

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 8, 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 Maria C. O'Naghten
Board Member Susan Rodriguez

The Merrick House Governing Board will be holding its Regular Meeting on Monday, December 8, 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 9:19 am.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Board Member Meagher, Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke, Board Member Ehrenhaft and Board Member Onaghten

Absent: 1 - Board Member Cason

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. [25-1159](#) Merrick House Meeting Minutes for November 10, 2025

Minutes for the November 10, 2025, meeting, will be approved at the January 12, 2026, meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. [25-1160](#) Merrick House Activity Report - November 2025
2. **Bellows Camera - Chairperson Orr showed a sample of a Bellows Camera used by William Fishbaugh. This and another types of cameras were used to photograph the construction of Coral Gables.**
3. **Bench Program - To date, two have been sold. This occurred before the restoration of the House and the vendor that constructed the benches is out of business.**
5. **Docent Coordinator - Gay Bondurant will be out recovering for a while. Board member Burke suggests the House should be closed (12/20/25 - 12/21/2025, 12/27/2025 - 12/28/2025, 01/03/2026 - 01/04/2026).**

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Holiday Open House - The event on 12/7/2025 was deemed by all to be a success. Everyone worked together to make this a great event. Staff will need to re-order popcorn and popcorn bags.**

The Board discussed changing the time for this event. Vendors really just get one hour of selling opportunity. We should also print a poster of the agenda for the day. Board member Rodriguez offered to chair the 2026 Holiday Open House.

240 people toured the House.

A motion was made by Board member Burke, seconded by board member Seipp, to have the Yuletide Carolers at the 2026 Holiday Open House event, This motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 6 - Board Member Meagher, Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke, Board Member Ehrenhaft and Board Member Onaghten

Absent: 1 - Board Member Cason

2. Veteran's Day

A motion was made by Board member Burke, seconded by Board member Seipp, to have the Miami Top Brass Quintet at the next Veteran's Day concert and explore dining options. This motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 6 - Board Member Meagher, Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke, Board Member Ehrenhaft and Board Member Onaghten

Absent: 1 - Board Member Cason

3. Joanne Meagher Appreciation Dinner – Board members note it was a good opportunity for board members and Docents to connect. To date, payment to Ms. Orr was received from one board member.

4. Mermaid Movie – The informational flyer is going out on Wednesday, 12/10/25. Coral Gables Cinema is helping with a speech to attendees before the movie. Board member O'Naghten is working on a reception with Mayor Don Slesnick. Books and Books is also participating with a selection of books on mermaids.

- **10:00 am - Board member Seipp left the meeting.**

5. 100 Voices - The Board discussed not having 100 Voices events due to numerous other events scheduled.

A motion was made by Board member Ehrenhaft, seconded by Vice Chairperson Burke, that the Merrick House will not have 100 Voices event during Spring 2026. The motion passed by the following vote.

Yeas: 6 - Board Member Meagher, Board Member Crouch Seipp, Chairperson Orr, Vice Chairperson Burke, Board Member Ehrenhaft and Board Member Onaghten

Absent: 1 - Board Member Cason

6. Maintenance - Repair of the sunroom ceiling is starting today.

7. Junior League of Miami - Ms. Nguyen asked Board member Orr if she can use the House glassware for her event. Staff advised they are allowed to as stated in the rental application. We also have a security deposit form from this organization.

8. Centennial Event - "Cheers to the Next 100 Years"

04/29/2026 is the date the city was incorporated.

Board members will come up with ideas at the next board meeting suggestions included a band, parade, antique cars, mermaids, cake).

VI. CITY COMMISSION ITEMS

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

IX. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 10:17 am.

NOTE