

CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS

Minutes of May 06, 2009

Youth Center, Second Floor Conference Room

MEMBERS	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	APPOINTED BY
Linda Scarcell-Degrave	*	*	*	P	*	*	*	*	*	P	*	P	Donald D. Slesnick II
Zenaida Fernandez	*	*	*	E	*	*	*	*	*	E	*	E	Maria Anderson
Kelly Sastre	*	*	*	P	*	*	*	*	*	P	*	P	“Ralph” Cabrera, Jr.
Bonnie Blaire	*	*	*	E	*	*	*	*	*	P	*	P	William Kerdyk, Jr.
Deborah Swain	*	*	*	P	*	*	*	*	*	P	*	P	Wayne “Chip” Withers

(*) There were no meetings.

STAFF:

Alberto Delgado, Secretary
Beatrix Falstreau, CPS

A - Absent

P - Present

E - Excused

GUESTS:

Ms. Connie Crowther, Miami Ambassador,
The Diveheart Foundation
Roy Wasson, Esq., Member, Executive Committee
Frank Youth, Member, Executive Committee

Ms. Sastre called meeting to order at 8:10.

Introduction of guests from The Diveheart Foundation.

Ms. Crowther, along with Roy Wasson, Esq. and Frank Young, members of the Executive Committee of Diveheart South Florida, introduced themselves to Board and updated the Board on the history of the organization as well as the dive activities for people with disabilities. Ms. Crowther presented the Board with a Proposal for the use of the Venetian Pool and other Coral Gables-owned pools for scuba diving training and diving activities which provide therapeutic effects both psychologically and physically to people with disabilities. Ms. Crowther further advised that in addition to training the buddies and the instructors so that they would have a start up and a base for which to offer the disabled diver program, they also formed a strong coalition with Shake-A-Leg Miami. Harry Morgan and Jim Elliott are good friends now, are working together, and received a Lockwood Grant and Diveheart is helping out with the scuba diving portion. Also, the Active Divers Association is the biggest and oldest dive club in South Florida, and most importantly, in 37 year it has maintained a perfect safety record. So one can see the kind of level of excellence they are striving for.

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Ms. Crowther further discussed the details of the proposal for the use of the Venetian Pool outlining the accessibility and benefits of the pool for individuals with disabilities. Ms. Crowther stated Diveheart would be happy to make presentations to any suggested groups. Ms. Blaire discussed effects on pool availability to the public in the event of city involvement.

Mr. Delgado described the completion on April 30 of the City's single largest ADA project at Venetian Pool at a cost of \$340,000.00, outlining the various improvements. On Mother's Day the Neighbors magazine will carry an article about the Venetian Pool. The second phase will begin by November during the time the pool will be closed and involves the pool itself. The expected reopening of the pool is May 14.

Further discussion followed on feasibility of Diveheart using Venetian Pool for training, number of individuals involved for classes, effect on public use of pool, covering of costs to City. Ms. Crowther sent copy of proposal to Fred Couceyro and Maggie Hill and will meet with them and find out requirements and determine money amount, if any. In response to Ms. Sastre's question as to what Ms. Crowther would like the Board to do she responded that Diveheart is looking for the Board's support for the program. Further exploration of issues involved, i.e. risk management, funding. In discussing this program with Mayor Slesnick as well as Mr. Delgado, it was suggested that Diveheart seek the endorsement of this Board. Mr. Delgado suggested the Diveheart Foundation check with Parks & Recreation before getting a resolution of support.

Ms. Swain asked if it was appropriate to take a formal position supporting the concept and encouraging the organization to get more details. Ms. Sastre proposed encouraging them to look at the suggestions offered and come back to the Board at some time and giving an update of what they have done. At this point they are not ready to go to the commission and it was felt by the entire Board that a formal position is premature.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mr. Delgado reminded the Members that May is the month in which the Commissioners make new Board appointments and perhaps the members should talk to the Commissioners about possible new members. However, until new members are appointed, the members will remain rather than making May 31 the deadline. Hopefully, by the next meeting in September everyone will have been appointed.

Board Related Commission Items

None.

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PROFESSIONAL MEMBER REPORT

Meeting attendance

All members are in attendance except for Ms. Fernandez who resigned from Board.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Swain made a motion to accept minutes of March 4, as written, seconded by Ms. Blaire. The board approved.

Old Business

None

Liaison Reports

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 A.M.