

# City of Coral Gables

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



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 6, 2022

4:00 PM

Adult Activity Center

### Senior Citizens Advisory Board

*Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin*

*Vice Chairperson Celia Suarez*

*Board Member Jean H. Connelly*

*Board Member Margaret Groves*

*Board Member Kelley Schild*

*Board Member Julian Sevillano*

*Board Member Richard Thurer*

*Board Member Hendrick Woods*

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Meeting began at 4:00pm**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 5 - Chairperson Berlin, Vice Mayor Suarez, Board Member Schild, Board Member Sevillano and Board Member Thurer

**Excused:** 2 - Board Member Connelly and Board Member Woods

**a. Roll Call and Approval of Absences**

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABSENCE OF JEAN CONNELLY AND HENDRICK WOODS WAS MADE BY RICHARD THURER AND WAS SECONDED BY JIM BERLIN. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**a. Approval of September Meeting Minutes**

A MOTION TO APPROVE LAST MEETINGS MINUTES WAS MADE BY KELLY SCHILD AND WAS SECONDED BY RICHARD THURER. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

**a. General Updates:**

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson began her report by going over staffing updates, noting that the AAC maintenance worker Tadary has resigned, and the position is currently open and being advertised online for applicants.

Katherine went on to discuss upcoming events including the first annual AAC Halloween Spooktacular scheduled for October 28th, the 14th Annual William M. Schiff Art Show scheduled for November 18th, and the Annual Holiday Luncheon scheduled for December 16th. Noting that tickets are on sale for the Halloween Spooktacular and that the facility began to accept applications for the art show on Monday. She also informed the board about the upcoming Afternoon at the Cinema on October 29th at 1pm showing "The Omen" for which we already have the tickets available.

Katherine then went on to discuss new programs that have begun in October, noting that facility hours have now been expanded to 7pm on Tuesdays in which the facility is holding a ballet class, and that the start of Mind & Melody is still set to begin in October, but the start date has now been pushed to October 18th.

Katherine then discussed new programming that she is trying to bring into the facility, noting that they are working on bringing a Gentle Yoga class starting Fridays in November, a technology class that she hopes will be able to begin in November, and beginning a monthly ceramics class on Tuesday nights.

Katherine then went on to discuss some presentations that are set to take place throughout the month of October starting with a dental health presentation on October 12th being hosted by a local dentist Dr. Aldama, a SHINE presentation regarding Medicaid & Medicare open enrollment on October 21st, and a Health Fair to be put on by the University of Saint Augustine for the end of October. She then mentioned that Patrick Alexander has reached out to inquiring about having a book reading at the AAC for his book "Building Paradise" which has been scheduled for November 9th at 6pm. Katherine then went on to bring up that Mayor Lagos office has reached out to schedule a Town Hall meeting at the AAC that will take place on November 2nd at 6pm.

Katherine then mentioned that the AAC plans to be open on Saturdays, and that the facility has already found someone to lead both a Zumba class and a Stretching and Toning class Saturday mornings, and that she hopes to follow these classes with pickleball time and that there has even been contact with a pickleball instructor to hopefully set up time for lessons for beginners.

**b. Special Events**

Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro launched into a discussion regarding pickleball throughout the City for Coral Gables, stating that he was going to be giving a presentation the following Tuesday regarding the different ideas that are being

considered to meet the needs of the city when it comes to pickleball courts. He has concluded that there are two ways in which the city can meet the needs for additional pickleball courts, either by building new courts specially designed for the use of pickleball, or by taking existing courts and adding the necessary lines to create more playable space for pickleball. He then went on to say that both ideas have been exercised by the Community Recreation department and that there are plans in place to help increase the number of pickleball courts that exist within the city and that these are being pushed through to help meet the needs of the city.

### c. Administrative Updates

Director Couceyro then discussed a meeting he had with Board Member Richard Thurer relating to the recent legislation passed by the state of Florida allowing the banning of smoking by local governments at all parks, stating that he met with both the City Attorney and the Assistant City Attorney who are now currently drawing up an ordinance so that they may present it to the City Commission during the first meeting in November. Board Member Richard Thurer then inquired as to the way in which this ordinance will be enforced, to which Director Couceyro stated that the current idea is to have code enforcement handle these violations in a similar manner to “dog off leash” violations or littering, however those details have not been completely worked out as to this point.

Director Couceyro then brought up the ongoing discussions to increase the number of dog parks within the city, stating that there is an attempt being made to build a dog park within Salvador Park and a portable dog park in Catalonia. Director Couceyro then stated that there is a property that may be obtained by Community Recreation soon that they hope to be able to turn into a dog park and that the dog park underneath the Underline is officially underway.

Director Couceyro then notified the Board that the Community Recreation budget was approved, giving money for some needed projects and to help continue moving forward with the country club. Director Couceyro also informed the Board that the pool at the country club has officially been filled with water and while there are still a few inspections set to take place he is hopeful that the pool will open by the end of next week. Board Member Kelly Schild then inquired about the prices for the café at the country club to which Director Couceyro acknowledged that the prices are high, however the cost of employees has been increasing along with the cost of supplies noting that they are working to keep the prices as reasonable as possible.

Director Couceyro then mentioned that they are planning to hold more member events at the country club to increase the membership rate, believing that with the opening of the pool they will see an increase in the number of memberships. Director Couceyro then went on to mention that they are expecting to see a sharp increase in the number of rentals with the upcoming holiday season and that there are a couple that have already been scheduled. Director Couceyro then went on to note some of the setbacks that the country club has seen recently, discussing a recent sprinkler malfunction that a roofing contractor triggered leading to damage to the ballroom floors that had just been installed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **a. Annual Report**

Board Chairperson James “Jim” Berlin began by discussing the annual report he had written and submitted to the other board members stating that he only received feedback from Board Vice Chairperson Celia Suarez and wished to discuss this feedback further. Chairperson Berlin discussed how he agreed with her that elderly is not his favorite term to use when describing the boards function, however that is how their function is officially described by the City of Coral Gables so Chairperson Berlin felt this term appropriate in this case. Chairperson Berlin then stated that he agreed with Board Vice Chairperson Suarez that the board should set the goal of inviting more commissioners to participate in their board meetings.

Director Couceyro then interjected to discuss something of interest he heard at a conference recently, where they discussed topics such as online dating and sex education for the elderly, noting that this may be a topic of conversation that would draw more men into the AAC.

### **b. November Elections**

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson then stated that she had reached out to legal regarding the possibility of hosting an open forum for election candidates at the AAC hosted by the Senior Advisory Board and was told that this would not be possible. She stated that legal did not any board involving themselves with elections. Katherine then talked about the idea of setting up a table for the advisory board at the annual meeting of the boards, in which she was told that this meeting is meant as a thank you to all the different board members and is not meant to be a forum in which to conduct business in the way the Senior Advisory Board was hoping. Board Member Kelly Schild then inquired as to the possibility of inviting sitting commissioners to host Town Halls at the AAC to which Board Vice Chairperson Celia Suarez responded saying that they may be able to invite them to the board meetings and advertise their attendance to the public.

Board Member Kelly Schild then inquired as to the possibility of having the AAC setup as a location where individuals can come to register to vote, to which AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson stated that she would look into whether or not something like that would be possible. The board then confirmed that they would like to reach out to Mayor Lagos office to invite him to the next senior Advisory Board Meeting.

### **c. Fall Plans**

**ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

**Next Meeting is set for November 3rd at 4:00pm**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting adjourned at 5:20pm**

**NOTE**