

CORAL GABLES LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Meeting, June 8, 2016

Coral Gables Branch Library, Meeting Room

MEMBERS	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	APPOINTED BY
Jane Maranos	-		P		P		P		P		P	A	Mayor Cason
Lisa Bennett	-		P		P		P		P		P	P	Vice-Mayor Quesada
Charlotte Smiley	-		-		-		-		-		-	P	Comm. P. Keon
Blanca Mesa	-		-		-		-		-		P	P	Comm. V. Lago
Donna Heisenbottle			P		P		P		P		P	P	Comm. J. Slesnick
Myra Silverstein	-		P		P		P		P		P	P	City Manager, C. Swanson-Rivenbark
Sherry Zhang	-		P		P		P		P		P	A	Board As a Whole

STAFF:

Ayliin Hernandez, Clerical Assistant, Recording Secretary

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

GUESTS:

Will Runyan, Miami-Dade Public Library System Branch Manager

Karelia Martinez Carbonell, Coral Gables Historic Preservation Association President

OPEN MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Bennett, Chair, at 3:13 p.m. The roll was taken and a quorum was present. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of April 13, 2016.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and passed with a unanimous vote.** A request was made to excuse Sherry Zhang’s absence. **A motion was made to “Approve Sherry Zhang’s absence. The motion was seconded, voted upon and passed with a unanimous vote.**

Ms. Martinez Carbonell was introduced as a guest. She thanked the board for the invitation and shared a very nice article on the Coral Gables Library that was recently published in, “I’m Not Your Boring Newspaper.” Mr. Runyan advised that a University of Florida student wrote the article.

Ms. Norman informed the board of her resignation. She will be serving on the Landscape Beautification Advisory Board. She read the letter that she sent Commissioner Keon (copy attached). Ms. Norman introduced Charlotte Smiley as the newly appointed member. Ms. Smiley has a diversified background and loves the Coral Gables Library.

NEW BUSINESS:

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE: The board was reminded that Financial Disclosure forms are due on July 1, 2016. The Financial Disclosure packages were made available.

OLD BUSINESS:

LIBRARY RENOVATIONS: Ms. Bennett presented original photographs of the Library entrance and original plans of the fountains. These documents were provided by Historical Resources. Ms. Bennett suggested sharing them with the County’s Administration. Discussion

developed on the renovations. Ms. Heisenbottle advised that an assessment of the structure needs to be completed before any recommendations are made. Who will conduct the assessment has not been determined. Discussion developed on the building's historic designation. Ms. Martinez Carbonell emphasized the importance of the Library's unique historic aspect. Ms. Bennett inquired on a conceptual plan to provide a vision that will serve as an inspiration. Ms. Silverstein added that a plan would serve as a road map and a motivator. The board agreed that public meetings need to be held. A priority list of the renovations would be appropriate. Arranging a charrette was recommended. Discussion developed on having university students prepare a design with the board's oversight. Ms. Heisenbottle recently spoke with the University of Miami's School of Architecture Dean on having a class project include the Library design. She will revisit the concept in the near future. Ms. Norman recommended University of Miami's School of Architecture Professor, Rocco Ceo. He is very qualified in Architecture and Planning as well as Historic Preservation. Ms. Bennett offered the board's support in terms of having each board member contact their appointing Commissioner. It was noted that County Commissioner Xavier Suarez is an avid supporter of libraries. Discussion developed on how the renovations would be financed. Reference was made to an e-mail by Ray Baker, M-DPLS Asst. Director, in which the following information was provided, "Existing General Obligation Bond funding earmarked for the Coral Gables Library of approximately \$550,000 will be utilized to address the significant capital/infrastructure needs listed for FY 2015-16." The needs list includes pressure cleaning, repairing fountains, refinishing exterior doors, design of the chiller and cooling tower, electrical panel replacement including surge protectors and upgrading computer connection speeds. Ms. Heisenbottle advised she will follow-up and provide future updates.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE/BUTTERFLY GARDEN: Ms. Smiley advised that the Garden Club will be donating \$300. Discussion developed on purchasing signs or plants for the Butterfly Garden. Ms. Smiley will speak with Bob Boberman regarding the purchase of plants. Ms. Mesa suggested planters with native plants at the Library entrance.

PUBLICATIONS & PUBLICITY: The board noted that the "Living in the City Beautiful" magazine did not include the information on the Library. The board agreed that City publications should include information on the Library.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT: Mr Runyan mentioned the entrance doors were refinished. Elections will be held during August and November. Barricades or a Police officer will be needed to avoid parking in the swale. Library patrons have complained that attendees of the Christ Journey Church have been using the Library's parking lot on Sundays. **A motion was made to, "Request that the appropriate entity notify Christ Journey Church located at 624 Anastasia Avenue, Coral Gables, FL that the Coral Gables Library has Sunday hours and the parking lot is for the Library patrons."** The motion was seconded, voted upon and passed with a unanimous vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / GENERAL DISCUSSION: Ms. Norman expressed appreciation for Mr. Runyan's approval of the children's artwork display in the Library.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

APPROVED:



Lisa Bennett, Chair

ATTEST:



Bob Boberman, Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2016, AT 3:00 P.M.
IN THE CORAL GABLES BRANCH LIBRARY MEETING ROOM
3443 Segovia Street, Coral Gables, FL