

# **City of Coral Gables**

*405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
[www.coralgables.com](http://www.coralgables.com)*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, November 16, 2023**

**4:00 PM**

**<https://coralgables.zoom.us/j/86149844627>**

**Adult Activity Center**

**Senior Citizens Advisory Board**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

A MOTION TO CALL TO ORDER WAS MADE BY JULIAN SEVILLANO AND SECOND BY KELLY SCHILD. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **ROLL CALL**

### **a. Roll Call and Excusal of Absences**

Present: 5 - Chair Celia Suarez, Vice-Chair Kelley Schild, Board member Julian Sevillano, Board Member Jean Connelly and Board member James "Jim" Berlin

Excused: 2 - Board member Hendrik Woods and Board Member Richard Thurer

A MOTION TO EXCUSE THE ABSENCE OF HENRICK WOODS WAS MADE BY JEAN CONNELLY AND SECOND BY KELLY SCHILD. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

### **a. Approval of October meeting minutes**

A MOTION TO APPROVE OCTOBER MEETINGS MINUTES WAS MADE BY JAMES "JIM" BERLIN AND WAS SECONDED BY JULIAN SEVILLANO. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

**a. General Updates**

AAC Assistant Supervisor Gregory Walters started by stating that the Art Show would be held the following day, and that the art will be judged after the board meeting.

AAC Assistant Supervisor Gregory stated that he is in the process of finalizing the spring schedule; therefore, we hope to have that determined by December. Resident registration will begin on December 4, and non-resident registration for January will begin two weeks later, on December 18. And that is precisely what is occurring at this moment.

**b. Special Events**

On Friday, November 17th, from 6pm to 9pm, the 15th Annual Dr. William M. Schiff Art Show will also be held. The registration deadline was November 3rd. Assistant Supervisor Greg proceeded to inform the board about An Afternoon at the Cinema, which will take place on Saturday, December 2 at 12 p.m. The AAC Annual Holiday Luncheon will be held from 1pm to 4pm on Friday, December 15th.

According to AAC Assistant Supervisor Greg, the senior advisory board will evaluate the 15th Annual Dr. William M. Schiff Art Show after the meeting. He also mentioned that they have decided to work with two of our patrons. One is a former gallery curator whose spouse is an artist and may come in just to walk around with you all as you all judge.

Vice-Chair Kelly Schild asked in terms of Supervisor. AAC Assistant Supervisor Greg replied he'll be the interim in the meantime. Director Fred said that we closed applications. He believes there are five internal candidates worth interviewing. Greg is one of the candidates. We'll interview, and hope we find an internal applicant. It will be someone with experience who has worked in the city previously, and we'll see how the interviews go, but we have some good individuals, so we're certain we'll make a solid pick and you'll be pleased with it. Greg will act interim till then. He can't work six days a week. Susan will assist with administrative matters while he's away. I'll come if Susan can't, like when Katherine was out. Some days he was at the center all day.

**c. Administrative Updates**

Director Couceyro quickly went over some of our upcoming events, which include Parks Pollinator Patch at the War Memorial Youth Center on Saturday, Nov. 18 at 9 a.m. and forthcoming events for the month of December, including the City of Coral Gables Holiday Tree Lighting Spectacular 2023 - Friday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. and Hot Chocolate with Santa - Saturday, Dec. 16th and Sunday, Dec. 17 at 10a.m., Rev up the Holiday Spirit with friends, family and Santa on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 9 a.m. and the Junior Orange Bowl Parade 2023 on Sunday, Dec 10th at 5p.m.

Director Couceyro informed the board of important community meeting information, presumably in January. He is waiting for project schematics, final plans, and projects

to show the community our two parks between Carver Elementary and Carver Middle. Nellie B. Moore and Cooper Park. We'll design there. We're creating two parks there. Phillips Park's final design elements are still awaited. We showed an idea in the commission, however we need the final design and details to highlight the neighborhood. That massive project has been discussed for commission several times. Due to its \$9.5 million cost, it will have a massive, state-of-the-art playground. There will be a splash pad and water park. There will be pickle ball courts. A soccer field with artificial grass. Renovated basketball, tennis, and walkways are coming.

Director Couceyro continued with Blue Road and Toledo and Alava and Park Project. We had community input, and we provided the designer modifications. Granada Pro Shop is now open. People like the design. Halfway into the building. We acquired the other half, the Granada Diner. Our construction company, John Bell, strives to meet all submittal and equipment requirements on time. A project timeline is my aim for the next two or three weeks. Because they're ordering so much kitchen equipment, some won't be available for over a year, so they're waiting on specifics. We must examine alternatives. Forecast the schedule in the next weeks.

The Venetian Pool concession stand was described by Director Couceyro. A new kitchen is also being built there. The procedure is underway. Already constructed and begun. The pool bottom will be done by the contractor. We'll paint and fix the pool bottom to appear good. Pool closure occurs shortly after Thanksgiving.

According to Director Couceyro, the Granada Golf Shop will open at the end of the month. We're also considering a ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 4th. We're still waiting for Commission and City Manager's Office approval. Construction on the shop's dining portion is set to begin soon.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **a. Follow up - Workshop Plans**

- Senior Quality of Life
- Senior Pros & Cons
- Health Care & Aging
- Cost of Housing
- Senior homelessness
- Board Sunshine Rules & Board Liaison

Chair Celia Suarez advised adding this subject to the next meeting owing to time constraints from the art show judging.

## **ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

Next meeting date December 7, 2023 at 4 p.m.

A MOTION TO POSTPONE THE DECEMBER MEETING TO JANUARY 11 DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS WAS MADE BY JAMES (JIM) BERLIN AND WAS SECONDED BY JULIAN SEVILLANO ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## ADJOURNMENT

5:11pm

## NOTE