

SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of August 2, 2010 meeting
Coral Gables Youth Center

MEMBERS	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	APPOINTED BY
Catherine Fahringer	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Norma Lemberg	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	R	Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Marilyn Bruno	P	V	V	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	R	Comm. Maria Anderson
Dr. William Schiff	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Frank Lynn	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	R	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Evelyn Budde	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	R	City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Carol Brock	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	R	Senior Citizens Advisory Board

A = Absent

C = Cancelled

E = Excused absence

P = Present

N = No quorum

R = Recessed

S = Sick

V = Vacant Position

STAFF:

Fred Couceyro
Parks & Recreation Director

Paul Hunt
Senior Services Coordinator

Anastasia Smith
Recreation Specialist-Senior Services

Tricia Spencer
Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

Marli Lutz
Executive Director, Coral Gables @ Home

Katie Kreter, resident
Coral Gables

1. Chairperson Carol Brock called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m.
2. C. Brock welcomed Marli Lutz of Coral Gables @ Home and Katie Kreter to the meeting.
3. **Approval of Board minutes from June 7, 2010** – A motion was made by Frank Lynn to approve the meeting minutes of June 7, 2010. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.
4. **Approval of Excused Absences** – C. Brock made a motion to approve the excused of Dr. William Schiff because his wife had a procedure done that required him to be with her.

5. **Senior Services Divisional Reports:**

a. Report on Senior Services – Paul Hunt

Paul Hunt distributed copies of the evaluation report of the Coral Gables Senior Taxi Discount Program which identified if taxi vouchers provide a viable transportation option for senior residents of Coral Gables, Florida. A non-standardized survey consisting of 30 questions was created and conducted by Florida International University graduate school students via telephone with seniors who purchased vouchers following the end of the program. Results from the program indicated that Coral Gables senior participants of the program utilized cars for most of their transportation needs, whether driving themselves or being driven by others and seldom use public transportation. The majority of participants reported positive experiences using the taxi vouchers.

b. Senior Center Programs – Anastasia Smith

Anastasia Smith reported that the August/September 2010 monthly calendar was mailed out. “Memoir Writing” is a new program that started with new volunteer, Ann-Marie Wongsam. The program is a 5 week workshop on writing the story of your life. Classes meet on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Room 113, fee is \$12.00. A Healthy Living group has also been formed; group meets every 4th Monday of the month. There is an “End of Life Issues” workshop on August 19th at 1:00 p.m.; workshop will be presented by Vitas. Beginner’s French class is full. Dancercise session A is full, space is available for session B. Anastasia thanked Marilyn Bruno for being the speaker at last month’s lunch and lecture. The Senior Center will be closed on August 9th to August 13th. There will be a Senior Health Fair on September 20th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m; the event will be held at the Youth Center.

6. **Old Business**

a. Art Show (Date Conflicts – Merrick House, etc.)

Discussion was held about the date of the upcoming Senior Art Show conflicting with the Coral Gables Merrick House 100th Anniversary Celebration because both events are scheduled for Friday, November 12th, 2010. Some board members felt that many of the attendees for the art show are also invited to the Merrick House Celebration and would like to attend both events. Options of changing the date of the Senior Art Show were discussed, but because of the months of preparation and the publicity already sent out with the November 12th date, a motion was made by Frank Lynn to keep the Senior Art Show date. All of the Board members approved the motion except Evelyn Budde who opposed and Carol Brock who abstained.

b. Somerset Academica School

The City of Coral Gables had to go to court to settle a dispute about the number of students that can attend the Somerset Academica School (K-8) which was set to occupy the University Baptist Church (UBC) in August. The judge ruled in the City’s favor

granting 110 students usage of the UBC facility because the area which is located at 624 Anastasia Avenue is zoned for only 110 students. C. Brock said that the seniors will be losing the Fellowship Hall, the only space there that is big enough to hold their monthly "Lunch and Lectures." C. Brock also reported that they will need spaces to grow their senior programs and parking is likely to become an issue with the school in the building. Second floor rooms were suggested by UBC, but seniors need ground floor space as the church has no elevator. C. Brock inquired about the Parks and Recreation Department having a back up plan in case having the school at the UBC is not conducive to the Seniors. Fred Couceyro said that his back up plan will be to look into another space, use the Youth Center or have several different satellite locations.

c. SHINE Representatives Office

Marilyn Bruno inquired about the Alliance for Aging and the City of Coral Gables possible partnership which will allow the SHINE group to utilize space within the Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center to offer healthcare services to seniors.

Fred Couceyro said that the possibility of such partnership will go before the City Commission at the August 24th Commission meeting.

d. 501 (c) 3 Coral Gables at Home

Marli Lutz said that Coral Gables at Home is expecting a response from the IRS in the Fall about their approval for a 501 (c) 3 status.

7. New Business

a. Thank You to FIU students

The Board was very pleased about the detailed survey the graduate students at Florida International University did and Carol Brock requested from Paul Hunt, the names of the students that did the survey to send them a Thank You letter.

b. Coral Gables Rotary Club Offer

The Coral Gables Rotary Club would like to do something to benefit the seniors. Carol Brock who also serves on the Coral Gables Rotary Club Board will meet with Sally Baumgartner, president of the Coral Gables Rotary Club and Jerry Santeiro, chairman of Coral Gables Community Foundation to discuss what they can do to benefit the Coral Gables seniors.

c. Positive Living Awards

The Alliance for Aging has extended the Positive Living Awards nomination deadline to Friday, August 13th, 2010. Norma Lemberg has been nominated again. Carol Brock would like permission from the Board to write a nomination letter for Dancercise

instructor, Belkis Frangente. The Board unanimously agreed.

d. Coral Gables Senior Citizens' Budget

After reviewing the senior budget, it was noted that the Senior Services Coordinator position from the Senior Services Division will possibly be eliminated. The Board was unhappy with the senior budget cuts and would like some of the money reinstated back into the Senior Citizens' account that will benefit senior programs. Norma Lemberg made a motion for Carol Brock to speak on behalf of the Board at the next Budget Hearing to address to the City Commission the Senior Citizens' Budget which was cut by 34% and to request that the funds from this budget be reinstated. The Board members approved with the exception of Catherine Fahringer and Evelyn Budde who abstained.

8. Open Items

Marilyn Bruno suggested that a video camera should be loaned to the Senior Services Division in order to film the informative workshops she does on channel WPB2. There are a lot of disabled seniors who cannot attend the workshop and would benefit from being able to view the workshop either on television or on-line. In order to protect the privacy of the audience, the video camera will only be focused on Marilyn Bruno.

9. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board will be held on **Monday, September 13, 2010** at 5:00 p.m. at the at the Coral Gables Youth Center located at 405 University Drive, Coral Gables 33134.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.