

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 4, 2021

4:00 PM

The Board meets the first Thursday of each month.
Adult Activity Center, 2 Andalusia Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33134
Senior Citizens Advisory Board

CALL TO ORDER

This is an unofficial meeting. The meeting began at 4:11pm.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Celia Suarez

Jane Mass

Jim Berlin

Joan Valdes

Julian Sevillano

Richard Thurer

Absent: Ed English

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Prior to the supervisor's report, department director Fred Couceyro shared with the board our future design plans for Salvadore Park and the addition of an ADA playground component; one of the first for the City.

A discussion about the new plaza development area near the Ponce Circle Park area occurred between staff and the board.

Joan Valdes asked staff about the upcoming elections and how many commissioner seats are up for election. Fred shared with the board that there will be three seats that are going to be filled.

Katherine Anderson, the AAC supervisor, began the meeting with letting the Board know about the success of the current Fitness in the Park exercise series and how it will now be relocated to Salvadore Park due to increase shade. Online fitness classes are also going very well. The AAC's virtual Current Events meeting, book clubs and the Embracing Aging class are still being attended.

The second series of COVID vaccinations will take place at the AAC again starting next week, February 10-12th. Parks staff have been helping the Fire department with issuing appointment dates and times along with calling residents for follow ups. Fred Couceyro included that the Fire department is trying to obtain an increase of vaccinations, but a total number has yet to be determined.

Fred also shared with the Board news from his recent meeting with the South Florida Parks Collation that occurs every two weeks. The Collation is ran by the Miami Dade County Parks Director and attended by parks professionals from the South Florida area. Updates included lifted restrictions to COVID safety measures made to facilities and programming. Adult Centers were discussed but no date or timeline was established for reopening for programming. He also shared current programs or lack of programs being offered by other municipalities.

Celia asked if the topic of when centers reopen comes up for discussion, will vaccinations be required for patrons to use the facility or to attend classes. Fred told the board that the topic did come forth for discussion and it will be added to the agenda for the next upcoming collation meeting. However, there is no definite answer at this time.

Fred shared with the Board the upcoming virtual community meeting for the

Granada Golf Course's rain shelters. The new design will be presented February 18th at 6:30pm for community input. Fred encouraged the Board to participate and can view the design online on our park's projects page. He also quickly reviewed the last few community meetings for the designs of the Granada pro shop, Salvadore playgrounds, and Pierce Park renovations.

Our department is also going through a national parks accreditation and we hope to pass all our necessary standards this coming June. However due to COVID, the visitation team will not be able to visit but will review our application and evidence of compliance virtually.

Fred also updated the Board on the successes of some of our other facilities and programs including the addition of new athletic programs, the high demands of golf and tennis and the continued updates to the COVID safety guidelines for programming.

Jim Berlin asked how often the Parks virtual newsletter is disbursed to the public. Staff shared the February newsletter and highlighted some of the upcoming events with the Board. The newsletter is emailed out from a third-party server during the first week of each month. Katherine offered to add all the board members to the email listing for the newsletter.

Julian asked staff about a bench that was removed from William Kerdyk Jr. Family Park and if the bench will be replaced. Mitch Zuriarrain responded that the memorial bench was removed in anticipation of construction and will most likely be relocated.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The discussion item of how the Board can help volunteer with any aspect of getting our residents vaccinated was brought forth. Fred mentioned that at this time volunteers are not really needed based on the low number of available vaccines. Once our city's Fire department has been given access to a greater amount of the vaccine and residents that are interested in being vaccinated has exceeded our staff's workload, then we can revisit volunteer opportunities. A conversation continued about other vaccination locations, the process involved in getting vaccinated, and possible roles the board could fill while volunteering.

Jim Berlin brought up the topic of the upcoming elections and asked if the Board could host a public Q&A with candidates to see their stance on senior issues and the Adult Activity Center. Other board members also expressed their interest in hosting this. Fred informed the board that he would investigate how this can take place without breaking any rules of order or City policy. Jim Berlin said he would also look in to seeing if there are any other scheduled events already taking place and will share them with the board.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

The next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2021 at 4:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 4:47pm.

NOTE