

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

2:00 PM

Coral Gables Public Library

Library Advisory Board

*Chairperson Melanie Zargham
Vice Chairperson Alfredo Sarria
Board Member Laura Hernandez
Board Member Samuel Joseph
Board Member Ruth Martinez
Board Member Zully Pardo*

The Library Advisory Board will be holding its Regular Meeting on Wednesday, June 12 at 2:00 PM.

Members of the public may participate in person but are also able to participate via the Zoom platform at <https://coralgables.zoom.us/j/84956880376>. 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 by dialing: 305-461-6769 Meeting ID: 849 5688 0376.

To speak on an Agenda Item, please "Raise your Hand" or send a message to one of the meeting hosts. If you joined the meeting via telephone, you can "Raise your Hand" by pressing *9.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: 3 - Board Member Joseph, Board Member Hernandez and Zargham

Absent: 3 - Board Member Martinez, Vice Chair Sarria and Board Member Pardo

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Board did not have quorum.

24-7628 Library Advisory Board Minutes - April 10, 2024

Attachments: [LAB - Minutes - April 10](#)

LIBRARY INTERIOR RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE (Facilitated by the M-DCPLS)

Lisa Thompson from the Miami-Dade County Public Library System (M-DCPLS) provided an update on the Coral Gables Branch renovation.

- M-DCLPS' Landscape Architect completed a tree survey and a certified arborist report. Both items will be used to complete a tree disposition and mitigation plan, which is expected to be completed by early to mid-July.
- Once the tree disposition and mitigation plan is received, M-DCLPS will meet with the City of Coral Gables' Greenspace Division to request feedback and approval of the items. A conceptual and landscape plan for the exterior of the Library will be developed after the approval.
- The chiller for the new air conditioning (A/C) unit was installed, and M-DCLPS was waiting on the delivery of the air handlers, which are the components installed in the interior of the building. Library closure is not expected with the system change. Substantial completion of the project was expected for the end of July. Removal of the temporary A/C expected for the end of August or beginning of September.
- There have been no updates on the cleaning of the building's exterior façade. M-DCPLS planned to embark on the project in early fall 2024.

The Coral Gables Garden Club has submitted a proposal to the City's Art Advisory Board and Catherine Cathers, the City's Arts & Culture Specialist, for installing a piece of art near the butterfly garden. Staff Liaison Sardinias mentioned that she plans to invite Ms. Cathers and Anna Pernas, the Director of Historical Resources and Cultural Arts, to the August meeting to discuss art placement on the Library Campus and the cleaning of the building's facade.

YOUTH CENTER PICKLEBALL PLANNING (Facilitated by Board Member Samuel Joseph)

Board Member Joseph informed the Board about a discussion at the City Commission level regarding the installation of pickleball courts at the Youth Center. Board Member Joseph initiated a discussion at the LAB meeting about how the installation of the courts would impact the Library in terms of parking, traffic, and the potential street closure of Riviera Dr. between the Youth Center and the Library. Board Member Joseph also mentioned that the Parks Advisory Board had submitted a resolution to the City Commission expressing their concerns about building pickleball courts at the Youth Center Complex. To facilitate the discussion, Parks and Recreation Director Fred Couceyro attended the meeting.

Director Couceyro began by discussing the growing popularity of the sport and plans to add 10 to 12 courts to different city facilities, although funding has not yet been secured. He also mentioned the proposed construction of courts on the rooftop of Garage 4, which was found to have accessibility issues due to the lack of an elevator, potentially causing ADA compliance problems. Additionally, he mentioned that the Youth Center option was brought up for a feasibility study, with two possible locations: the baseball field and closing Riviera Drive. However, due to public input, the City is no longer pursuing this option.

CORAL GABLES SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER RENOVATIONS / LIBRARY SERVICES SUPPORT PLAN (Facilitated by Board Member Samuel Joseph)

Board Member Samuel Joseph informed the board about the upcoming roof replacement of the Coral Gables Senior High School Media Center. The center is expected to be closed for a year. Board Member Hernandez reported that the media center had received new floors, a new A/C unit, and a fresh coat of paint. Additionally, Mr. Joseph suggested that the Board contact M-DCPLS for support in continuing literacy efforts by having the Technobus and Bookmobile (Mobile Library) visit the High School monthly during lunchtime. Mr. Joseph suggested that the Board formally request this resource for the high school.

OPEN DISCUSSION/ OTHER BUSINESS/ BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Board Member Joseph updated the Board on the resolution to name Literacy Row after the late Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick, stating that the City Commission passed the resolution.

Chairperson Zhargham requested an update from Director Couceyro on Ingraham Park. Director Couceyro informed the Board that his team is working on replacing the equipment at the park due to wear. The City had an activation at Ingraham Park of a game called Petanque (the French version of bocce ball) and a cleanup along the waterway. Director Couceyro further informed the Board that Ingraham Park is maintained by the City's Greenspace Division of Public Works and that they have been working on a landscaping project.

Present: 2 - Board Member Joseph and Board Member Hernandez

Absent: 3 - Board Member Martinez, Vice Chair Sarria and Board Member Pardo

ADJOURNMENT

NOTE