

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 9, 2026

9:30 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 Maria C. O'Naghten
Board Member Susan Rodriguez*

The Coral Gables Merrick House Governing Board will be holding its Regular Meeting on Monday, March 9, 2026, commencing at 9:30 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/koHpBvqy7305-461-6769) (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 9:32 AM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Board Member Cason, Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke, Board Member Ehrenhaft, Board Member Onaghten and Board Member Rodriguez

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[26-1299](#) Merrick House Meeting Minutes for February 9, 2026

A motion was made by Board member Burke, seconded by Board member Ehrenhaft, to approve the minutes for the February 9, 2026, Merrick House Governing Board meeting. This motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 7 - Board Member Cason, Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke, Board Member Ehrenhaft, Board Member Onaghten and Board Member Rodriguez

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Activity Report February 2026 - Yvelisse Bonilla read from the activity report submitted by Gay Bondurant, Docent Coordinator.**

2. **Museum Pass Program - Chairperson Orr expressed interest in participating in this program. The program allows a family of 4 free access to a list of museums. Staff to look into this program's details.**

A motion was made by Vice chairperson Burke, seconded by Board member Seipp, to request that Staff look into the Museum Pass Program to see if it benefits the Merrick House. This motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 7 - Board Member Cason, Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke, Board Member Ehrenhaft, Board Member Onaghten and Board Member Rodriguez

3. **Artifact for Display - Former Chairperson of the Merrick House board, Joanne Meagher, brought forward three items that are appropriate for display at the House. 1. needle point fire screen, 2. caned rocking chair, 3. tape dispenser/stamp licker.**

A motion was made by Board member Seipp, seconded by Board member Ehrenhaft, to accept the items: needlepoint fire screen, caned rocking chair and a stamp licker for display at the Merrick House. This motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 7 - Board Member Cason, Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke, Board Member Ehrenhaft, Board Member Onaghten and Board Member Rodriguez

4. **New Keys** - The Docent Coordinator, Gay Bondurant, has a copy of the new keys for all Docents. She will distribute.
5. **Budget** - Board members have requested monthly budget numbers for the House.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Stag Painting** - Artcare provided a restoration proposal for this painting. Restoration will cost \$13,000 to complete.

A motion was made by Board member Seipp, seconded by Vice Chairperson Burke, to approve the restoration work on the Stag painting for \$13,000 using the Trust Fund and the Villagers Grant. This motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 7 - Board Member Cason, Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke, Board Member Ehrenhaft, Board Member Onaghten and Board Member Rodriguez

2. **Library Partnership** - Chairperson Orr is proposing a program for the Merrick House lawn to increase community engagement. She will coordinate with the Library.
3. **Petals & Pastimes, An Ode to Althea** - To date this board has spent approximately \$3,600 on events and supplies for events. The board unanimously decided to eliminate the music for \$500.

A motion was made by Board member Burke, seconded by Board member Seipp, to approve the Croquet demonstration and the purchase of a blue tooth speaker for the Petals & Pastimes event. This motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 7 - Board Member Cason, Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke, Board Member Ehrenhaft, Board Member Onaghten and Board Member Rodriguez

4. **Vintage Coral Market** - The next event is scheduled for March 15, 2026. Ms. Castro will need to reapply to continue this event. Ms. Bondurant will advise on first floor tours of the house on this day.

VI. CITY COMMISSION ITEMS

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Upcoming Events:

Petals & Pastimes, An Ode to Althea
Fall Pumpkin Event/Harvest Festival
Veteran's Day Brass Concert
Pot Luck Dinner for Volunteers
Holiday Open House

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

IX. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was Adjourned at 10:47 AM.

NOTE