

# City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
[www.coralgables.com](http://www.coralgables.com)



## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

3:00 PM

Coral Gables Public Library

### Library Advisory Board

*Chairperson Melanie Zargham*  
*Vice Chairperson Alfredo Sarria*  
*Board Member Laura Hernandez*  
*Board Member Samuel Joseph*  
*Board Member Ruth Martinez*  
*Board Member Zully Pardo*

The Library Advisory Board will be holding its Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 10th at 2:00 PM. Members of the public may participate in person but are also able to participate via the Zoom platform at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88481493942>). In addition, a dedicated phone line will be available so that any individual who does not wish (or is unable) to use Zoom may listen to and participate in the meeting by dialing: 305-461-6769 Meeting ID: 884 8149 3942.

To speak on an Agenda Item, please "Raise your Hand" or send a message to one of the meeting hosts. If you joined the meeting via telephone, you can "Raise your Hand" by pressing \*9.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The April 10, 2024, Library Advisory Board meeting was called to order by Chairperson Melanie Zargham at 2:08 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Chairperson Melanie Zargham was present.

**Present:** 3 - Board Member Joseph, Board Member Martinez and Vice Chair Sarria

**Absent:** 1 - Board Member Hernandez

**Excused:** 1 - Board Member Pardo

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Board Member Joseph moved to approve the minutes, Board Member Martinez seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

**LIBRARY INTERIOR RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE (Facilitated by the M-DCPLS)**

Lisa Thompson - Capital Project provided an update on the exterior improvement to the Coral Gables Branch of the Miami-Dade County Public Library.

- The parking lot resurfacing, driveway approaches, and sidewalk repairs have been completed.
- The landscaping contractor completed deep pruning on University Drive and tree removal on Segovia Ave. The Contractors are pending grinding down the stump of the tree; once completed, that project will be closed out.
  
- The M-DCPLS hired a Landscape Architect and has started the first phase of their contract, which commenced with providing a new survey of the library complex. Pending from them are an arborist report and a tree disposition plan. The second phase included the butterfly garden.
  
- The Library's irrigation system has transitioned from well water to County water. The contractors repaired broken lines, and timers have been installed.
  
- Butterfly Garden - The M-DCPLS was waiting for the site survey to conduct an assessment. Once received, the landscape architect can engage with the Coral Gables Garden Club and the University of Florida's extension school to proceed with the planning for the garden's recreation.
- Air Conditioning Unit - The Chiller has been installed on the Library's roof. The M-DCPLS was pending the delivery of the air handling units, which will be installed on the second floor. The expected delivery date was the end of April 2024. The scheduled installation date was the end of May / early June. Once the unit is successfully installed, the temporary units will be removed. Substantial completion is expected by the end of June / early July 2024.

Staff Liaison Sardinas informed the Board of the Garden Club's interest in rehabilitating the butterfly, stating that the Garden Club proposed installing a sculpture on the site in honor of the Club's centennial. Ms. Sardinas explained the process of getting a sculpture approved, including approval from different advisory Boards in the City, and the City and M-DCPLS would need to negotiate maintenance responsibilities. Ms. Sardinas clarified that the Garden Club has yet to begin the process.

Chairperson Zargham inquired about the landscape architect's process of surveying the site regarding the Butterfly Garden, inquiring on whether the area pertaining to the garden should be left black, allowing the Garden Club to fill in the gap. Ms. Thompson explained that the first step would be to document the existing conditions, identifying what was in place during the survey. The goal will be to recreate what was in the butterfly garden originally. Ms. Thompson further explained that at the recommendation of the Garden Club Work, the M-DCPLS would work with the UF extension school to determine what should be planted.

Board Member Joseph inquired whether the landscape architect would evaluate the parking on the swale along University Drive. MS. Thompson replied that, per the landscape architect, a conversation would need to take place with the City regarding parking on the swale as the vehicles are damaging the roots of the trees, but that losing parking would be unideal.

Ms. Sardinas stated that once the plans are complete, she will invite a

representative of the garden club, Deena Bell-Llewelyn, the Assistant Director for Greenspace Management, and the M-DCPLS representatives and their landscape architect to present the plan to the Board, ideally for the August LAB meeting.

Ms. Sardinas requested an update regarding cleaning the Library's exterior wall. Ms. Thompson informed Ms. Sardinas that she would revisit the item but received a product recommendation for the County's Historic Preservation Department, which she will run through the City's Historic Preservation Department.

### **CORAL GABLES FAMILY LITERACY FESTIVAL UPDATE (Facilitated by Board Member Sam Joseph)**

Board Member Joseph provided an update on the Coral Gables Family Literacy Festival, sharing that planning is underway. Mr. Joseph informed the Board that the vendor application had been released and is due on May 6, 2024. He also mentioned that meetings have taken place to promote the Library's programming as the Festival occurs between the Youth Center and the Library.

Mr. Joseph also mentioned the Community Recreation Department's desire to host a pre-festival event to promote the Festival. Some ideas for the pre-festival event included hosting an event to honor the Literacy Laureate, the Teachers of the Year, and Rookie Teachers of the Year award winners at the Library. Another idea was to have a film screening of a documentary titled "The Right to Read" for special guests. Lastly, hosting an event with the Miami Dade County Poet laureate Caridad Moro-Gronlier, with a reading and activities for children, was also discussed.

Mr. Joseph added that he will be meeting with local Coral Gables school parent/teacher associations to create an audience for the events. He also informed the Board that he would visit the City's Communications Committee and the International Affairs Coordinating Council to promote the Festival (IACC). Mr. Joseph mentioned that the Consulate of Brazil participated in the Festival the prior year and that different nations with consulates in the city have their own publishing companies.

Furthermore, Mr. Joseph informed the Board of a sponsorship opportunity to license a screening of the documentary "A Right to Read" at the Coral Gables Cinema.

Board Member Sarria asked about promoting the event. Board Member Joseph said he would contact the Community Recreation and Communications Departments to request social media signage for the event. Board Member Joseph further stated that the event has a social media hashtag #gables family lit.

The Coral Gables Family Literacy Festival was scheduled to take place on Saturday May 18, 2024 - 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

### **LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING TIME**

Board Member Martinez made a motion to change the time of the Library Advisory Board Meetings, Board Member Joseph seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**OPEN DISCUSSION/ OTHER BUSINESS/ BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

Board Member Joseph followed up on the Memorial Benches in the Library Complex. Staff Liaison Sardinas stated that she conducted research but would reintroduce the subject as part of the landscaping process.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 2:47 PM

**NOTE**