

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS  
 CITY OF CORAL PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING  
 2151 Salzedo Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor CMR A, Coral Gables 33134  
 WEDNESDAY, October 4, 2023  
 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY:
	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	
Jennifer Sando							P	-	P	P			Mayor Vince Lago
Samantha Duran	A	EA	P	*	P	E	PZ	-	PZ	A			Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Mary Palacio-Pike	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	-	P	P			Commissioner Kirk Menendez
Bonnie Blaire								-	P	P			Commissioner Melissa Castro
Vanessa Bedoya	PZ	P	E	*	E	P	P	-	P	P			Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
													Ex-Officio Member Chamber of Commerce

PZ = Via Zoom

A – Absent  
 E – Excused Absence  
 (-) – No Appointment  
 (\*) – No Meeting  
 (\*\*)-No Meeting – COVID19

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

**QUORUM:** Quorum was reached.

**STAFF:**

Raquel Elejabarrieta – Human Resources Director  
 Eglys Hernandez – P/T Administrative Assistant Labor Relations & Risk Management  
 Catie Hastings – Park & Recreation – D.E.I. Coordinator (Via Zoom)  
 Vivian Pires - Parks & Recreation P/T D.E.I. Counselor (Via Zoom)

**GUEST:** None

**CITIZEN ADVISORS:**

Jennifer Durocher, Director of UM-NSU Card

**PUBLIC GUEST:** None

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting was called to order 10:00am

**MEETING ABSENCE:**

Samantha Duran  
 Deborah Dietz

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

September 6, 2023  
 Motion by: Bonnie Blaire / 2<sup>nd</sup> Vanessa Bedoya / All approved unanimously.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT:** None

**BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**It's Cool to Fly American – Ms. Palacio Pike (Exhibit #1)**

Ms. Palacio Pike shared with the board information regarding upcoming event being held on October 14, 2023, 11:30am – 2:00pm – A Mock Airport Experience provided by American Airlines. Ms. Palacio Pike stated it is an opportunity for families to engage with other families regarding airport travel.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Update – Adventure Day – Ms. Hastings**

Ms. Hastings advised that all the tents have been filled and there will be more focus the programing. Ms. Hastings stated there will be 38 vendors participating this year. Board member Ms. Blaire asked reference cost offset of event and if this was done via vendors being charged, and Ms. Hastings advised the city does not charge vendors to participate.

Ms. Hastings advised a quiet tent has also been added. Ms. Palacio asked if Area Stage Theatre would be present again this year and Ms. Hastings advised they will be participating.

**Disability Acceptance Month Resolution / Proclamation: Ms. Elejabarrieta**

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised the City Commission will present a Resolution declaring Principles of Inclusion for all individuals with disabilities, and urging action by national, state, and local governments, businesses, and residential communities consistent with these principles at the October 10<sup>th</sup> commission meeting. Ms. Elejabarrieta also advised at same commission meeting; a Disability Acceptance Month Proclamation will be presented. Ms. Palacio Pike asked board to consider the receipt of the Proclamation to be Coral Gables Museum due to all their efforts and the Huemans of Miami Exhibition. Various Board members stated it was a good idea to reach out to the Coral Gables Museum. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated she would reach out to the museum.

**Director Training – Ms. Elejabarrieta**

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised of a meeting which took place with Mr. Jairo Arana, UM Card, Ms. Haley Moss, Ms. Mary Palacio Pike, and Ms. Rochelle Baer. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated it was agreed not to have the same presentation as last one and the participants will be working on updating subject matter. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated no date has been set as of now, however it is being worked on and it will be sometime at the end of October or early November.

**Update - Striping / Broken Elevator – Parking Lots – Ms. Elejabarrieta**

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised striping in garage 1 and 4 will be commencing this week, latest next. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated she has provided update to Ms. Dietz directly via email.

**Continual: Audible Crosswalks / Path Granada Golf Course – Ms. Elejabarrieta**

Ms. Elejabarrieta stated city continues working with DOT regarding Audible Crosswalks off LeJeune and there is currently no new update information.

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised regarding Path Granada Golf Course, on the Segovia side, Segovia and Coral Way, city is getting 100% design this week and then goes to the county. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated they usually have a 45 day turn around and expect to break ground by the end of this year.

Ms. Elejabarrieta stated on the Anderson side, which is the area county is handling, county wanted to break ground by end of this year, however it most likely will be happening during next year's first quarter.

**Aira App – Ms. Bedoya**

Ms. Bedoya asked regarding usage of this app. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated it has not been used much. Discussion took place regarding various ways to go about making the community aware this service is available, such as stickers, QR Code, flyer, etc. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated this can be further researched and to determine the best way to proceed. Ms. Blaire stated it is also important to indicate the city is providing this service free of charge within the city limits indicated.

**Stock Pictures – Ms. Palacio Pike**

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised this project is to obtain photos of people with disabilities in various scenarios throughout the city to be utilized when promoting city events. Discussion then was conducted regarding best way to proceed to assure people with invisible disabilities are also included.

**School Community Relations Committee – Ms. Ward Sando**

Ms. Ward Sando stated she had reached out to Ms. Winnie Chang, the School Community Relations Committee regarding the status of their point person for their disability initiative within the schools. Ms. Chang advised they have not discussed it and it will be placed on their next meeting agenda. Mr. Ward Sando stated she will follow up with them and provide an update to the board.

The board had a brief discussion regarding requirements in reference to being a board member.

Ms. Palacio Pike asked about the status of the creation of a police badge regarding autism. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated she will address this with Chief Hudak. Ms. Palacio Pike asked if the Autism vehicle is still in rotation, and it was advised it is. Ms. Hastings advised autism vehicle will also be present at Adventure Day.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** November 1, 2023

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned 11:00am

# It's COOL to Fly American

An event to help those with intellectual or developmental disabilities experience flying without ever leaving the ground.

The airport can be an anxious experience when traveling with children. For children with autism, the experience can be overwhelming in a new environment filled with different sounds and sensations they can't make sense of.

## JOIN US FOR A MOCK AIRPORT EXPERIENCE

**Miami (MIA) Airport**

**Saturday, October 14, 2023 | 1130m-200pm**

This event is designed to allow your WARRIOR to experience the airport travel process including:

- Check-in
- Going through security
- Boarding a flight
- High-speed taxi on the runway Without leaving the ground

Families will have the opportunity to engage with other families and assess their WARRIOR's reaction to the entire process while helping us provide awareness of the need to show compassion for all travelers.

**If interested in participating scan or click below:**

[Sign Up](#)

