

## SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of October 6, 2014 Meeting

Coral Gables Youth Center

MEMBERS	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	APPOINTED BY
Nadejda Mishkovsky	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	R	P	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Carol Brock	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	R	E	P	Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Jane Mass	C	E	P	P	P	P	P	R	R	P	P	Comm. Patricia Keon
Maria Cruz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	R	P	E	Comm. Vince Lago
Ying Pestien	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	R	R	P	E	Comm. Frank C. Quesada
Evelyn Budde	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	R	R	P	P	City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Joan Valdes	V	V	V	V	V	E	P	R	R	P	P	Senior Citizens Advisory Board

A = Absent

B = Not on Board at Time of Meeting

C = Resigned

E = Excused absence

P = Present

N = No quorum

R = Recessed

S = Sick

V = Vacant Position

### STAFF:

Fred Couceyro  
Parks and Recreation Director

Letty Ellis  
Adult Activities Coordinator

Christina WooChing  
Adult Activities Program Assistant

Tricia Spencer  
Administrative Assistant

### GUESTS:

Katie Kreter  
Coral Gables Resident

1. Chairperson Carol Brock called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.
2. Carol Brock welcomed staff, board members and guests to the meeting. Carol also thanked Jane Mass for conducting the meeting last month.

3. **Approval of Agenda** - A motion was made by Evelyn Budde to approve the agenda. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.
4. **Approval of Excused Absences** – Evelyn Budde made a motion to excuse the absences of Maria Cruz and Ying Pestien. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.
5. **Approval of Meeting Minutes: September 8, 2014** – A motion was made by Evelyn Budde to approve the meeting minutes of September 8, 2014. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.
6. **Adult Activities Center Divisional Report**

**a. Adult Activities Center Report - Letty Ellis**

September was National Senior Center month. The City Commission issued a proclamation for National Senior Center month to show its support for the creation of the Adult Activity Center and to honor all of its adult citizens. The October/November Adult Activities Calendar is available. There was a record set today, a total of 165 people were in attendance at all adult activity classes. New classes for the fall semester include Cooking, Poetry Writing, Photography and Beginning Italian. A representative from the Social Security Administration will be at the Adult Activity Center on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. to speak about the Social Security Administration on-line services and to answer any questions you might have. There was a Volunteer Appreciation lunch at Havana Harry's to thank the 32 volunteer instructors who teach at the center. Letty and Christina WooChing hosted the first round table discussion group with other municipalities for people who work with the elderly. Town of Cutler Bay, City of Miami Beach, City of Pinecrest and Switchboard of Miami were in attendance to discuss ideas and programs for adult activities. They were very impressed with the adult activities calendar that we have and the number of volunteers. The next meeting will be at the Switchboard of Miami in January. The Center for Independent Living had their first meeting to distribute free amplified telephones to people in need; the list of these people came from the senior health fair. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Art Show will be held this Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Palace Coral Gables. Please confirm with Letty if you will be able to judge at the art show. The Senior Health Fair had 400 people in attendance this year. Letty had a meeting with Joan Valdes to discuss pickle ball. The Holiday Party will be held on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at The Palace Coral Gables to thank the volunteers for the year.

Christina WooChing spoke of a new free information session with Miami-Dade Housing Authority to learn about the "Legacy Program in effect with the Miami-Dade Housing Authority"; this is for homeowners who want to learn about estate planning and have questions regarding taxes, insurance and reverse mortgages. This session will be held on Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in the classroom from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Christina is currently working on the December 2014/January 2015 calendar and is enthusiastic about upcoming information sessions and new classes at the adult activity center.

**7. Disabilities Board Report - Katie Kreter**

Katie Kreter said that October is National Disability Board Month. A representative from the Woody Foundation distributed information packets about its foundation which was founded in 2011 to raise funds for spinal cord injury. Audio Crosswalks installation was approved for Miracle Mile with the initial installation on eight City Blocks from Le Jeune to Douglas Road. The Department of Transportation (D.O.T) has requested that their Propertization manual be read and studied by the Disability Board. There was a discussion regarding other local city disability boards and their programming – City of Doral and City of Miami Beach. Also discussed in the meeting was the re-admittance of service dogs and miniature

horses used by people with disabilities in Coral Gables, restaurants, stores and other venues. There was a discussion on the staffing and running of the Center for Independent Living, which is located in a dedicated space at the Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center and is also shared with Shine. Volunteers will be asked to gather resource information and create a data base of services, the center will be staffed by part-timers and they are seeking volunteers to staff the office.

8. **Old Business**

Carol Brock said that she had a discussion with Cindy Birdsill on an update of the Adult Activity Center. Tax issues have been agreed upon except for one which is the tax for the public garage which is trying to be worked out. Carol suggested to Cindy to not let this be a stumbling block. Carol said each Board member should write or contact the commissioner they represent to encourage the completion of the adult activity center contract. Carol also spoke to Interim Chief of Police Major Hudak about surveillance cameras at the new adult activity center and parking garage. Major Hudak said that the police department is very aware of safety issues and will work with the city on surveillance cameras, etc.

9. **Open Items**

Carol Brock received a call from a representative of Home Instead, a for profit organization that brings holiday cheer to lonely or financially challenged seniors through their "Be a Santa to a Senior" program. Letty Ellis said that the Adult Activity Center does not endorse for profit organizations. When Letty receives calls like that she refers them to places of worship instead.

10. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, November 3, 2014** at **5:00 p.m.** in the Youth Center Conference Room.

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.