



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
February 10, 2010

ITEM TITLE:

Coral Gables Merrick House Governing Board meeting of January 11, 2010.

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The Coral Gables Merrick House Governing Board discussed the following items:

I. PRESENTATION AND PROPOSAL BY SLOW FOOD MIAMI:

Representatives of Slow Food Miami, a local chapter of an international organization that supports sustainable farming and local food education, and promotes celebration of cultural paths and food traditions. This group's goal for 2010 is to establish 25 gardens within the community in schools and public places.

A motion was made and seconded to support the Slow Food Miami project to establish an era and South Florida-appropriate heritage vegetable garden on the property as discussed. (Unanimously approved).

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Holiday Open House 2009: Ms. Yusko praised event chairs Moskowitz and Reese for their leadership efforts, stating that attendance was greater than previous years. Food provided by the Young Patronesses of the Opera (YPO) was excellent, and they sold 25 of their cookbooks. Details to further refine the annual event were discussed.

III. HOUSE REPORT:

Ms. Kautz reported the following House activity for December 2009:

- Total visitors: 8 adults, one senior and all holiday open house visitors.
- Trust fund balance: \$31, 150.72 (after payments to Business Interiors)
- Rental: DAR, no problems;

An additional rental, previously approved by the Board, will occur the week of January 18, 2010;

A new application was received from the University of Miami School of Law to rent the House on Thursday, January 28, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. for a cocktail reception and dinner for 80 guests. Ms. Kautz detailed to the applicant the substantial challenges attendant to an event and group of that size.

A motion was made and seconded to deny the University of Miami application. (Unanimously approved).

- Regarding the coral rock wall repair, Ms. Kautz collaborated with Public Works and Public Service, and the resulting proposed plan for the repair was displayed and reviewed. A large collection of harvested coral rock is available for the repair. Ms. Kautz will research the background of the removal of the original wall. A plan for the repair was displayed.

A motion was made and seconded to secure bids for repair of the coral rock wall in front of the House. (Unanimously approved).

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

Re-upholstery Project: Ms. Kautz received a funding request from Business Interiors in the amount of

\$2,510.11 to cover expenses of additional trim for additional fabric and trim.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the payment as requested to Business Interiors. (Unanimously approved).

Signage: No report available.

Brochure: Ms. Kautz completed the edit and will forward the edited copy to Arva Parks to clarify information. Ms. Kautz will e-mail the draft to Board members. The brochure will be discussed at the February meeting.

Donation Policy: This issue will be addressed at the March Board meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

100th House Anniversary: Ms. Kautz reviewed events planned or under discussion for each month of 2010 as part of the year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of the House. She will e-mail to Board members the list of events planned thus far.

Draperies: Ms. Kautz will ask Lucille McKey to recommend a drapery expert to advise about rechanging House draperies.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Gala Discussion: Ms. Reese requested Board input about hosting a gala in November 2010. Discussion topics included venue, cost, theme, sponsors, event types, fundraising and event dates. A less-formal event was generally favored. Ms. Reese will invite a caterer to attend the next meeting, and will research costs to rent the Coral Gables Women's Club, the Cocoplum Women's Club, the Coral Gables Museum Community Room and Merrick House.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 8, 2010, 8:45 a.m., Merrick House.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Minutes of Coral Gables Merrick House Governing Board meeting of January 12, 2010