

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 19, 2021

8:30 AM

Public Participation via Zoom

Virtual Discussion Workshop via Zoom

School Community Relations Committee

Chairperson Ariel Fernandez
Vice Chairperson Sam Joseph
Board Member Erin Anding
Board Member Winnie Chang
Board Member Sandy Dimitris
Board Member Carmen Manrara Cartaya
Board Member Cecilia D. Slesnick
Board Member Mary Snow
Board Member Sharon Watson

The School Community Relations Committee will be holding a discussion workshop on Friday, February 19, 2021 VIRTUALLY, commencing 8:30 a.m., where in all interested persons may be heard via Zoom platform used by the City for live remote comments. Members of the public may join the meeting via Zoom at (<https://zoom.us/j/92462505912>). In addition, a dedicated phone line will be available so that any individual who does not wish (or is unable) to use Zoom may listen to and participate in the meeting by dialing: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 924 6250 5912.

To speak on an Agenda Item, please "Raise your Hand" or send a message to one of the meeting hosts using the Zoom Platform. If you joined the meeting via telephone you can "Raise your Hand" by pressing *9.

This virtual discussion workshop can be attended by multiple members of the Coral Gables City Commission.

Draft

CALL TO ORDER

Discussion workshop called to order at 8:32 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Attachments: [Virtual Attendees List](#)

A. PUBLIC HEARING

No comments from the public were made at this time.

B. NEW BUSINESS

B-1 Miami-Dade County Public Schools Update (Facilitated by Mari Tere Rojas, School Board Member)

School Board Member Rojas provided an update on MDCPS's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including teacher and staff vaccination, as well as modality options for county parents.

Walkthrough of CGSH on February 22 for Friends of Gables and City of Coral Gables to see the updates to the building.

Ensuring the safety of Coral Gables schools with police presence for protection.

Introduced legislation to enforce March 2nd, 2021, as Read Across America Day to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss and encourage literacy among the nation's children. Emphasized schools and members of Coral Gables to participate in the virtual event.

B-2 Summer Family Literacy Festival (SFLF) (Facilitated by Sam Joseph, Vice Chair)

Literacy event tentatively scheduled to improve the literacy gap that has existed and been exacerbated by COVID-19. Project born out of the desire to strengthen school libraries in the city. The event will provide resources for parents to assess where their students are at and how to improve their reading level.

Will provide a community service opportunity for students within the city to donate books for improved literacy.

Scheduling issue due to date conflict for school board. New options to be proposed but keep May 29th date in mind. Have to consider a smaller event or pushing the date into 2022. New date must be conscious of the student's testing schedule.

In order for the event to be successful, it must be done in a span of two days. This will provide the opportunity of a Friday field trip for students and a Saturday outing for families. Field trips are temporarily suspended and will be kept in consideration for the future. Desire to offer the event as a county-wide program.

The 2021 SFLF will act as a one day pilot focusing on the community. Pursuant years will entail a more robust two-day event when field trips are resumed. Ideally future events would take place on a Friday and Saturday. Friday would focus on students through school field trips and Saturday would be community oriented.

Many vendors and sponsors motivated to get involved in this project.

Other top priorities include:

- Coral Gables library undergoing renovation to provide better literary services. Must emphasize to students and parents that their services will still be available during this time.

Attachments: [SFLF Pilot Project Event Fact Sheet](#)

C. ONGOING BUSINESS

C-1 General Updates (Facilitated by Naomi Levi Garcia, Staff Liaison & Solanch Lopez, Secretary)

Teacher and Rookie Teacher of the Year will receive a certificate of recognition from the City of Coral Gables at during one of the March Commission meetings.

A permanent nurse has been placed at G.W. Carver Elementary.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next SCRC Meeting - Friday, March 19, 2021

Questions/Comments: scrc@coralgables.com

G.W. Carver Elementary, Ponce Middle and Coral Gables High School PTAs will be hosting a candidate forum for the upcoming City of Coral Gables election, providing students with a background on city government and its operating functions. The forum will take place on March 18th for students and parents. SCRC Vice Chairman Sam Joseph will be moderating the forum.

ADJOURNMENT

Workshop adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Draft

NOTE

Draft