

City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.coralgables.com



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 8, 2026

4:00 PM

<https://coralgables.zoom.us/j/86149844627>

Adult Activity Center

Senior Citizens Advisory Board

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 4:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Julian Sevillano
Gerardo Alvarez
Thomas Wells
Olga Girod
Judith "Jude" Alexander
Javier Figueras

Absent:

Jean Connelly - Excused

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES WAS MADE BY BOARD MEMBER THOMAS WELLS AND SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER GERARDO ALVAREZ. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MANAGERS REPORT

a. General Updates

Adult Activity Center Manager Gavarrete provided a comprehensive update on current operations, programming, and upcoming activities at the Center. The Manager first shared a personal announcement regarding her upcoming retirement and transition to the private sector, anticipated to begin in February. Board members expressed appreciation for her service and extended congratulations on her next chapter.

Manager Gavarrete provided an update on the planned Beginner Spanish class, confirming that the class is scheduled to begin in February on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. A flyer is being prepared and is expected to be available for posting and registration once finalized. Staff is continuing to coordinate instructor availability and enrollment logistics.

The Board discussed the recent Holiday Luncheon. Members shared feedback regarding attendance, food, presentation, and entertainment, noting that the event was enjoyable and well received by those in attendance.

Updates were also provided regarding upcoming City special events and programs. The Manager reported that staff is in the process of finalizing movie selections for upcoming cinema and park programming and that a flyer will be shared once the list is confirmed.

The upcoming Farmers Market season was reviewed, beginning January 17 and continuing through March. Board members were invited to assist with staffing the City booth to promote Adult Activity Center programs and classes. Staff explained expectations for booth participation and outreach, emphasizing engagement with the public and program promotion.

Additional program updates included upcoming lectures, Day Trippers excursions, availability of UM basketball tickets, volunteer opportunities with the Tour of the Kitchens event, and the launch of a new "Form, Color, and Technique" class on Tuesdays at 11:45 a.m. Staff also shared that Baptist Health has expressed interest in partnering with the Center to offer nutrition-related classes and seminars.

The Manager reported on the success of December holiday craft activities and shared plans to adapt similar offerings for future seasonal programming, including Valentine's Day and Heart Month activities. Board members were invited to share ideas for event decorations and enhancements.

b. Special Events

Farmers Market – Saturday, January 17th, from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. (ongoing through March 28th)

Movies Under the Gables Moonlight at Kerdyk – Friday, January 16th, at 5:30 p.m. (E.T.)

Kids Club Parents Night Out - Thursday, January 30th, from 6 - 9 p.m.

Daddy Daughter Dance - Friday, February 20th, from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

c. Administrative Updates

Director Couceyro provided a detailed overview of upcoming City events, departmental operations, and capital improvement projects. He reported that the Farmers Market will be the next major City event and that holiday decorations and Holiday Park infrastructure will begin to be dismantled in the coming weeks.

He discussed upcoming Movies in the Park and ongoing efforts to secure film licensing. He also confirmed that the Daddy Daughter Dance is scheduled for February 20 at the Country Club and noted that the event date was adjusted based on community feedback.

Director Couceyro provided an update on the future of Holiday Park, noting that the most recent season concluded the current format and that a redesigned Holiday Park is planned for next year. He reported that two vendors remain under consideration and that designs will be presented to City leadership and the City Commission for final selection. Several Holiday Park decorative elements will be retained for future City use, with storage considerations underway.

The Director advised that the City Commission will reconvene next week and that a proposed dog park near the library is expected to be discussed as a public agenda item, allowing for community input.

Contract and procurement updates were provided, including the completion or renewal of several program contracts through the RFP process. Director Couceyro also discussed ongoing evaluations related to the City's soccer program and potential transition to a contracted service model.

Additional updates included the reopening of Venetian Pool, with final punch list items pending due to equipment delivery delays; anticipated progress on the Bark Park and scheduling considerations for the opening of David Lawrence Park pending delivery of commemorative plaques.

The Director also reviewed progress on several capital improvement projects, including Rotary Park, golf course shelters, Ruth Bryan Owen Waterway board walk, and the Granada Golf Course Maintenance Barn. He provided a detailed overview of golf course conditions, operational challenges, and long-term maintenance planning.

Safety enhancements were also discussed, including the installation of smart light poles equipped with AEDs, cameras, and emergency call buttons at various park locations.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Board Members attendance

Board Member Wells raised concerns about how attendance via Zoom is recorded in the meeting minutes, particularly as it relates to quorum and voting eligibility. Staff clarified that Board Members attending remotely are considered present for the purposes of meeting attendance and discussion; however, such attendance does not count toward quorum requirements. The Board concurred with this clarification, and staff will revise previous meeting minutes to ensure consistency and accuracy in accordance with City policy and Sunshine Law requirements.

OLD BUSINESS**DISCUSSION ITEMS****a. BrainHQ McGill University INHANCE Study Findings**

Chairperson Servillano discussed the potential development of a new educational or training program related to brain health and cognitive engagement. Preliminary scheduling, licensing considerations, and future planning discussions were noted by staff.

b. Discussion regarding the "Gals" budget

A discussion was held regarding costumes used for Adult Activity Center dance performances. Staff reviewed historical expenditures and shared that \$1,000 will be reserved in the current fiscal year to support costume purchases. It was clarified that any costumes purchased with City funds will remain City property, be inventoried, and stored for future use.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

Next meeting date Thursday, February 5th at 4:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BOARD MEMBER THOMAS WELLS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AND WAS SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER GERARDO ALVAREZ. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:57 P.M.

NOTE