

**CORAL GABLES LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD**

Minutes of Meeting, October 14, 2015  
Coral Gables Branch Library, Meeting Room

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>APPOINTED BY</b>
Jane Maranos										-		P	Mayor Cason
Lisa Bennett										-		P	Vice-Mayor Quesada
Bonita Norman										-		P	Comm. P. Keon
Vacant										-	-		Comm. V. Lago
Donna Heisenbottle												P	Comm. J. Slesnick
Myra Silverstein										-		P	City Manager, C. Swanson-Rivenbark
Sherry Zhang										-		P	Board as a Whole

**STAFF:**

Bob Boberman, Board Secretary

Ayliin Hernandez, Clerical Assistant, Recording Secretary

**A = Absent**

**P = Present**

**E = Excused**

**GUESTS:**

Gia Arbogast, Miami Dade Public Library System Director

Kimbely Matthews, Miami Dade Public Library System Asst. Director

Raymond Baker, Miami Dade Public Library System Asst. Director

Rafael Costa, Miami Dade Public Library System Operations Administrator

Will Runyan, Miami-Dade Public Library System Branch Manager

Robert Saco, Coral Gables Resident

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**OPEN MEETING:**

The meeting was called to order by Lisa Bennett, Chair, at 3:00 p.m. The roll was taken and a quorum was present. **A motion was made to “Approve the minutes of June 10, 2015.” The motion was seconded, voted upon and passed with a unanimous vote.** The August meeting did not have a quorum

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ms. Arbogast, Miami Dade Public Library System Director, emphasized the relevance of libraries. They facilitate community and civic engagement as well as provide access to information that enables the public to acquire the skills to become lifelong learners. Libraries play a crucial role in work force development, computer literacy and bridging digital-divide. Ms. Arbogast pointed out how technology has transformed our information access and how different communities have different preferences. Some communities prefer the contemporary design versus the traditional or the historical design. The new Northeast Dade - Aventura Branch is an example of the contemporary design, Mac-driven and multifunctional library. Ms. Arbogast stated that communities vary and giving value to the needs and expectations of the neighboring community is a priority in the development process. She plans to use a public opinion survey to determine what would best serve the Coral Gables community. Ms. Bennett offered to recommend an FIU Marketing professor with experience in gathering public opinion on community issues. Ms. Maranos recommended using the E-news to encourage survey participation. The Merrick table and the four Throne chairs displayed in the lobby were

discussed. The board inquired if a sign could be placed to point out their historical value as well as to inform the public they are not for public use.

Mr. Baker, MDPLS Assistant Director, advised the new budget received additional funding which will facilitate the following improvements: the air conditioning system will be replaced, the fountains will be restored to operable conditions, a water softener will be installed to eliminate the water stains on the building's exterior resulting from the sprinkler system, the main doors will be refinished, and the building exterior will be pressured cleaned. The board recommended using a pressure cleaning company experienced in cleaning coral rock. Mr. Baker advised he will look into it.

Robert Saco, Coral Gables resident, shared his views. He expressed discontent with the overall condition of the Coral Gables Library. He mentioned the need for study rooms and structural change. He supported his views by comparing the Coral Gables Library to various libraries across the country. In response, Ms. Matthews, MDPLS Asst. Director, mentioned her diverse background in serving the library system in Washington State as well as New Jersey. She noted that Mr. Saco was not present when Ms. Arbogast mentioned the importance of the community's input in the design process and that a public opinion survey will be used. She assured there will be wonderful and exciting improvements. Ms. Norman mentioned that a suggestion box should be placed in the lobby. The board thanked Ms. Arbogast and her staff for their time.

**ANNUAL REPORT:** The board reviewed the Annual Report. Changes were requested. A motion was made to **"Approve the FY 2014-15 Annual Report with changes to the text under the Major Accomplishments section."** The motion was seconded, voted upon and passed with a unanimous vote.

**THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN BROCHURE:** Mr. Costa presented a draft brochure. The board reviewed the text prepared by Ms. Norman and agreed that it should be included in the brochure. Mr. Costa confirmed the changes will be made. Ms. Zhang offered to take a photograph of the Butterfly Garden for the brochure. Ms. Norman inquired who donated the benches in the garden. Ms. Bennett advised that Ms. Zhang can take photographs of the benches and the plaques, and they can be discussed in the future. The board requested a small site plan on the brochure to show the location of the Butterfly Garden. Ms. Norman revisited the request for signage identifying the garden and the plants.

**ELECTIONS:** Deferred to the next meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**JEAN WARD SCULPTURE RESTORATION UPDATE:** Ms. Norman advised that the Arts Commission recommended the sculpture be painted black. Ms. Hernandez advised that the Cultural Development Board met recently and requested that the Arts Commission review the following recommendation: "To relocate two of the Jean Ward sculptures from the Coral Gables Library grounds to Young Park, have them painted red and place each one on a base with an identification marker and proper lighting."

**LIBRARY FURNITURE UPDATE:** Mr. Runyan reported the furniture was reupholstered. The board expressed their appreciation.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE/BUTTERFLY GARDEN: None

LIBRARY HISTORY: Ms. Maranos advised that a Historic Lamp Post Restoration Project is in the process. Approximately, seventy lamp posts were found throughout the City. Two of the lamps are located on the library grounds but, they are covered by the landscape. A request was made to have the landscape around the lamp posts cut back. Ms. Maranos added that Florida Power & Light has some of these historical lamps in their possession and that the City of Coral Gables is in the process of repurchasing them. There is also a cluster of these historical lamps on Riviera Dr. and the Historic Preservation Board is working on a plaque to have their historical value identified. Ms. Maranos will provide future updates.

PUBLICATIONS & PUBLICITY: None

LIBRARIANS'S REPORT: Discussion developed on the special programs. *The Little Monster Tales* is a theater production that had excellent attendance. *Paws to Read* is a program in which children read to the dogs. Mr. Runyan mentioned that the number of the programs will increase. The board mentioned that social media should be used to advertise these programs. Mr. Runyan reported that the Russian novels had good attendance. Discussion developed on using the library space for community activity. Mr. Runyan advised the library supports events that are open to the public.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / GENERAL DISCUSSION:

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

APPROVED:



Lisa Bennett, Chair

ATTEST



Bob Boberman, Acting Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD  
WEDNESDAY, **DECEMBER 9, 2015**, AT 3:00 P.M.  
IN THE CORAL GABLES BRANCH LIBRARY MEETING ROOM  
3443 Segovia Street, Coral Gables, FL

