

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS
 CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 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	A		Raul Valdes-Fauli
Patricia Sowers	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P		Patricia Keon
Blake Sando	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		Vince Lago
Richard Whittington	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	E	P		Frank C. Quesada
Marie-Ilene Whitehurst	P	E	P	E	P	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:

No Guest

CITIZEN ADVISORS:

1. Bonnie Blaire
2. Debbie Dietz

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Sando called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

MEETING ABSENCE:

Mr. Adrian Mesa had an unexcused absence

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

October 11, 2017 – pending minor corrections regarding Attendance Code

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2017.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Sando asked in regards to the email which was sent to new board member Mr. Mesa notifying him of meeting. Ms. Hernandez advised that Mr. Mesa had been contacted about meeting and stated that he would be present; no further information had been received from Mr. Mesa.

Dr. Whittington asked regarding the attendance key code in the minutes. In response to Dr. Whittington's question, Ms. Elejabarrieta advised that the key code EA would be taken out.

Dr. Whittington asked if telephone conferencing into meeting is now an option. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated due to board member Ms. Sowers unable to obtain childcare, the board had agreed during last meeting to allow Ms. Sowers to participate via telephone for this meeting. Ms. Sowers advised that the caregiver would be back on the 5th of December and she will be able to be present for the next meeting on December 6, 2017.

Dr. Whittington stated he had no objection to it, however if it was available to other members as well. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that it would be up to the board to approve, however she believes it is not something that the board would like for everyone to participate via phone. Ms. Blaire stated that she believes that there is a requirement that a majority, certain number of board members are in physical attendance, said it would be best to verify with City Attorney Craig Leen.

Mr. Sando stated that he believes it would be best to address on a case by case. Mr. Sando stated that if needed as protocol an e-mail should be sent to Ms. Elejabarrieta and arrangement could be made for the board member to attend a given meeting via phone, however it would be preferable for members to be present if available.

Mr. Sando stated that while on the subject, he wanted to advise that he will not be able to attend the upcoming meeting scheduled for December 6, 2017, due to being in trial in Sarasota and he will be on vacation out of state for the next meeting on January 3, 2018. Mr. Sando stated he is therefore informing board at this time that he will not be available for either of these dates. Ms. Whitehurst advised that January 3, 2018, would also be an issue with her.

Mr. Sando asked what would be the boards thought regarding going forth for December 6, 2017 and January 3, 2018. Ms. Sowers stated she is available for both of these dates. Mr. Sando stated that it would be fine for Ms. Whitehurst whom is the vice chair to run both meeting. Dr. Whittington stated that due to it being just at beginning of year, it would be best just to cancel meeting all together. Mr. Sando asked regarding a motion to cancel January 3, 2018.

Motion by: Dr. Whittington / 2nd: Ms. Sowers / Approved Unanimously

Mr. Sando stated December 6, 2017 meeting will go forward and he will not be present.

Minutes:

Mr. Sando stated that the minutes for October 2017 need to be approved and in regards to Dr. Whittington point regarding notation in attendance should be corrected to be reflected as E.

Motion: by: Ms. Whitehurst / 2nd: Ms. Sowers / Approved Unanimously with the one final revision.

Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that in the August minutes the attendance of Mr. Mesa was reflected as an unexcused absence, which was incorrect because he was not been confirmed until September 2017. Dr. Whittington stated that Mr. Mesa's name was not included in the October 2017 meeting minutes as an appointee. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated this would be reviewed.

Board Members Report: None

Old Business:

Mr. Sando stated that he attended the Ethic Training and it was very comprehensive. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that she believes the training was recorded and is available to those that did not attend.

Ms. Debbie Dietz – Supper Club Event – Update

Ms. Dietz advised that the event held at CPK was a successful event and approximately 25 people attended. Ms. Dietz stated that the restaurant (CPK) was very accommodating.

Ms. Dietz stated that she is looking into having another event and feels that December 4, 2017 would be the next best date to have it. Ms. Sowers and Ms. Whitehurst agreed that December 4, 2017 is a good date. Ms. Dietz stated she would visit John Martin's and see if they are able to accommodate for such event. Mr. Sando stated that he personally knows Mr. Martin and would be glad to reach out to them directly via email and would include Ms. Dietz on email as well.

Ms. Whitehurst suggested perhaps changing starting time of event to 6:00pm. However, it was determined it remain at 6:30pm. Ms. Dietz also stated concern regarding RSVP, how to best proceed regarding this.

Ms. Sowers stated that she feels that at this next event there will be more participants attending. Ms. Sowers stated it was great how Ms. Dietz had arranged with restaurant in regards to paying individually and how happy participants were.

Ms. Whitehurst stated that if a flyer is made it could be distributed at upcoming CARD event on November 9, 2017. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that from the City's perspective is important that the expectations are clear that this is not a City sponsored event. Ms. Dietz stated that she did invite

the Commissioners. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated the City advertised the prior event via its social media and will continue to do so. Ms. Elejabarrieta also stated that Commissioners did address this during last commission meeting. Mr. Sando suggested that at next event a group picture be taken.

Suggestions and Ideas for 2018

Mr. Sando stated that he had scribbled down some ideas for board regarding next year:

- 1) *Guest* – Guest can be invited to come in to address board providing information of the services they can provide and/or status of pending projects
- 2) *Outreach to Community* – Schedule to hold board meetings at outside locations in order to facilitate access to board by residents whom otherwise will not be able to access the board.

Ms. Blaire stated that another event to have maybe in the form of an open forum where the City can partner up with other entities or actually just manage on its own, in order to bring in the necessary resources and information to those who need it in the community. Mr. Sando asked how it would be best for the board to precede logistically in this matter. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated it would be noticed just like a regular meeting and then set an agenda as to what is wanted to be accomplished at the meeting.

Ms. Blaire stated the board may also want to consider looking beyond the City and research with whom can the board partner up with in order to bring in resources regarding an outreach program. Ms. Whitehurst stated that Miami-Dade County sponsors a yearly Disability Fair and she may be able to try to reach them in order to obtain more information.

Ms. Dietz stated that this issue comes up every year, in regards to accessibility to City of Coral Gables Holiday Park. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that there is now a new vendor and they have advised this year it will be accessible. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that this was an RFP requirement. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that the City did everything possible last year in an effort to make it more accessible by contacting City of Miami, borrowing mats, had one entrance completely accessible and rented chairs (beach chairs) with the large wheels.

Mr. Sando asked the board in regards to their thoughts of having an open forum style meeting in the future where people can express their concerns and needs. Ms. Whitehurst stated she believes the idea is a wonderful however in order for it to be a successful event; the entire board would have to commit to it due to the volume of work and effort required. Ms. Sowers stated her concern in regards to doing this is that board maybe spreading themselves too thin. Mr. Sando stated that this does not have to be determined at this time, but can just be out there and revisited in the future. Ms. Sowers stated she wanted to address regarding awards for restaurants/business which participate in events regarding the needs of people with disabilities. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that this was the resolution which was passed and commission has asked staff who are currently working on it, to come up with requirements for award. Mr. Sando stated that it would be best that a few more events are held and feels it would be best to present these awards during

the month of October, being Disability Month. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that once a draft is completed regarding requirements, it will be brought to the board for review and suggestions prior to being finalized, which is very important that board provides input.

Mr. Sando asked Ms. Blaire regarding the past Disability Fair which she had mentioned that was held at the City Country Club. Ms. Blaire stated it was sponsored by City in partnership with the board where all types of vendors came in and provided information on their services. Ms. Blaire stated there were representatives from Miami-Dade County, private vendors, etc.

Mr. Sando asked does City provide space at no cost for these types of events. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that at this time she does not believe that the City has resources to conduct/sponsor an event of this type. Mr. Sando stated that it would be something that it would be great to have such an event on a Saturday afternoon during Disability Month in October. Mr. Sando stated it may take a lot of time and effort to set this up and he will be reaching out to others whom have organized these types of events. Ms. Whitehurst stated that it needs to be researched starting now. Mr. Sando stated that even if it is not sponsored by the City, board may be able to research and he will be looking into it.

Ms. Blaire stated she recalls a large event which was held on several occasions where school children came in bus loads and were at the City Youth Center. Ms. Blaire stated she believes it may have been a school event, but was held in City venue. Dr. Whittington asked in regards to having meeting minutes available for review. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that they are available electronically but not sure how far back they go and she will try to find out.

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised update regarding repair to ADA restroom, stating it would be completed by end of next week. Ms. Elejabarrieta advised regarding the Bocce ball program, first day there was not much turn out due to Hurricane Irma and the program will be relaunched sometime prior to end of year, board to be advised.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by: Ms. Whitehurst / 2nd: Dr. Whittington

Mr. Sando stated December 6, 2017 meeting will go forward and he will not be present.

Meeting adjourned 9:08 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 8:00am at the *Coral Gables Youth Center's Conference Room* – Board to be advised via email.