

# City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
[www.coralgables.com](http://www.coralgables.com)



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 3, 2022

4:00 PM

Adult Activity Center

### Senior Citizens Advisory Board

*Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin*

*Vice Chairperson Celia Suarez*

*Board Member Jean Connelly*

*Board Member Edward English*

*Board Member Julian Sevillano*

*Board Member Richard Thurer*

## **CALL TO ORDER**

**Meeting began at 4:04pm**

## **ROLL CALL**

### **a. Roll Call and Approval of Absences**

**A MOTION TO EXCUSE THE ABSENCE OF RICHARD TURNER AND EDWARD ENGLISH WAS MADE BY CELIA SUAREZ AND SECOND BY JULIAN SEVILLANO. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Present:** 5 - Chairperson Berlin, Vice Chairperson Suarez, Board Member Connelly, Board Member Groves and Board Member Sevillano

**Excused:** 2 - Board Member English and Board Member Thurer

**Present:** 5 - Chairperson Berlin, Vice Chairperson Suarez, Board Member Connelly, Board Member Groves and Board Member Sevillano

**Excused:** 2 - Board Member English and Board Member Thurer

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

### **a. Approval of January's Meeting Minutes**

**A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY MINUTES WAS MADE BY CELIA SUAREZ AND SECOND BY JULIAN SEVILLANO. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **PERSONAL APPEARANCES**

### **a. Meet and Greet with Commissioner Fors**

**This item was deferred to the March 3rd Meeting**

### **b. Presentation on The Watermark at Coral Gables by Sales Director Alton Ward**

**Mr. Alton Ward, the Sales Director from Watermark and Lisa Kinsella, Executive Director, spoke to the Board about the luxury senior living community. Mr. Ward and Ms. Kinsella gave more details about the introduction of Watermark to South Florida, specifically the sites being developed in West Palm and Coral Gables. Ward also emphasized the other 65 Watermark independent living communities across the US, as well as the services provide and some important information like membership fees, service fees, food venues, amenities, and wellness centers. After Mr. Ward's presentation, the board members, supervisors, and directors had a little discussion about the services of Watermark luxury senior living community.**

## **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

**a. General Updates**

The meeting proceeded with the report from AAC Supervisor, Katherine Anderson, notifying the board about a few general updates. Anderson announced the upcoming events and activities for the next few months. She spoke about the Sunday movie showing featuring Gold Finger at 1pm, the Young Frankenstein movie on March 6 at 1pm, the Annual Variety Show on April 1st at 1pm), and the Annual Luncheon that is tentatively scheduled for May 6th.

**b. Administrative Updates**

The meeting then moved forward with administrative updates provided by the Community Recreation Department Director, Fred Couceyro. He started by sharing that the Community Recreation department will be taking over the operations of the Country Club effective May 1st, 2022, and mentioned that the plan for taking over operations will be presented to the commission on February 15th. The department's intentions are to take over without a lapse in operations, especially for the Liberty Café and the Fitness Center. Director Couceyro mentioned that the other bidder looking to take over the Coral Gables Country club pulled out before the January commission meeting. Due to poor maintenance of the club by the existing renters, there is an expected 5-million-dollar capital improvement investment that will be required. The Board asked questions regarding the City's direction for the club. The City's intention is to have an exclusive country club with reasonably priced membership packages geared predominantly towards our Coral Gables residents which will include programming opportunities and rentals.

The administrative report transition to the closing of the Granada Golf course pro-shop for construction and the effects it will have on the restaurant space that is currently being leased to Burger Bobs. Construction is expected to begin in April 2022. The new restaurant leaser will be decided by the commission and resident input.

Director Couceyro also made the announcement about the resignation of Frances Collado and that the AAC is also looking for a new assistant supervisor since the transition of Manuel Guerrero to Tennis.

**NEW BUSINESS****DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Board member Jean Connelly asked if staff had any information on the parking meters that were installed at the Biltmore Hotel. Director Couceyro stated that city management is now aware of the parking issue and is looking more into it. The item is not a Parks item so we don't have much more information on the matter.

**a. Mahjongg Programming**

The meeting then focused on the situation with the Mahjongg programming, and suggested instructor and her fees. However, after discussing programming options with her, it is way too expensive to offer the program using this instructor taking into account the Department's budget. The AAC supervisor will continue to look for a more economically feasible instructor.

**b. Farmer's Market - Feb.5th Staffing**

After this the AAC Supervisor Anderson, shared that Maria will be doing her dance presentation at the February 19th Farmers Market and if the board would like to set up their information booth on this date instead.

A MOTION FOR THE BOARD'S FARMERS MARKET APPEARANCE TO BE MOVED TO FEBRUARY 19 WAS MADE BY JEAN H. CONNELLY AND SECOND BY CELIA SUAREZ. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 3rd at 4pm in the classroom.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:09pm

**NOTE**