

SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of April 12, 2010 meeting
Coral Gables Youth Center

MEMBERS	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	APPOINTED BY
Catherine Fahringer	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Norma Lemberg	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	P			Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Marilyn Bruno				P	P	P	P	E	P			Comm. Maria Anderson
Dr. William Schiff	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Frank Lynn	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P			Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Evelyn Budde	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P			City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Carol Brock	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P			Senior Citizens Advisory Board

A = Absent
C = Cancelled
E = Excused absence
P = Present
N = No quorum
R = Recessed
S = Sick
V= Vacant Position

STAFF:

Fred Couceyro
Parks & Recreation Director

Paul Hunt
Senior Services Coordinator

Anastasia Smith
Recreation Specialist-Senior Services

GUESTS:

Katie Kreter, resident
Coral Gables

Marli Lutz
Executive Director, Coral Gables @ Home

1. Chairperson Carol Brock called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. C. Brock welcomed Katie Kreter, Marli Lutz of Coral Gables @ Home and staff members to the meeting.
3. Approval of Board minutes from March 1, 2010 – A motion was made by Norma Lemberg and seconded by William Schiff to approve the meeting minutes of March 1, 2010. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board with Marilyn Bruno and Frank Lynn abstaining.
4. Approval of Excused Absences – none

5. Senior Services Divisional Reports:

a. Report on Senior Services – Paul Hunt

The Senior Taxi Discount Program has ended as of March 31. All 400 coupons were sold. The FIU Graduate Students, with support from the Senior Services Coordinator (who is also a FIU faculty member) and a faculty member from the Occupational Therapy program, are finishing the last of the telephone interviews. The students have prepared a Poster Presentation on the project, using the first two groups of participants and the Poster Presentation was displayed at FIU as part of their course requirements. Among a variety of interesting findings was that 86% of the participants responded that they have been using taxi and the program did not introduce them to using taxi. The final report will be probably available sometime in May.

b. Senior Center Programs – Anastasia Smith

A report was given on the number of participants in each of the classes. The Senior Luncheon had 222 participants and was considered a success. There was a discussion as to why the invitation was changed and the response was that the decision was not made at the Parks and Recreation level. Anastasia Smith and Letty Ellis did call everyone on the list before the Luncheon. Carol Brock reported that the thank you letters had been sent. William Schiff discussed that the Palace wanted to be the sole sponsor for the next Art Show and also the sole sponsor for the next Senior Luncheon. The collaboration with the Palace on this Senior Luncheon went very well. Marli Lutz was thanked for her good article about the Senior Luncheon on the Gables Home Page. Katie Kreter was very complimentary and the feedback from the seniors was very positive. Mari Lutz commented that seniors she spoke with said they prefer a speaker that does not remind them that they are old and would like a comedian in the future.

6. Old Business

a. Possible foundation

Carol Brock reported that she had met with staff from the City of Coral Gables Finance Department to see if the City could help with the applications for incorporation of a non-profit foundation and tax-exempt status. The report back was that the City was not able to help but suggested the Coral Gables Community Foundation or the War Memorial Youth Center Association, both of whom already have the necessary legal status.

7. New Business

Discussion was held on the possibility of Academica School (K-8) moving into the University Baptist Church (UBC). There is support for this but there is also opposition. Carol Brock reported that she had met with the Finance Director of the UBC and was told that Academica was looking for a ten-year lease on the UBC facility and would operate also with 110 preschool students. There is discussion in the community as to whether, as a school, Academica would need further permission from the public to open the school. Some feel that UBC would need to file for the change in status. UBC does intend to

continue to make space available for programming for seniors although there might be some reduction in the amount of space.

8. Open Items

There was a discussion about any progress toward locating a senior center in the City. The American Legion Hall does not appear to be a realistic alternative. The possibility of space in the new Palace was discussed but no agreement has been reached. Marilyn Bruno reported that the Coral Gables Arts Cinema (across from Books and Books) is not opposed to providing space for seniors for lectures some mornings during the week.

There was a discussion about the Senior Art Show. The Palace would like to be the sole sponsor next year and would cover the expenses. There was some concern expressed that the same people have won prizes in consecutive years. There was a concern that some other participants might not participate because some of the same people won in more than one year. No resolution of the issue.

Marli Lutz congratulated Paul Hunt for quickly resolving one of her client's eviction problems after the Elder Helpline had her on hold for hours.

There was a discussion that the May meeting would be officially the last meeting of the year so elections would need to be held in May so that the new officers could take their places in June. However, the City Commission often does not complete their appointment process by May and all appointees are held over until new appointments are made. The process of electing Carol Brock as the Board's appointment was also discussed. A request was made to review the terms of the appointments and see if the appointments and the position of Chair and Vice-Chair were for one year or two years.

9. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board will be held on **Monday, May 3, 2010** at 5:00 p.m. at the Coral Gables Youth Center at 405 University Drive.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.