

CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS

Minutes of October 8, 2009

Youth Center, Second Floor Conference Room

MEMBERS	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	APPOINTED BY
Linda Scarcell-Degrave								*	*	*	P	E	Donald D. Slesnick II
Sandra Mannis								*	*	*	P	P	Maria Anderson
Dr. Andy Gomez								*	*	*	E	P	"Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Bonnie Blaire								*	*	*	P	E	William Kerdyk, Jr.
Richard Whittington								*	*	*	P	P	Wayne "Chip" Withers

(*) There were no meetings.

New members as of 6/1/2009

STAFF:

Alberto Delgado, Secretary
Beatrix Falstreau, CPS
Mercy Mendoza

A - Absent

P - Present

E - Excused

GUESTS:

None

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Mr. Delgado.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mr. Delgado stated this meeting is informal and mostly for the purpose of reading the Annual Report (compiled by Ms. Blaire and Ms. Scarcell-Degrave) which will update the new members on the Board's activities during the past year. The report will then be transmitted to the City Manager's Office.

Mr. Delgado introduced new member, Dr. Andy Gomez.

ADA Projects

Mr. Delgado advised this City was selected by the Department of Justice for an ADA survey. There were two cities and Coral Gables was selected for a comprehensive survey of all the facilities, historic sites, parking garages and parking lots, which is over 50 facilities, including parks which took the DOJ two weeks to complete. They were unable to find major violations, only minor items, i.e. water cooler heights, some buildings accessibility, which were not in compliance. The reason the City did well in this audit is due to the Board's existence and the City had been attempting to correct these problems. Minutes of several years were presented making the DOJ realize the City was not improvising and this Board had a history of being active for many years. This was a plus making them realize that the City is serious in ADA and are in compliance and have a Board. This counts in evaluations stating the City is in compliance but still have to make physical improvements which the City has been doing as part of the capital improvements and annual funding has been allocated, taking the opportunity to remodel many bathrooms in parks along with other changes. A lot of remodeling was done

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including sidewalk extensions. Photographs and reports have been submitted and the City received some extensions since not all items could be done in one year. The City is now in the third year and is in good shape. Actually, the DOJ is satisfied with the progress but, again, this Board played a large part in getting out of this. Further discussion on being in the third year with the exception of the sidewalk extensions which will take longer. According to Mr. Delgado, about 10% of work remains to be done, some minor things in the parking garages which will be taken care of next year, with an extension being requested, and most likely will be granted. As to the sidewalk extensions, a request for additional years will be made due to the amount of work. The cost is approximately \$2,000,000. The County, as well as DOT, are also doing sidewalk extensions at Red Road and those will also be included in the report inasmuch as they are part of Coral Gables and will show progress is being made.

Mr. Delgado related on successful withdrawal of request by DOJ for an elevator in one of the fire stations. Discussion on further requests for the old parking garages which Mr. Delgado advised the DOJ that due to age of the garages cannot be addressed. And the requests were removed.

Mercy Mendoza, the City Architect, compiled the last report for the year which is September 30, 2009. This was the end of the third year and this is why she submitted the report along with photographs and they received same on time. Now only minor things are remaining and we are proceeding with that. Most likely in three months or so we will issue a report on that.

Board Projects

Aside from this Board's activities, another important project is to determine how many individuals are located in Coral Gables that this Board can serve, i.e., disabled, blind, etc. This needs to be determined. Exploration of ways this might be accomplished, i.e. at the fairs, web site, etc. Dr. Gomez stated that somewhere down the line, if the Board feels it would help, perhaps the U of M can assist in obtaining this information via a student project, which could be a service by the university. Mr. Gomez will look into this.

Dr. Whittington further discussed having suggested at last meeting that the City contact the State of Florida to see how many disability stickers had been issued to residents of Coral Gables. This would be a quick, simple, inexpensive way to obtain this information from this list. The Board could then try to determine the types and percentages of a certain disability which might be difficult. Mr. Delgado will follow up on this. There is doubt that any specific disabilities will be disclosed. Once the information is obtained it will make a good report to the commission outlining that this Board is serving a certain amount of residents in Coral Gables and outline the plans. Perhaps more emphasis might be needed in order to outline the kind of services needed.

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Mr. Delgado also discussed on street disabled parking space requests being considered by the Board.

Board Related Commission Items

None.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER REPORT

Meeting attendance

All members are in attendance except for Ms. Blaire and Ms. Scarcell-Degrave.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Whittington moved to accept the minutes of September 2, 2009, as written, Second by Ms. Mannis. All members were in favor. .

Annual Report

Mr. Delgado stated that the Annual Report is a summary of the year's activities. The report submittal is a requirement at this time of year.

Ms. Mannis made motion to accept the Annual Report, second by Dr. Whittington. All members were in favor.

Discussion on report submittal to Commission on October 27. Mr. Delgado also informed members that at the October 27 Commission meeting, at 9:00 a.m., the Mayor will present a Proclamation declaring October Disability Month.

Liaison Reports

None

Newspaper Articles

Mr. Delgado encouraged the members to bring any newspaper articles which can be of use to the Board..

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 P.M..