

SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of December 6, 2010 meeting

Coral Gables Youth Center

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

Anastasia Smith
Recreation Specialist-Senior Services

Letty Ellis,
Program Assistant-Senior Services

Tricia Spencer
Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

Patrick G. Salerno
City Manager

Marli Lutz
Executive Director, Coral Gables @ Home

Katie Kreter, resident
Coral Gables

Irma Micera, resident
Coral Gables

1. Chairperson Carol Brock called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m.
2. C. Brock welcomed the staff and guests to the meeting.
3. **Approval of Board minutes from November 1, 2010** – A motion was made by Evelyn Budde to approve the meeting minutes of November 1, 2010. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

4. **Approval of Excused Absences** – Catherine Fahringer made a motion to approve the excused absence of Dr. William Schiff. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

5. **Points of Discussion with the City Manager**

- a. Senior Center

The Board stated that the number one concern they had was the timeframe and plan for establishing a permanent Senior Center. The Manager responded that he is working on finding a funding mechanism for a permanent senior center. Once funding has been established, the Manager estimated the time frame for opening a Senior Center would be approximately 2 ½ years to 3 years from design to completion of construction. The Manager also noted that he believes this matter is a high priority for the City Commission. He cautioned about pursuing facility options that won't meet the needs of our growing senior population.

- b. Senior Programs

In response to questions about the expansion of senior programs, the Manager explained the current financial restraints the City is under, and cautioned the Board that additional funds are difficult to allocate at this time.

- c. Somerset Academica

The Board asked about the current arrangement with the University Baptist Church and future issues that may arise if Somerset Academica increases their student capacity. The Manager responded that he had been given assurances from the Church's senior pastor that the senior programs would continue at the Church as a service to the community.

- d. The Palace

The Board also inquired about available senior space at The Palace. The Manager responded that a space at The Palace would have limitations both in size of space and configuration of space that would not make it a good fit for the needs of the senior program.

- e. Tax Deduction Account

The Board inquired if the City would have a mechanism for accepting donations from donors that would in turn receive a tax deduction for the donation. The Manager responded he is awaiting a response from the City Attorney's Office as to whether the City can provide a donor with a tax deduction. The Manager also stated donations can be received by the City and designated for senior program purchases immediately if the donor was not seeking a tax deduction.

f. Grants

The Board inquired about possible grant funding to help with the financing of the center. The Manager stated that the City would continue to look for all possible funding mechanisms. Mr. Couceyro added that there are no current grant opportunities available for a senior center. He also stated that the City would pursue any grant opportunities if they become available.

g. Communications

Marilyn Bruno inquired if it was possible for Coral Gables Television to have a show for seniors and also to video tape the lectures given at the Adult Activity Center for seniors that are unable to attend senior activities. The Manager thanked Dr. Bruno for the suggestion, and stated that he would have the staff work with the Board on this project.

Carol Brock thanked the City Manager on behalf of the Board for coming to speak at the meeting.

10. **Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board will be held on **Monday, January 10, 2011** at 5:00 p.m. at the at the Coral Gables Youth Center located at 405 University Drive, Coral Gables 33134.

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.