

City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.coralgables.com



Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 13, 2025

9:15 AM

Sister Cities Conference Room - Coral Gables Museum

Coral Gables Merrick House Governing Board

*Chairperson Genevieve Orr
Board Member Mary Beth Burke
Board Member Carmen Cason
Board Member Bonnie Crouch Seipp
Board Member Alexis Ehrenhaft
Board Member Joanne S. Meagher
Board Member Maria C. Onaghten*

The Merrick House Governing Board will be holding its Regular Meeting on Monday, October 13, 2025, commencing at 9:15 am EST.

Members of the public may join the meeting via Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83315833193>.

In addition, a dedicated phone line will be available so that any individual who does not wish (or is unable) to use Zoom may listen to and participate in the meeting.

Meeting ID: 833 1583 3193

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Find your local number: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/koHpBvqy7 305-461-6769](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/koHpBvqy73054616769) (Coral Gables local number)

To speak to the Merrick House Governing Board on an Agenda Item, please “Raise your Hand” or send a message to one of the meeting hosts using the Zoom Platform.

If you joined the meeting via telephone, you can “Raise your hand” by pressing *9.

The public may also comment on an item on the agenda using the City’s already-established e-comment function which may be found on the City’s website at: (www.coralgables.com/commissionmeetings) once the meeting’s agenda is published or by sending an email to cityclerk@coralgables.com prior to the start of the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was Called to Order at 9:20 AM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Board Member Cason, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke and Board Member Ehrenhaft

Absent: 1 - Board Member Meagher

Excused: 2 - Board Member Crouch Seipp and Board Member Onaghten

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. [25-9493](#) Merrick House Meeting Minutes for April 21, 2025

A motion was made by Board member Burke, seconded by Board member Cason, to approve the minutes for the April 21, 2025, Merrick House Board meeting. This motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 4 - Board Member Cason, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke and Board Member Ehrenhaft

Absent: 1 - Board Member Meagher

Excused: 2 - Board Member Crouch Seipp and Board Member Onaghten

2. [25-9913](#) Merrick House Meeting Minutes for August 11, 2025

A motion was made by Board member Burke, seconded by Board member Cason, to approve the minutes for the August 11, 2025, Merrick House Board meeting. This motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 4 - Board Member Cason, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke and Board Member Ehrenhaft

Absent: 1 - Board Member Meagher

Excused: 2 - Board Member Crouch Seipp and Board Member Onaghten

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. [25-9912](#) Merrick House Activity Report - September 2025

2. Chairperson Nominations

A motion was made by Board member Burke, seconded by Board member Ehrenhaft, to nominate Board member Orr as Chairperson of the Merrick House Governing Board. This motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 4 - Board Member Cason, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke and Board Member Ehrenhaft

Absent: 1 - Board Member Meagher

Excused: 2 - Board Member Crouch Seipp and Board Member Onaghten

3. Vice Chairperson Nominations

A motion was made by Board member Ehrenhaft, seconded by Board member Cason, to nominate Board member Burke as Vice Chairperson of the Merrick House Governing Board, This motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 4 - Board Member Cason, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke and Board Member Ehrenhaft

Absent: 1 - Board Member Meagher

Excused: 2 - Board Member Crouch Seipp and Board Member Onaghten

V. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Vintage Coral Market - Great event, good feedback. 58 tours occurred during this event.**

- 2. Fall Harvest - After much discussion, it was decided to table the Fall harvest event for this year.**

A motion was made by Board member Ehrenhaft, seconded by Board member Burke, to cancel the Fall Harvest event at the Merrick House on October 25, 2025. This motion passed by the following vote:.

Yeas: 4 - Board Member Cason, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke and Board Member Ehrenhaft

Absent: 1 - Board Member Meagher

Excused: 2 - Board Member Crouch Seipp and Board Member Onaghten

3. Holiday Open House - Sunday, December 7, 2025, 1:00 pm - 4:00pm

- Board member Orr has been trying to reach John Adams to portray Santa. Staff will coordinate with the Fire Department once he is confirmed.

- House Decorations - Coral Gables Garden Club will be decorating the house on December 4th, 10:00 AM - Noon.

- Tree Decorations - Merrick House Board members will decorate the Christmas tree on December 3rd, 9:00 AM - Noon.

- Victorian Carolers - Staff will reach out and confirm they are available.

- Bell Choir - Board member Cason will reach out to see if they are available.

4. January - Board member Orr discussed the mermaid that George Merrick brought to Coral Gables. She discussed a partnership with the Coral Gables Cinema for a special viewing and discount tickets. this event to occur on a Saturday afternoon, 01/04/2026.

A motion was made by Board member Burke, seconded by Board member Cason, to agree to work in partnership with the Coral Gables Cinema and show the movie on Sunday, January 4, 2026, that features the mermaid that George Merrick brought to Coral Gables. This motion passed unanimously.

Yeas: 4 - Board Member Cason, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke and Board Member Ehrenhaft

Absent: 1 - Board Member Meagher

Excused: 2 - Board Member Crouch Seipp and Board Member Onaghten

6. 100 Voices - Board members are working on the following speakers:

Anna Alas, Ink Drawings
Karelia Carbonell, Light Poles
Head of Spanish Consulate
UM Dean of Architecture

VI. CITY COMMISSION ITEMS

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Upcoming Event Dates:

11/08/2025 - Veterans Day Concert
11/10/2025 - Merrick House Governing Board Meeting
12/03/2025 - Tree Decoration
12/04/2025 - Decoration of House
12/07/2025 - Holiday Event
01/04/2026 - Mermaid movie at Coral Gables Cinema
01/24/2026 - Junior League of Miami Pop-up Event
February - 100 Voices
03/22/2026 - Vintage Coral Market
April - End of centennial event with city hall employees (cake)

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

1. Board members will nominate a new member of the board at the November 10, 2025, meeting. There are two resumes to review.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE