlins Way, Miami, Florida

For additional info: marthalagarde@bestbuddies.org

The First Step STARTS WITH YOU!

The Ed Ansin Best Buddies Friendship Walk (BBFW) is the number one walk in the country raising awareness and funds to support individuals with all levels of intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Register as a walker for a specific team or start your own! Build your personal BBFW online page and be sure to add pictures. Share your story; tell your visitors why you are walking and why they should join your team. Invite everyone you know to join you at BBFW. Get the word out by sending e-mails, handing out flyers, and of course social media!

Ask for donations from friends, family, and coworkers. You can utilize your personal fundraising page to accept donations, track funds raised, and send e-mails. Tweet or update your status with a message that links to your site.

Don't forget many employers offer matching funds programs. Your \$50 donation could turn into \$100! Inquire at your workplace and remind supporters about matching gifts. Join in on the day-of festivities, have fun and remember that friendship is what BBFW is all about. Don't miss the post-walk celebration with entertainment, food, and fun! Donate your time to Best Buddies and become a volunteer for the day of the event.

Ed Ansin Best Buddies Friendship Walk

100 Southeast 2nd Street, Suite 2200

Miami, FL 33131

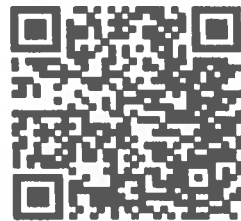


EXHIBIT 3

MY SQUAD

AT THE YOUTH CENTER

A SOCIAL CLUB FOR ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AND AUTISM

Battle of the Badges Kickball Game

Wednesday, April 24

6 p.m.

War Memorial Youth Center
405 University Drive

1. Eat pizza for dinner.
2. Join Team Police or Team Fire for an epic battle of the badges kickball game.
3. Celebrate with ice cream for dessert.

Cost: \$5 per person

Register at playgables.com or scan this code with your phone:

Then click "Event Calendar"

For help registering or
questions: Email Catie:
PlayForAll@coralgables.com

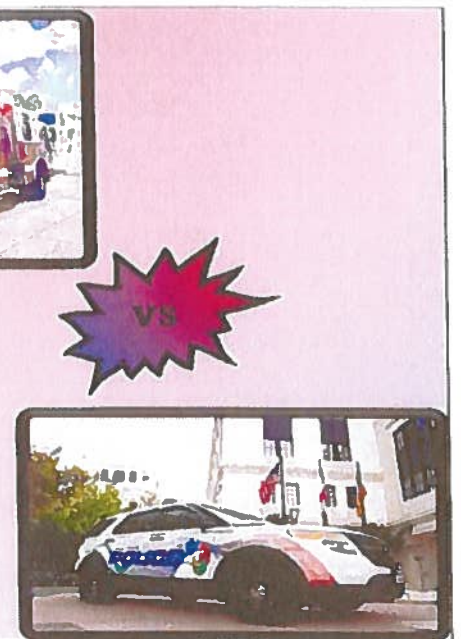


EXHIBIT 4



SUPPER SOCIAL CLUB

**ANTHONY'S COAL
FIRED PIZZA**

*2626 PONCE DE LEON BLVD
CORAL GABLES, FL*

APRIL 29, 2024

6:30 PM TO 8:30 PM

SET MENU OF
SALAD, WINGS, PIZZA & DESSERT

\$30 PER PERSON

REGISTER HERE!

