

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 2, 2023

4:00 PM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86149844627>

Adult Activity Center

Senior Citizens Advisory Board

Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin

Vice Chairperson Celia Suarez

Board Member Jean H. Connelly

Board Member Kelley Schild

Board Member Julian Sevillano

Board Member Richard Thurer

Board Member Hendrik Woods

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting began at 4:05 PM

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Chairperson Berlin, Vice Chairperson Suarez, Board Member Connelly, Board Member Schild, Board Member Sevillano, Board Member Thurer and Board Member Woods

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION TO APPROVE LAST MEETINGS MINUTES WAS MADE BY CELIA SUAREZ AND WAS SECONDED BY JULIAN SEVILLANO. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATES

a. General Updates

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson began the Supervisor's Report by discussing the recent influx of new memberships at the AAC which has led to an increase in class registrations, making it very important to register ahead of time. Katherine Anderson then went on to discuss how Coral Gables Residents receive priority both with resident registration opening earlier and being the first calls from the waiting lists. Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro then stated that the City is seeing a large influx in participation reaching near 2019 numbers creating an increase in demand, and different options may need to be explored in the future to ensure resident priority. Board Vice Chairperson Celia Suarez then discussed the number of registrants who do not attend the programs and the possibility of those spots being opened for those members who are able to attend. Director Couceyro responded stating that they are reaching out to the City Attorney's office to review whether they can enforce a no-show policy on paid programming.

AAC Assistant Supervisor Gregory Walters then went over data from the AAC monthly reports for February, highlighting the number of new memberships and class attendance numbers compared to February of 2022. AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson then mentioned that one of the biggest specific jumps was at the holiday luncheon where we had previously sold less than the 100 tickets available, however this year the number of tickets had to be raised to 120 to meet demand.

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson then discussed the upcoming Cinco de Mayo Spring Fiesta Volunteer Appreciation luncheon that will be taking place on May 5th at 1pm, with the menu officially approved and both a DJ and photo booth reserved for the luncheon. Katherine then informed the board that they are formally invited and will be supplied with complimentary tickets if interested, however any additional guests will have to purchase a ticket.

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson then mentioned that she had reached out to Miami-Dade County regarding the Golden Tickets mentioned in the previous meeting by board member Jean Connelly and was informed that they do not have any sort of promotional flyer however if interested the webpage can be printed and displayed to share relevant information. However, Katherine was able to reach out to the local library and found out that they do have some informational packets there that she plans to swing by and pick up one day.

b. Special Events

Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro began by discussing some of the upcoming events including Carnival on the Mile, Wings for Wishes, and An Afternoon at the Cinema on March 4th at 12pm showing "What's Up Doc?". Director Couceyro then continued on to mention that this St. Patrick's Day was expected to be a busy one specifically with the reopening of John Martin's and the return of their St. Patrick's Day street party that would be shutting down part of the street and hosting live concerts. Director Couceyro then mentioned that the City of Coral Gables was

teaming up with the Community Foundation to bring the "Museum of the Moon" to Coral Gables at Ponce Circle Park Thursday through Sunday from March 9th-March 25th. Director Couceyro then mentioned that there will be many events from concerts to yoga to the Community Recreation department hosting a movie night showing "E.T.". Director Couceyro then ended by mentioning an afternoon tea and fascinator event scheduled for March 19th at the Coral Gables Country Club.

c. Administrative Updates

Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro began by discussing Country Club updates, stating that they just had a successful Yoga Under the Lights event and have been hosting monthly tennis events for members and are expected to see many more special events moving forward. Director Couceyro then discussed the pool at the Country Club stating that it is the only remaining piece, and that someone will be inspecting the pool this month to finalize the last steps needed to officially open the pool to members.

Board Member Richard Thurer then informed the board of an upcoming gallery night, and that his wife will have her art displayed in Books & Books. Board Vice Chairperson Celia Suarez then stated that the Coral Gables Museum will also be taking part in the upcoming gallery night.

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson began by discussing the upcoming Public Safety Building tour and listing out the possible dates that were proposed, the board agreed that March 30th at 1:30pm would work best with Julian stating that he would be bringing a plus one and Celia stating that she would not be able to attend but every other board member stating that they would be in attendance. Katherine then continued by discussing scheduling another visit to the Farmer's Market to advertise the center and the board and asking which Saturday would work for the group, with the board coming to a consensus on March 25th, with Board Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin and board member Julian Sevillano volunteering to attend the farmer's market.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Board Member Julian Sevillano then began by mentioning a video that he would like to show at the AAC going over a study conducted by the University of New York and the University of Dallas going over the long-term effects of COVID-19, AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson responded that they could plan a time to show it at the center for anyone who is interested in the information. Board Chairperson James “Jim” Berlin then inquired whether there was an upcoming health fair at the AAC, AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson responded stating that the last time she reached out Baptist Hospital had not continued the program, however she will reach out again.

Board Member Hendrik Woods then inquired as to whether recent studies showing the benefits of aerobics for the fifty plus demographic has been helping to drive up memberships at the AAC, to which Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro responded by stating that the generation that lived through the rise of exercise popularity is starting to retire at this point which may be a contribution.

Board Vice Chairperson Celia Suarez then inquired as to whether the parks master plan contained a proposal to develop a larger facility to host the AAC to meet the expected growth in the population. Director Couceyro responded by stating while it is not currently listed, the master plan is a living document that must be updated every five years so it may eventually find its way into the plan if the demand continues to rise at its current rate.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

Administrative Operations Supervisor Sarah Espino then stated that the City of Coral Gables has passed an ordinance not allowing Boards to during April 5th to April 13th due to the Easter holiday, asking if the board would like to either hold the meeting on April 4th, 20th, or 27th, or cancel the April meeting all together. Board members Kelley Schild and Richard Thurer shared that they would not be able to attend a meeting on April 4th however every other board member stated they would be able to attend.

Next Meeting is set for April 4th at 4:00pm

A MOTION TO HOLD THE NEXT BOARD MEETING ON TUESDAY APRIL 4TH WAS MADE BY HENDRIK WOODS AND WAS SECONDED BY JULIAN SEVILLANO. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:59pm

NOTE