

**Communications Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 9, 2022**  
**8:30 a.m.**

**Committee:**

Connie Crowther, present  
Diana Arellano, Present  
Caroline Blumberg, Present  
Derrek Space, Absent  
T.J. Villamil, Present

**Staff:**

Martha Pantin  
Sandra Rodriguez

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m.

**I. Approval of minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes. Villamil made a motion, Crowther seconded. All were in favor.

**II. Coral Gables Family Literacy Project presented by Samuel Joseph, School Community Relations Committee**

Samuel Joseph, Vice Chair of the School Community Relations Committee discussed the upcoming Gables Family Literacy Festival. Event scheduled to take place on May 28 and is organized by the Community Recreation Department at the Youth Center. Purpose is to encourage literacy and to address the “summer slide” phenomenon. Books and Books will sell books at the festival and the Economic Development Department is working with local area consulates to represent different cultures and authors in an international village.

Joseph mentioned that there are eleven public schools within the Coral Gables boundaries and that they are working with School Board representative Mari Tere Rojas to engage public schools. Organizers are also working with private, charter and home-learning communities to get the word out about the event.

Last year’s event was a huge success with more than 1,500 in attendance. Event has been expanded and this year some programs will be held inside the Youth Center. Working with other partners like the Coral Gables Museum for additional programming.

Communications Division will work closely with Community Recreation marketing to promote the event.

Mr. Joseph requested that committee members reach out to him if they had any ideas and/or suggestions.

**III. South Gables Living Magazine**

Pantin shared a recent article about the Gables Farmers Market featured in the South Gables Living publication.

The next article will be about Earth Day celebrations in the city. She will plan to feature the Gables Family Literacy Festival for May.

Crowther volunteered to write an upcoming article.

Pantin also showed the committee the Communications Department master event calendar with city and non-city events throughout the year. She would share calendar with Committee.

#### **IV. An update on new recycling bins**

Pantin mentioned that recycling bin rollout had gone smoothly and reminded that old recycling bins can be recycled at the upcoming April 23 Drive-Thru Recycling event as well as the Farmers Market on March 19.

#### **V. Centennial celebration discussion**

Pantin has been in contact with local historian Paul George to discuss the celebration. The city has also been in contact with the University of Miami who is undertaking an oral history project just as the city plans to do.

City is leaning towards working with an outside party to spearhead celebration planning such as the Coral Gables Community Foundation. Pantin will be reaching out to them in the coming weeks to confirm interest.

#### **VI. Miscellaneous**

Crowther asked about the possibility of having the city manager or assistant city manager attend the next meeting to provide an update.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Member Crowther asked if there were any other items to discuss. With no other items, she asked for a motion to adjourn. Villamil made a motion, all agreed.