

# City of Coral Gables

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



## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

4:00 PM

<https://coralgables.zoom.us/j/82882960727>

Coral Gables Country Club

**Coral Gables Golf and Country Club Advisory Board**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

**A MOTION TO CALL TO ORDER AT 4:10 P.M. WAS MADE BY PETER IZAGUIRRE AND SECOND BY ALBERT SANCHEZ. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **ROLL CALL**

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

**A MOTION TO EXCUSED RUBEN RODRIGUEZ AND GEORGE NAVARRO WAS MADE BY PETER IZAGUIRRE AND SECOND BY ALBERT SANCHEZ. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Present: 4 – Board member Sherry Celesia, Board member Peter Izaguirre, Board member Don Slesnick III and Board member Albert Sanchez**

**Excused: 2 - Board member Ruben Rodriguez and Board member George Navarro**

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

### **a. Approval of January Meeting Minutes**

**A MOTION TO APPROVE JANUARY'S MEETING MINUTES WAS MADE BY PETER IZAGUIRRE AND SECOND BY ALBERT SANCHEZ. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

**a. General Updates**

Country Club Division Director Mitch started his report by providing an overview of the programs that are currently being offered. These programs include kickboxing, boot camp, swim pro, and a monthly junior tennis clinic. One of the things that he emphasized was that the kids lounge is officially available from Monday through Thursday and weekends.

Country Club Division Director Mitch continued with the spring break bash on March 24 at eleven in the morning. He proceeded with the poolside service with Le Parc, as well as the Memorial Day weekend and the Fourth of July.

Country Club Division Director Mitch went on to discuss the pool hours, which are scheduled from March 1 through March 9 from 6:30 to 6:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday. Swimming lanes will be open from 6:30 am until 11:00 am. Afterward, at 4:00 p.m. up until 6:00 p.m. extending a little bit to give members time before summertime traffic jams occur from people using the area more for leisure and hangout than for physical activity.

Chair Don Slesnick III asked Country Club Division Director Mitch about any follow-up discussions regarding our guest handling policy, specifically regarding getting guests to sign documents. We moved past asking them to sign waiver after waiver. Mitch said the waiver will likely allow people in, but we need to protect liability. This is still the guests' responsibility. We stopped keeping them at the front desk and barring guests. He believes not signing it was the primary difficulty. Guests can fill out and give off a pool form after entering.

**b. Special Events**

Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt at the Country Club Grand Ballroom is scheduled to occur on Sunday, March 31st, 2024, as announced by Country Club Division Director Mitch. Each participant is required to possess a ticket, which is sold on an individual basis. For more information, please contact us at [events@coralgablescountryclub.com](mailto:events@coralgablescountryclub.com).

Country Club Division Director Mitch addressed the club's participation at the Community Recreation Department's Coral Gables Farmers Market booth on Saturday, March 2, 2024. They will promote athletic memberships and venue activities.

**c. Administrative Updates**

Director Couceyro began the report by informing that we have a new city manager who started working today. Yesterday, during the meeting of the commission, he was hired. Amos Ramos Jr. is the name of this individual. In addition to that, he served as a United States Marshal in the Southeast Office for a period of twenty-four years prior to his current position. Today, he had a strong start to the day. To his

knowledge, we have not encountered him. Tomorrow, in the afternoon, we will be holding a staff meeting with him, which will include the full department head staff. Consequently, that is the time when we will meet him.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Resident Frank Ambulio introduces himself to the country club advisory board as a Board member at large candidate. He explained that he had resided in the city for 14 years and joined the club. He also said he has several ideas to improve the member experience, offer value, and attract new members.

A brand-new advisory board member for the country club Sherry Celesia introduced herself to the board and shared her experiences of living in the city and being a member of the club over the course of her years.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Selection of Board Member at Large**

**A MOTION TO MOVE THE SELECTION OF BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE TO THE NEXT MEETING SO THAT THE WHOLE BOARD CAN MAKE A DECISION WAS MADE BY SHERRY CELESIA AND WAS SECONDED BY PETER IZAGUIRRE. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**b. Residents and Non-residents membership numbers**

Chair Don Slesnick III requested membership numbers from Country Club Division Director Mitch. Mitch said there are 989 residents as of January 30, 2024. Non-resident numbers are 164 as of January 30. You can see that you have an overwhelming number of residents compared to number, which makes sense for this type of institution because non-residents can go elsewhere. This is more central for residents. Most of you are walking distance or closer.

**c. Country Club Q1 update**

In the beginning, when we were given the responsibility of taking over the country club, there were a lot of unknowns. Deputy Director Carolina Vester continued to present with the advisory board a first suggestion for a business plan. As a group, we examined the first quarter of this year in comparison to the same period in the previous year in order to determine the current state of the country club in terms of its finances, expenditure, and revenues. Following this, we developed an updated business plan that was based on the original business plan, which included things that had never been implemented and things that were still in the process of being implemented.

**d. Athletic Club draft surveys**

Country Club Division Director Mitch stated that they are going to provide the advisory board with a more comprehensive version, and that we will be able to debate the matter in greater detail at the subsequent meeting. In addition, he would like to present the membership handbook to the board members.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:10 P.M. WAS MADE BY SHERRY CELESIA AND WAS SECONDED BY ALBERT SANCHEZ. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**NOTE**

