

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 7, 2021

4:00 PM

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

*Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin
Vice Chairperson Celia Suarez
Board Member Jean Connelly
Board Member Edward English
Board Member Julian Sevillano
Board Member Richard Thurer*

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting began at 4:01pm

ROLL CALL

a. Board Attendance and Excused Absences

A MOTION TO EXCUSE THE ABSENCES OF JEAN H CONNELLY AND CELIA SUAREZ FOR THE OCTOBER MEETING WAS MADE BY JIM BERLIN AND SECONDED BY JULIAN SEVILLANO. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Present: 4 - Chairperson Berlin, Board Member English, Board Member Sevillano and Board Member Thurer

Excused: 2 - Vice Chairperson Suarez and Board Member Connelly

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Approval of September Meeting Minutes

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES WAS MADE BY EDWARD ENGLISH AND SECOND BY JIM BERLIN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

c. Update on Night at the Cinema Event

Assistant AAC Supervisor Manny Guerrero and Supervisor Katherine Anderson began the supervisor's report by going over the Center's upcoming A Night at the Cinema event being sponsored by Commissioner Kirk Menendez at the Coral Gables Cinema. Tickets can be reserved online or in person at the AAC for free. The movie series will continue into December.

a. Update on AARP Application

Katherine Anderson continued her report with informing the Board where we are in the AARP application process. We have already completed the survey and the assessment portion of the application and will need to work on the Action Plan to establish goals within the eight domains of a livable community. According to the AARP, it will take up to a year to complete the goal setting process but the time line will be dependent on the participation of other city departments and their willingness to supply the appropriate information and achieve the same goals. Jim Berlin has asked that the Senior Board be utilized in the application process. Katherine said that she will enlist the help of the Board at the appropriate time and will email out the information of the domains of goal building for the Board to review in preparation. At the completion of the AARP application, the department will look into becoming a national accredited senior center which will mimic the accreditation process the department as a whole recently went through.

b. Update on Brain HQ

A meeting with staff and Dr. Peter Kallestrup in regards to I-Function as well as the Fun Start program which is a 12-week training program. Staff will need to purchase the licensing for Fun Start in addition to Brain HQ. There will be an informational session prior to the start of the program to inform participants of the requirements of the program. Department Director Fred Couceyro and board member Julian Sevillano spoke to the Board on what the program targets and why we decided to move forward with purchasing of the licenses. The Licenses will only be used in the AAC and will not be granted to users to use off site. Dates for beginning the programs are still pending.

d. Update on Community Outreach Program

This Item deferred to the November Meeting.

e. General Updates

Department director Fred Couceyro continued with updating the Board on upcoming events within the department. Fred highlighted the new Harvest Market starting October 30th south of Coral Gables Elementary which will run through December from 9am to 2pm. Other events include the Pittman Pumpkin Patch, Adventure Day for All that will kick off with a ribbon cutting of the newly renovated Salvadore Park, the Youth Center's Haunted House and a new Halloween event at the Venetian Pool called the Pumpkin Float.

Katherine Anderson shared the upcoming events at the AAC which included the Annual Art show that will take place November 19 and she has requested that the Senior Board join us on November 18th to be judges in selecting the winners of the show. Deadline for Art piece submissions will be the week before.

Also coming up, November is Alzheimer's Awareness Month so the AAC will be working towards doing a fundraiser with the sale of t-shirts for staff and AAC patrons. November 4th City Hall will be lite up blue marking the City's awareness of Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

Senator Marco Rubio's office will be using the AAC as a satellite center to offer their services.

Director Couceyro also shared with the Board that the City is in the process of applying for FRDAP Grants to help with the construction and design of two parks. The lots that are being considered are the lots located off Toledo and Alava and the Blue Road Open Space. We will be having community meetings to notify the surrounding community of those lots that we will be pursuing these grants.

COMMISSIONER APPEARANCE

a. Commissioner Anderson Meet & Greet with the Board

Board Chair Jim Berlin welcomed Commissioner Anderson and presented her with the question of how she believes the Board can increase their visibility of the Senior Advisory Board amongst the Commissioners and our residents. Commissioner Anderson responded that the Board should look into doing more community outreach with the senior residents through emergency preparation initiatives and connecting with seniors through the local churches. She also encouraged the Board to knock on doors and inform areas with higher densities of seniors that services exist for their demographic by using a "Did You Know..." style graphic flyer.

Commissioner Anderson also shared with the Board about her current position on the Green Corridor Committee which focuses on energy recovery needs and her work on the Septic and Sewer task force. She went over certain areas of concern within the City and her efforts on pursuing state grant money to remediate these areas. She also asked the Board for assistance on recognizing neighbors that might have energy recovery needs who would not be able to financial afford to remediate on their own income.

Other items the Board brought to the attention and were discussed briefly to Commissioner Anderson included the following: Hurricane Shelters within city limits, Affordable Housing, and State control on tobacco regulations.

NEW BUSINESS**a. Discussion on Important Items to Present to City's Lobbying Group**

This Item deferred to the November Meeting.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

The next meeting will be November 4th, 2021 at 4pm at the AAC.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:23pm

NOTE