

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES**  
**ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS**  
**MARCH 3, 2010**

<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>
09	09	09	09	09	09	09	09	09	10	10	10

**MEMBERS**

Linda Scarcell-Degrave	*	P	*	*	*	P	E	*	P	*	*	P
Sandra Mannis	*	*	*	*	*	P	P	*	P	*	*	P
Dr. Andy Gomez	*	*	*	*	*	E	P	*	E	*	*	A
Bonnie Blaire	*	P	*	*	*	P	E	*	P	*	*	P
Dr. Richard Whittington(**)	*	*	*	*	*	P	P	*	P	*	*	P

**APPOINTED BY:**

Donald D. Slesnick II
Maria Anderson
Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Wayne "Chip" Withers

A – Absent

P – Present

E – Excused

(\*) no meeting

**Staff:**

Ernesto R. Pino, R.A., LEED AP, Interim Public Works Director  
 Maria Rosa Higgins-Fallon,  
 Mirtha C. Francomacaro, PW Central Division

Mrs. Scarcell-Degrave called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Dr. Gomez sent an e-mail asking to be excused for the March meeting. Dr. Whittington had also sent an e-mail where he indicated that he had not been advised of the previous meeting.

Copies of the draft December Minutes were distributed to the members. The reading of the Minutes was waived until the Members had an opportunity to review them.

**Maria Rosa Higgins-Fallon**

Mrs. Higgins-Fallon made a brief presentation of her office's dealing with all information disseminated throughout the City. She told the Board Members that she would be glad to assist their efforts in reaching the senior disabled community in the City. She suggested we contact Paul Hunt, the City's Senior Citizens Coordinator who deals with our seniors providing information and assistance. As to a City Disability Affairs Web Page, Mrs. Higgins-Fallon suggested we invite someone from the IT Department to get that process started. Staff to arrange for their visits to the next meeting.

Mrs. Scarcell-Degrave noted that meetings should be held the first Wednesday of every other month, and to make sure that maybe 8:00 a.m. would be a better time to meet rather than 8:30 a.m. Following is a tentative schedule of meetings: **May 5<sup>th</sup>;** **July 7<sup>th</sup>;** **September 1<sup>st</sup>;** **November 3<sup>rd</sup>;** **January 5<sup>th</sup> 2011.** The Members will discuss further at the May meeting. Other meetings will be held as needed (wherever a meeting room is available.) Regularly scheduled meetings will be held at the Youth Center, second floor conference room.

Mrs. Blaire noted that she has learned of a couple of local companies that fabricate or adapt special needs vehicles for individuals. The Disability Board could reach out through the website to interested persons about such services available. The City could provide information without large financial investment. Tours could be encouraged for those special needs persons to visit the City's parks, especially now that they are all ADA compliant and accessible. There are numerous events that could be enjoyed by residents and publicized thru a web page.

At the March 2009 meeting it was suggested Staff contact Dr. Billups at the University of Miami. When contacted she explain that they only keep records of those disabled students who attend the University of Miami (only when the students volunteer the information).

The University does not collect and provide information on their disabled population as a whole. She did report about her personal knowledge of able-bodied people parking in disabled parking spaces, which she could see from the window in her office. She asked the City for assistance and possible solution. Mr. Polo, from Public Works Department met with Dr. Billups.

It is anticipated that Public Works Department will soon complete installation of a bronze plaque mounted into a large stone in front of the Merrick Educational Center, 39 Zamora Avenue in Coral Gables. The small monument honors the special students who are served by or attend the Merrick School.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.