

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 13, 2019

5:00 PM

The Board meets the first Thursday of each month.
Coral Gables AAC, 2 Andalusia Ave, Coral Gables, FL 33134
Senior Citizens Advisory Board

CALL TO ORDER

@ 4:56pm

ROLL CALL

All Board Members present.

Julian Sevillano- newly appointed member replacing Hendrik woods.

Guests:

Edward English- Potential member to replace Evelyn Budde after term is completed.

Mitchell Zuriarrain- Administrative Assistant, Community Recreation

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved to approve by Jane Mass. Richard Thurer second the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

No business was discussed from previous meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Jane welcomes Julian Sevillano and Edward English to the meeting and asks them to give a brief introduction of themselves.

The board gives Julian and Edward a brief introduction of themselves as well.

Mitch inquired if Mr. English was appointed or invited. He stated he was invited by a commissioner, to see if he was a good fit for the board.

Jim Berlin attended the family symposium run by the AARP. The vice mayor of Cutler Bay Sue Loyzelle, gave him copies of their proposal and worksheets that we may learn from. They were one of the first cities in Florida, to have the Age Friendly recognition.

Manny stated that Miami Dade County and City of Coral Gables are an Age Friendly Community. Manny is still collecting surveys and submitting them to AARP. It is a city wide initiative. AARP guides us in what we need to do, in order to maintain our status.

Mitch brought up the master Plan and how it will be a guiding document. He spoke about the focus Group. Jim noted that he and Evelyn attended the session and were disappointed as to how little the aging part and the AAC were mentioned.

Jim referenced back to the symposium. He said that there were two sections important to us, housing and ADU's. These are things that you might do to your home for an elderly person to be able to live there. Zoning is against it and prohibits it. Transportation and accessibility were also discussed. The last topic in the symposium was discussing a dementia friendly community.

In regards to the Senate Draft, Manny sent an email of the draft to the board.

Rick Scott is sponsoring it. It is modifying the older Americans Act to 1965. There was a deadline of 6/14/19 to participate in it.

AAC Supervisor status: Manny is currently acting as the interim supervisor. Over 350 applications were submitted, and it has been narrowed down to 10 finalists. Hopefully, interviews will begin over the next couple of weeks. Mitch stated that in order to prepare for summer, the process was slightly delayed. Mitch revealed that both internal and external candidates were very strong Candidates. He also explained what the hiring process entails. He

expects that by the 4th of July holiday, they will have a candidate selected. Once chosen, the individual will be fingerprinted, have a background check and also drug tested. The process can take up to three weeks, or sometimes longer as references are checked and verified.

Status of the Budget: Mitch states that the budget is balanced. All the cuts have been summited. The first budget workshop has taken place and the second budget workshop will happen. It will then be presented to the commission.

Jim wanted to know what “the budget is balanced “means. Mitch explained we are not over spending; all projected projects are being saved for. We basically are right where we should be.

He stated that the parking situation is costing a lot of money. That we need to reevaluate the way we do business with the Palace and re negotiate the development agreement, between the City of Coral Gables and the Palace.

Celia Suarez wanted to go on record, stating that anyone participating in a class should not have to pay for parking. She was assured by Mitch and Manny that would not happen. Jim added that we had put one restriction in place so far. We only pay for the time a participant is actually in a class at the AAC.

Mitch added that we have never had anything in writing, regarding that we pay for our patrons parking. What the process is, and how it works. What they are guaranteed every year. Manny is formulizing the process now, so that the commission will review that policy. The end result is to pay the bond off, which is a debt that the City of Coral Gables owes to the public.

Mitch also stated that hopefully in December, when we are through paying for the Duplicate Bridge Club’s rent, we will have the use of that money once again.

The board requested to Mitch, that some type of social worker or outreach program be put into place. He commented on the fact that we do have “Shine”

this is stationed at the Youth Center. The board brought up the surveys and how we can better get them distributed to the people that have needs in our community. Mitch did explain how fire is already involved with this.

Jane Mass asked if we had anyone in place for the emergency management yet. Mitch informed the board, that former chief Stolsonberg is the new

consultant for our EOC management. Mitch stated that a hurricane drill was scheduled here at the AAC for June 27th.

Mitch indicated that our department is in charge of post storm outreach for the vulnerable population. He also stated that the City of Coral Gables would be putting out a special hurricane magazine, with all pertinent information. Mitch added that after September, he could request Mr. Stolsonberg to come and address the board.

Mitch informed the board, that they will soon be receiving packets in the mail with financial disclosure forms. Jane mentioned that any new people need to be informed. She also stated that if you read the forms, you can pick, and there is an easier one to fill out.

Joan Valdes suggested to board, that individuals go to city hall. They will date stamp the form and notarize it. Mitch added that he can notarize as well if needed. Mitch also stated that they do not have to take it directly to the clerk's office. If they have the forms filled out, they can send them electronically. He stated that they do become public records at that time.

AAC SUPERVISORS REPORT

Jane asked Manny, regarding any updates for the AAC. Manny stated that we are currently in our slower season. Manny did state that the board could go on recess and pick up in the fall, if everyone was in agreement.

Manny did add that he wanted to commend Celia Suarez. Celia took over Maria's "Life in Motion" class while she was on break.

Manny told of Bella Smith's free upcoming opera concert. Light bites will be provided and it will be from 6:00 – 8:00.

Manny added that on July 5th, at 6:00 pm, we are having a presentation on the French Revolution. He is an avid historian and very well versed in European history. This is part of our first Friday's series that we do, to coincide with gallery night. The presenter's name is Juan Lluria, it is a free event and lite bites will be served.

Jim inquired as to how our Thursday nights and Saturday mornings are going. Manny stated that we do have an accessible program called Boccia and it is going very well. He stated that it really does cater to the mentally and physically disabled. He noted that it is a partnership with Erica; she is our special population's supervisor.

Mitch added that they have been aggressively trying to get a Special Olympics team together to play Boccia.

Manny noted that it has been a little harder getting people in on Saturdays. We have officially made Saturday, a pickle ball day.

Mitch let Manny and the Board know that it has been put into the capital request, to give the AAC the two courts at Salvadore and convert them into pickle ball courts. They hope to program them a lot. If it goes well, they might be able to convert one at Phillips Park. The cost is about 6,000.00 dollars. Mitch stated that it is not very expensive to bring a whole new program that has a high demand.

Mitch stated that the fourth of July is coming up at the Biltmore. He encouraged everyone to come out. If they know of someone that wants to be able to attend, and is unable to do the walk, they can go to the City's website under human resources. Once there, go to special accommodations and put in a request to be picked up.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

Jane brought up the summer schedule for board meetings.

Jane stated that last year they met in July and didn't meet in August.

Jim made the statement that he feels that the board is important enough to meet every month.

Richard Thurer wanted to do the same as last year.

Mitch added that Mr. English would not be appointed by July, because he will be appointed at a commission meeting, and there is only one for the month of July.

Jane stated that the next board meeting will take place July 11th, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

@ 5:53pm