

# City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
[www.coralgables.com](http://www.coralgables.com)



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 3, 2020

5:00 PM

The Board meets the first Thursday of each month.  
Adult Activity Center, 2 Andalusia Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33134  
**Senior Citizens Advisory Board**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**@4:03 PM**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:**

**Celia Suarez**

**Jane Mass**

**Jim Berlin**

**Joan Valdes**

**Julian Sevillano**

**Richard Thurer**

**Absent:**

**Edward English**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**A motion to approve August minutes was made by Jim Berlin, Second by Celia Suarez. Passed unanimously.**

**I. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

Adult Activities Center Supervisor Katherine Anderson began by letting the board know that she is still working on logistics for the virtual art show. She is looking to doing a possible slide show and a small paragraph on each art piece. She will let the board know when a date for the show is selected.

Senior Day was a big success with almost 50 people registered and 39-40 people were the highest attendance numbers at once. The slide show and screen sharing of all the presentations for each speaker went well. Katherine believes the event was informative and did not drag on. Jim Berlin spoke to the board on how he enjoyed the event.

Ivonne from the Florida Department Agriculture services offered to come back to do a English and Spanish seminar later in the year.

Silvia Rich that instructs the Bridge classes will be leading advance and intermediate classes. Katherine is also looking to include baton twirling in the classes listing with Wendy.

Katherine gave an update on the process of installing mirrors for dance classes. The quotes were obtained, a vendor was selected and will have them installed soon.

Chef Del La Rosa will be joining the October meeting.

Jim Berlin complimented Fred and Mitch for an informative community meeting about the Lamar Louise Curry Park that is set to begin construction. He also encouraged the board to sit in on the upcoming community meeting for Salvadore Playground.

Community Director Fred Couceyro appreciated the feedback and described to the board the reasoning behind the format of allowing participants the ability to ask questions via the Q&A feature. Fred also notified the board of the upcoming community meetings for the Salvadore Playground renovation and the Granada Pro Shop renovation.

**II. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Jim Berlin was able to gather more information on all the Coral Gables approved Adult Living Facilities from the city's Planning and Zoning division. Sarah shared a map of the four approved plans for ALFs in the City.

1. Palace (83 Andalusia) Approved June 2, 2009
2. Existing (1000 ponce) Approved March 12, 2019
3. ZOM (363 Granello) Approved November 12, 2019
4. Belmont Village (4111 Salzedo) Approved May 26, 2020

Jim Berlin will find out more information on pricing, amenities and criteria for these facilities and will share with the board.

Richard Thurer would like for Jim to find out what the criteria is the City uses for assigning ALF designation to properties and are all these properties in active development. Jim was able let the board know that ZOM and the Belmont Villager have started design and construction. Celia asked if these properties will only be labeled as ALF or will they be nursing facilities as well. Jim Berlin will look further into this.

Jane asked if the board would like to pursue a discussion on flu shots for seniors. Katherine shared with the board that the Health fair will not happen in October. Board members gave their personal accounts of their recent flu shots they received. Jane would like to know if any publications have been created to encourage our residents to receive their Flu vaccines. Katherine will look in to putting out information.

Julian Sevillano shared with the board the current status of facilities and services of Key Biscayne that have started to open. The swimming pool, passport services and driver license are included. \$15 million in grant money is to be shared between Mount Sinai and the Alzheimer's organization within the UM Center for Aging.

Fred Couceyro took the opportunity to share with the board the opening status with Coral Gables parks. The Venetian Pool and Youth Center Fitness Center will reopen possibly in two weeks. We are hoping the County meeting with Parks will loosen restrictions to allow lights to turn on which will allow for activities to continue later. Athletics will start with a skills and drills variation to each sport. However, playgrounds and smaller parks under an acre have not been authorized to open. They don't have enough personal to monitor. Senior facilities is a phase three item and they haven't discussed this yet with the County reopening.

Jim Berlin asked Fred if there were any budget items that the board would need to campaign to the Commission for with the expected budget cuts due to Covid-19. Fred agreed that there will be budget cuts but at this point most of our park cuts were taken from the Special Events division. The capital budget will also be affected. Projects that are already funded for this fiscal year will still proceed. There is an expected \$4 million cut into the next fiscal year.

Richard Thurer asked Fred if there has been any impact on personnel. Fred responded to the board that staff has not been laid off and most of our staff have been reallocated to other functions within parks. Most of our part time staff members have been used to monitor parks to enforce COVID safety protocols. The City is currently on a hiring freeze however if the need of additional personnel is required to continue operations, then hiring has been granted on a case by case basis.

Jim Berlin asked if each department oversees their own sanitation budget requirements. The City has a preexisting contract with a janitorial company, but each department is required to fund as much as they can of their own sanitation needs with their existing budget. The City is tracking all COVID related expenses in hopes of applying for CARES Act reimbursement funds with the U.S Government.

#### **ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

October 1, 2020 at 4:00 PM is the next scheduled board meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 4:51 PM

#### **NOTE**