

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2013, 8:00 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	S 12	O 12	N 12	D 12	J 13	F 13	M 13	A 13	M 13	J 13	J 13	A 13	S 13	O 13	N 13	D 13	APPOINTED BY:
Sally Baumgartner	P	P	E	E	P	P	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	E	James C. Cason
Patricia Sowers	E	E	E	P	P	-	-	*	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	Patricia Keon
William Beckham	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	*	-	-	-	E	E	P	P	P	Vince Lago
Bonnie Blaire	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Richard Whittington	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Frank C. Quesada

P – Present
E – Excused Absence
A – Absent
(-) – No Appointment
(*) – No Meeting

STAFF:

Lorena Garrido, Central Division Supervisor
Ernesto Pino, Interim Public Works Director / ADA Coordinator

GUESTS:

Jane Tompkins, Development Services
Dona Spain, Historic Department
Marc Stolzenberg, Fire Department
Michael Frevola, Police Department
Fred Couceyro, Parks & Recreation
Kevin Kinney, Parking Department
Sally Ola Ola, Finance Department
Elsa Jaramillo-Velez, Human Resources Department
Jorge Casuso, Economic Sustainability

CITIZEN ADVISORS:

Matt Dietz, Disability Independent Group

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Blaire called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

MEETING ABSENCE:

Mrs. Baumgartner is excused.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

- **November 6, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Mrs. Sowers moved to approve the November 6, 2013 meeting minutes. Mr. Beckham second the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Status of City projects:

- 1- Ingraham Park development – 95% complete.
- 2- Hammock Lake Guardhouse – 20% complete.

BOARD-RELATED COMMISSION ITEMS: None.

CITY UPDATE: None.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Mrs. Blaire welcomed all City departments present and guest speaker. She also introduced Board members, Citizen Advisors present and Board's support staff.

For those who are not familiar with the Board, Mrs. Blaire explained that the Advisory Board for Disability Affairs is an advisory committee to the City Commission made up of (5) five members and the Board's mission is:

1. To act as an advocacy group an advocacy group in Coral Gables for issues affecting persons with disabilities, thereby developing an advocacy program to positively impact the quality of life for citizens with disabilities in the community.
2. To undertake responsibility to facilitate and promote City – Community partnership in projects and research affecting persons with disabilities.
3. To identify City resources, as well as County, State and other resources that may be channeled toward providing information and opportunities for a better quality of life for persons with disabilities.

Board functions are supplemented by a group of Citizen Advisors who are volunteers, having interest or expertise in an area of disability affairs pertinent to the Board and its mission.

Mrs. Blaire announced that this meeting is the last of a series of (4) topic meetings:

1. Vision (September 4th)
2. Hearing & Speech (October 2nd)
3. Cognitive / Developmental (November 6th)
4. Mobility (December 4th)

At each of these meetings, experts have discussed basic information, resources, programs which are specific to each disability. The program allows everyone present to interact, ask questions and brain storm to determine how our community might implement programs, services and direct resources to enhance the quality of life for our disabled citizens and community guests.

Mrs. Blaire stated that today's topic is mobility. Many people with physical disabilities experience problems with mobility which can make it difficult for them to function independently.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Special Guest Speaker – Stephanie Woodward, Esq., Disability Independence Group, Inc. (DIG)

Ms. Woodward provided information for all regarding (DIG) and opened by discussing the overall mobility disability category (who are disabled people, what they look like?). She said that some people with mobility disabilities are easily recognized because they use wheelchairs, canes, crutches and walkers. However there are mobility devices that can't be recognized such as leg braces which may be hidden under clothes or shoes. There are also people who don't use any devices but are recognized because they have a limp. Individuals with heart or respiratory disabilities may not be recognized at all. Individuals with these conditions may not be able to walk long distances or use stairs. Ms. Woodward explained that there's misconception by people who think that because you are in a wheelchair or use crutches, you can't walk, which is not the case. She added that just because individuals use the same mobility device it does not mean that they share the same disability. There are many ways to acquire a mobility disability: being born with it, acquired through accidents, being progressive (muscular dystrophy). Another misconception is that having a mobility disability is not always in the legs but it can be in the hands and other places. This is where accessibility becomes important for people with manual dexterity challenges.

Ms. Woodward reviewed the handouts provided which are part of these minutes (see attached).

Video of this meeting is available upon request to the City's ADA Coordinator: Mr. Ernesto Pino, Interim Public Works Department Director, 305-460-5000.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, January 8, 2014, 8:00 am to be held at the *Coral Gables Youth Center's 2nd Floor Conference Room.*

- *Meeting was Cancelled* -