

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 10, 2025

9:15 AM

Sister Cities Conference Room - Coral Gables Museum

Coral Gables Merrick House Governing Board

*Chairperson Genevieve Orr
Board Member Mary Beth Burke
Board Member Carmen Cason
Board Member Bonnie Crouch Seipp
Board Member Alexis Ehrenhaft
Board Member Joanne S. Meagher
Board Member Maria C. Onaghten*

The Merrick House Governing Board will be holding its Regular Meeting on Monday, November 10, 2025, commencing at 9:15 am EST.

Members of the public may join the meeting via Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83315833193>.

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.

Meeting ID: 833 1583 3193

One tap mobile

+17866351003,,83315833193# US (Miami)

+19292056099,,83315833193# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 786 635 1003 US (Miami)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 470 381 2552 US (Atlanta)

+1 646 518 9805 US (New York)

Find your local number: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/koHpBvqy7 305-461-6769](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/koHpBvqy73054616769) (Coral Gables local number)

To speak to the Merrick House Governing Board 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.

The public may also comment on an item on the agenda using the City’s already-established e-comment function which may be found on the City’s website at: (www.coralgables.com/commissionmeetings) once the meeting’s agenda is published or by sending an email to cityclerk@coralgables.com prior to the start of the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke, Board Member Ehrenhaft and Board Member Onaghten

Absent: 2 - Board Member Meagher and Board Member Cason

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. [25-1045](#) Merrick House Meeting Minutes for October 13, 2025

A motion was made by Board member Burke, seconded by Board member Seipp, to approve as corrected the minutes for the October 13, 2025, Merrick House Board meeting. This motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 5 - Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke, Board Member Ehrenhaft and Board Member Onaghten

Absent: 2 - Board Member Meagher and Board Member Cason

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. [25-1046](#) Merrick House Activity Report - October 2025

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. **April 2026 - End of centennial event with city hall employees. Chair Orr would like this to be a whole community event, open to all.**
2. **Veteran's Day Concert - Chair Orr is grateful for the help from docents, board members, city employees and volunteers. Board members will be requesting help with the chairs for next years event. This year the band was positioned to the side of the front doors due to the sun.**
3. **Merrick House Trust Fund - Staff advised this money can be used for special projects or acquisitions above and beyond what the city would pay for. The board must make a motion with specific details as to what the trust fund money would be used for. Fundraising efforts go into this account**

4. **Holiday Open House** - Board members are requested to bring four dozen cookies. The Garden Club decorates the House on 12/03/2025 from 9 a.m. until noon. Board member Cason to confirm if the children carolers will perform. Staff will request a cooler filled with ice from Public Works. The quiller will be a vendor. Rita is interested in providing gingerbread cookies that children decorate in addition to a lunch concept like the Veteran's Day concert. The Board needs to contact the Symphonettes.

2 – 3 p.m. - Carolers

3:45 p.m. - Santa Arrives

4 – 5 p.m. - Pictures in the House

5. **Mermaid Movie** - Chair Orr was speaking with an attendee at the Veteran's Day event and mentioned that the mermaid was from Australia. This event will now be sponsored by the consulate of Australia and food will be included. This person wants to make it a big event. Tickets will be \$10. Scheduled for January 4, 2026.
6. **Althea's Garden Brigade** - Chair Orr is interested in starting this event again. Volunteers are needed for once a month, on a Saturday morning, for one hour. A board member must be present to supervise and the volunteers must sign a waiver.
7. **Front Pond** - Chair Orr received several comments about the condition of the front pond. This pond has no circulation and there is a tree root affecting it. Staff will look into how to correct.

VI. CITY COMMISSION ITEMS

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

A motion was made by Board member Seipp, seconded by Board member Ehrenhaft, to nominate Susan Rodriguez as a Board member on the Coral Gables Merrick House Governing Board. This motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 3 - Board Member Crouch Seipp, Vice Chairperson Burke and Board Member Ehrenhaft

Nays: 2 - Chairperson Orr and Board Member Onaghten

Absent: 2 - Board Member Meagher and Board Member Cason

IX. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE