

SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of January 05, 2009 meeting
Coral Gables Youth Center

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

A = Absent

C = Cancelled

E = Excused absence

P = Present

N = No quorum

R = Recessed

S = Sick

V = Vacant Position

STAFF:

Luanne Santangelo
 Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

Anastasia Smith
 Recreation Specialist – Senior Programs

Tricia Spencer
 Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

Fred Couceyro
 Parks & Recreation Director

Letty Ellis
 Program Assistant – Seniors Program

Katie Kreter
 Coral Gables

1. Carol Brock called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m.
2. Approval of Board minutes from December 01, 2008 Board meeting – Grammatical corrections were made to the minutes. A motion was made by Dr. W. Schiff and seconded by C. Fahringer to approve the corrected meeting minutes of December 01, 2008. Motion was passed unanimously.
3. Chairperson Carol Brock introduced and welcomed our guest, Katie Kreter and Parks & Recreation Director Fred Couceyro, to the meeting. Our new recording secretary, Tricia Spencer was re-introduced to two of our board members, Esther Castiglia and Ginger

Jochem.

4. **Recognition of Guests**

a. **Fred Couceyro – Director of Parks & Recreation**

Carol Brock asked Fred Couceyro to attend this meeting to discuss Coral Gables @ Home, prospective property purchase, and a Senior Center.

Fred Couceyro said that Coral Gables @ Home is not being funded by donations that were made by Mr. Kirk Landon and intended for City senior projects. The donation was a pledge to assist with a Senior Center. Since the City has not been able to build or purchase a building for a senior Center, the money has not been given to the City. Mr. Landon has and will continue to fund hard capital items that are used for the operation of a Senior Center as they are needed. This is how the funds for the Computers were attained from Mr. Landon. In the future, we will continue to make requests for funding from Mr. Landon for capital items that arise out of needs for senior center programming.

Fred Couceyro said that the City of Coral Gables was interested in purchasing a small property next to Ponce Circle Park, but that it would not be conducive to a Senior Center because of the L shape structure of the building and the size of the space. Fred said that there was continued discussion at Commission level to look into purchasing the UBC, and more staff work will be done on this. Carol Brock spoke about exploring other possibilities of space for a Senior Center and wanted to know more about a back up plan in case the City of Coral Gables is not able to purchase the church in which the senior center is currently located.

Fred said that in the event that the seniors can no longer use their current facility which is the Coral Gables Methodist church, his back up plan is to house the Senior Center programs somewhere else until he finds a place. His staff will begin to look for lease space at that point, and we may have to compromise on some of the features for a senior center. Until a space is found, programming will be held at the Youth Center, maybe Venetian Pool, and perhaps other spaces in the City.

Carol Brock also suggested that the Country Club is a lovely facility and it would be nice to have the Senior Center situated there and she also indicated that there are advantages to keeping the Senior Center close to the Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center.

Fred Couceyro spoke about the Coral Gables @ Home project which he discussed with the City Manager. He said that the City of Coral Gables does have a partnership with them similar to that of other entities such as the Junior Orange Bowl, for example. They use our facilities but are still their own separate entity. He said the City is going to be working with the project to make sure it is a successful partnership.

Luanne Santangelo said that Marli Lutz, Executive Director of Coral Gables @ Home will be attending one of our upcoming Sr. Citizens Advisory Board meetings to have a more in-depth information discussion about Coral Gables @ Home.

b. Letty Ellis – Program Assistant, Senior Programs

Letty Ellis discussed her experience with transportation for seniors where she used to work in Fairfield, Connecticut. The transportation system for seniors was a door-to-door service through a Means Tested Program funded by donations. The program distributed free tickets to seniors and the City would extend their service by going door-to-door providing transport for the elderly. This program was on a needs basis, similar to the Special Transportation Service (STS) and proved to be very successful and beneficial to its seniors.

Carol Brock suggested that Letty Ellis coordinate with Norma Lemberg about transportation. She also wanted to have someone from the Special Transportation Service (STS) come in to answer questions members of the board or other seniors may have about STS.

The board agreed that a representative from STS be invited to attend a lunch/lecture in the near future.

5. Senior Services Divisional Reports

a. Report on Senior Services – Paul Hunt

Due to Mr. Hunt's absence, no report.

b. Senior Center Programs – Anastasia Smith

Anastasia Smith said that the Holiday party was a success and that over 109 people attended the event. Among the guests were Carol Brock, City Assistant Manager Dona Lubin, a volunteer guitarist and the Liftetts.

Carol Brock said that all volunteers from the Holiday party were recognized with a bouquet of flowers and that they collected a lot of toys. After the party many of the guests remained to help wrap all of the toys before giving them to the Coral Gables Fire Department.

For the month of January Anastasia Smith and Letty Ellis are planning to conduct focus groups to see what programs are of interest to seniors to get their general input.

Not too many people have registered for the computer class – beginners.

There are 3 trips in January:

January 16th – Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey: Circus at American Airlines Arena

January 14th – Bombshells at the Actors' Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre

January 27th - Mamma Mia! at the Broward Center Au Rene

In February there will be an information session held by the Alliance for Aging (AFA) to speak about retirement issues, baby boomers, etc. This information session will continue to be held each month on the 3rd Friday of the month in room 112. There will also be Tai-Chi classes and so far a lot of people have registered.

Carol Brock requested a copy of the Senior Services Division budget for the next meeting.

6. **Old Business**

a. Senior Art Show – 2009 Dates

Dr. Schiff and the Board selected a date for the 2009 Senior Art Show which will be held the first weekend of November. Dr. Schiff also requested from Anastasia Smith, the 2008 financial statement from the Art Show to help him budget for this year's upcoming show.

b. Annual Luncheon – Date and Speaker

The annual luncheon will be held on February 9th, 2009 at the Biltmore Hotel. A guest speaker has not been announced as yet. However, Anastasia Smith did receive a letter from Governor Charlie Crist who is unable to attend this year's event, but he recommended Secretary Doug Beach to attend.

7. **New Business**

No new business was discussed at this meeting.

8. **Report of Board Members**

No report was given at this meeting.

9. **Date and time of next meeting**

Monday, February 2, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Coral Gables Youth Center located at 405 University Drive.

10. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.