

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS
 CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017 8:00 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY:
	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	
Adrian Mesa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A			Raul Valdes-Fauli
Patricia Sowers	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P			Patricia Keon
Blake Sando	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			Vince Lago
Richard Whittington	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	E			Frank C. Quesada
Marie-Ilene Whitehurst	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P			Michael Mena

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

STAFF:

1. Raquel Elejabarrieta, Director of Labor Relations and Risk Management / ADA Coordinator
2. Eglys Hernandez, Labor Relations and Risk Management

GUEST:

1. Peter O’Connell – CEO – Center For Independent Living of South Florida

CITIZEN ADVISORS:

1. Bonnie Blaire
2. Debbie Dietz

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Sando called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

MEETING ABSENCE:

Mr. Richard Whittington had an excused absence.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

September 6, 2017

Motion by: Ms. Marie-Ilene Whitehurst / 2nd Ms. Patricia Sowers / Approved unanimously

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 1, 2017.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Report to be approved.

Motion by: Ms. Marie-Ilene Whitehurst / 2nd Ms. Patricia Sowers / Approved
Unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation by Ms. Debbie Dietz – Supper Social Club

Ms. Dietz presented to the board a flyer regarding the upcoming first Supper Social Club dinner. Ms. Dietz stated she met with the general manager of California Pizza Kitchen on Miracle Mile who was very excited about hosting the event. Ms. Dietz stated that the general manager suggested that one of the best nights to hold an event was Monday or Tuesday. Ms. Dietz sent out dates to Mr. Sando and he suggested that Monday, October 23, 2017, from 6:30pm – 8:30 pm would be the best date and time. Ms. Dietz stated that on her website there would be a registration form and an icon that will link directly to the menu. Ms. Dietz stated that if someone needs an accommodation they can contact her directly. Ms. Dietz advised that this was sent to two of the Commissioners, Ms. Elejabarrieta and City Attorney Craig Leen.

Ms. Elejabarrieta stated Commissioner Lago mentioned it during the City Commission meeting of October 10, 2017. Ms. Dietz stated that she had not heard back from Commissioner Keon whom she had originally sent the flyer to first. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that both of the Commissioners had a discussion of this event during the October 10, 2017 City Commission meeting.

Mr. Sando asked where else could this be disseminated to and suggested CARD. Ms. Whitehurst stated she will distribute the flyer within her own group. Ms. Dietz mentioned there were other places in Coral Gables where flyers could be put up, but was unsure how to access them.

Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that she would check if the City can advertise the event on its social media channels due to it being a private event. Ms. Dietz stated she would welcome any suggestions on the best way to disseminate the flyer.

Ms. Sowers asked how many participants the restaurant can accommodate. Ms. Dietz stated as many as needed, due to the restaurant location being large.

Ms. Elejabarrieta asked whether CPK was making any special accommodations in order to make it more inviting to those individuals in the autism spectrum and with other disabilities. Ms. Dietz stated the restaurant in the past has been accommodating and have expressed no issues with requests such as turning down the music.

Mr. Sando asked regarding the format, arrival time and sitting situation at CPK. Ms. Dietz stated that she will be present and by having those interested in the event register in advance, the restaurant can set up an area based on the number of guests that register. Mr. Sando asked if walk-ins would be accepted. Ms. Dietz stated yes. Ms. Whitehurst stated that she would change “register” to “RSVP” on the flyer. Ms. Dietz stated that she would change it to RSVP.

Mr. O’Connell asked if participants will be responsible for their own cost of meals. Ms. Dietz stated that they will be responsible for the cost of the meal. Ms. Whitehurst asked if this would be open to all ages. Ms. Dietz stated that this event is open to all ages. Ms. Whitehurst asked if it was only for Coral Gables residents. Ms. Dietz stated it was open to residents and non-residents.

Mr. O’Connell suggested that the flyer promoting the event at CPK should clearly state that those who are attending the event are responsible for the cost of their meals. Ms. Dietz stated that she will change the flyer so that it is clear that those attending the event are responsible for the cost of their meals. Ms. Dietz stated that after she updated the flyer she will send out the flyer to everyone.

Mr. O’Connell stated he will place the flyer on their web site. Mr. O’Connell advised Ms. Dietz that they will be hosting a BBQ on October 21st in the afternoon and if flyers are available, they will be glad to distribute the flyer at the BBQ. Mr. Sando asked if there will be a sign in sheet at event. Ms. Dietz stated that she will gladly have a sign in sheet.

Presentation by Mr. Peter O’Connell – CEO – Center For Independent Living of South Florida

Mr. Sando introduced Mr. Peter O’Connell from the Center for Independent Living. Mr. O’Connell stated that the CIL is having a BBQ on October 21, 2017 from 11:00am to 2:30pm at Margaret Pace Park where folks with disabilities will have opportunity to meet others with disabilities and create relationships.

Mr. O’Connell stated that one of their satellite offices is located in the City’s Youth Center. Mr. O’Connell stated that their staff has also expanded with Ms. Paula De La Nueva, which now runs their Youth Services program, for anyone with disabilities under the age of 25 who are looking to create a community with others similar to them and learn independent skills.

Ms. Elejabarrieta asked Mr. O'Connell to elaborate on the services provided by CIL. Mr. O'Connell stated that their organization provides the following services:

- 1) Informational Referrals – If they do not provide the services they will either indicate the person to those who do or will conduct research and find answers
- 2) Peer Mentoring
- 3) Independent Skills Training – for example travel training, how to use bus, trolley, money management, etc.
- 4) Introduction to Computer Learning Skills – the CIL has a computer lab with ten computers
- 5) Transition Assistance – assist persons in transition (for example from rehab center back into community, a child with disability going from high school to post-secondary environment, etc.)

Mr. Sando asked Mr. O'Connell what are the most prevalent and important issues his constituents are currently facing. Mr. O'Connell stated it is housing and transportation. Mr. O'Connell also stated that another important issue is the transition period, especially for those who are between 17 and 19 years old.

Mr. Sando expressed gratitude to Mr. O'Connell for joining the meeting and stated that if the board could be of further assistance or if Mr. O'Connell would like to recommend anything to the board to please feel free to contact them directly.

Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that there were now minutes to approve as well as the Annual Report. Mr. Sando asked if the Annual Report had been approved in a prior meeting. Ms. Elejabarrieta advised it was but there were some changes made to the Annual Report, which were suggested by Ms. Blaire, and have been incorporated in the Annual Report. Ms. Whitehurst stated that the Annual Report looked very impressive.

Ms. Blaire asked about the cost of the running the board, which the Annual Report listed it as \$8,200. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that that figure is based on the hourly rate for Ms. Eglys Hernandez and herself for the time spent preparing for the meeting, preparing the minutes, etc. Ms. Blaire asked if other boards operate without any additional money other than the recognition of the allocation of employee time. Ms. Blaire stated that the board does not actually receive \$8,200. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that the \$8,200 is the cost to the City to maintain the board.

Ms. Blaire asked if this board has any operating monies to conduct an event. Ms. Blaire stated that in the past the City paid the bus ride and lunch for children from the Auburndale School for the Deaf to be brought to sign Christmas carols at a Christmas event at the Colonnade as part of the Coral Gables Holiday Programing on Miracle Mile. Ms. Blaire asked if in future the board would like to have an event where will the funds come from. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that the board would then make a recommendation, the City would review the recommendation and if it is determined to move forward with recommendation, the City would locate funds for the event.

Ms. Blaire asked about the upcoming Community Business Awards, which cost money to make and where will the board obtain the necessary funds to purchase the awards. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that is not a concern, monies would come from her office or the City Manager's office or sponsorships if it can be done. Ms. Blaire addressed the board to keep that in the back of their mind that it is an important resource to have some monies available.

Mr. Sando asked regarding when was the last time the board made a monetary request. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that it was in June of 2016 for a sign language class that was offered during summer camp. Mr. Sando asked if the training videos were done by board. Ms. Whitehurst stated it was not via the board, it was directly with Ms. Dietz – DIG.

Ms. Whitehurst stated that when she first started on the board she was made aware of monies from parking fines, which were supposed to be allocated towards board expenses. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that the funds are not allocated for board expenses, the monies are to be used to enhance services or facilities for individuals with disabilities and it is allocated to the City. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that monies from the parking fines are usually the funds utilized when the board makes a monetary request. Ms. Blaire stated that the funds are for programs and services. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated it is also for facilities - making the facilities ADA accessible.

Ms. Blaire asked if the men's restroom (Youth Center), which is located not less than ten feet away from the conference room has had a door opener installed. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated it has not been installed. Ms. Blaire stated that it has been well past a year since a request was made for a door opener at the men's restroom. Ms. Blaire stated that due to the structure of door and lack of door opener a person with a disability, for example Mr. O'Connell, is unable to go to the restroom unless someone assists by opening the door. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that she will get an update on the status of the installation of a door opener. Mr. O'Connell asked why the female's restroom has a door opener. Ms. Blaire explained that it was due to a former employee (Ms. Barbara Bines) who was a chair user.

Ms. Blaire stated that if it is this board's responsibility to identify problems and suggest solutions to the City, how can the board proceed with this request. Ms. Whitehurst asked if the board would need to create a formal board letter. Ms. Blaire stated Ms. Elejabarrieta can assist with this matter, which she has done so. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that she will obtain an update on the status and she will address it at the next meeting. The board can then determine whether it wants to proceed with a formal letter from the board or formal action.

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised the board of the recent review conducted by the City's ADA consultant who recently inspected all of the City facilities where the public has access to determine whether they comply with the ADA. Ms. Sando asked if a report was issued. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that there were reports for each building that was inspected and all are welcome to review. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated this is part of what the City is doing as its ADA transition plan. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that the next step is to sit with the City Manager, Finance Department and Public Works to determine how best to proceed.

Ms. Blaire asked Mr. O'Connell about the installation of the Swanson video phone at the Youth Center, which has never worked and has been nonoperational. Ms. Elejabarrieta asked who is in charge of the maintenance and upkeep of the machine. Ms. Blaire advised it is the CIO because the machine itself is under contract with the CIO, but she was not sure about the actual phone line. Mr. O'Connell stated that he will look into it.

Ms. Whitehurst asked how the Bocce program is being advertised. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated she would ask Ms. Carolina Vester, who is in charge of this program. Mr. Sando asked if there was a flyer created. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated she would email Ms. Vester to get further information.

Mr. Sando asked if anyone from the board had attended the Commission meeting where the proclamation on disability month was read. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that Ms. Blaire and Ms. Dietz were present and Ms. Ericka Kofkin accepted the proclamation along with another part time special population coordinator. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated then there was the standard resolution the City puts out every October for Disability Affairs month and then Commissioner Lago and Vice Mayor Keon discussed the event at CPK.

Ms. Whitehurst asked about the vacancy on the board and new board member. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that several attempts had been made to reach the new member, however not sure if he had been officially appointed. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated she would look into the status of the vacancy.

Mr. Sando stated that he would like to receive ideas, goals from members and non-board participants on how the board can proceed with new projects.

Ms. Sando stated that the board has accomplished a lot and that his goal is that it continues to do so. Mr. Sando stated that at this time it is too late to move forward with the Christmas caroling, but would like to have discussions at future meetings about moving forward with certain programs like in January or February.

Ms. Sando asked to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by: Ms. Marie-Ilene Whitehurst / 2nd Ms. Patricia Sowers / Approved unanimously

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned 8:59 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, November 1, 2017, 8:00am at the *Coral Gables Youth Center's Conference Room* – Board to be advised via email.