

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS  
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2014, 8:00 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	J 13	J 13	A 13	S 13	O 13	N 13	D 13	J 14	F 14	M 14	A 14	M 14	J 14	J 14	A 14	APPOINTED BY:
Sally Baumgartner	-	-	-	-	-	P	E	*	P	P	P	P	*	*	P	James C. Cason
Patricia Sowers	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	*	*	E	Patricia Keon
William Beckham	-	-	E	E	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	*	*	E	Vince Lago
Bonnie Blaire	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	*	*	P	William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Richard Whittington	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	E	*	*	P	Frank C. Quesada

**P – Present**  
**E – Excused Absence**  
**A – Absent**  
**(-) – No Appointment**  
**(\*) – No Meeting**

**STAFF:**

Sonia Succar, Environmental Specialist/Administrative Analyst  
Lorena Garrido, Central Division Supervisor

**GUESTS:**

1. Brenda Lampon MS, Brenda Lampon MS, *Performance Improvement Consultant, Florida Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)*
2. Katie Kreter, Senior Advisory Board

**CITIZEN ADVISORS:**

None.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Ms. Blaire called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**MEETING ABSENCE:**

Bill Beckham and Patricia Sowers were excused.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

- May 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Baumgartner moved to approve the May 7, 2014 meeting minutes. Dr. Whittington second the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** None.

**BOARD-RELATED COMMISSION ITEMS:** None.

**CITY UPDATE:**

Mrs. Blaire discussed the merging of the Public Works Department. The Department now includes the Landscaping, Waste, Parking and Automotive Divisions. She also welcomed the previous Public Works Director, Mr. Glenn Kephart who is now back with the City as Public Works Director.

**BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:**

Mrs. Blaire reported that on Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> the Annual Adult Health Fair will be held at the Youth Center between 10am to 1:00pm. She also reminded the Board that October is National Disability Awareness Month. Board members will be presented with the Proclamation by the City Commission.

**PROGRAM:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Since the last meeting, Mrs. Patricia Sowers and Mrs. Blaire reached out to the Coral Gables Chamber, specifically Mr. Molina who is the Chair of the Small Business Committee at the Chamber. The theme of their conversation was: *Small businesses have a need to know more about how best to serve customers, employees, and clients with disabilities. Simple stated, the starting point is to de-mystify erroneous notions about persons with disabilities. Follow that with some good information about accessibility, current tax benefits, practical pointers and new business opportunities.*

Mrs. Blaire stated that as a Board we can offer to assist the Chamber to identify goals appropriate to their organization. The Board also needs to determine how to best maximize a City-Chamber partnership in projects. An idea may be to reach out to businesses through the Chamber in order to place students from the Center for Independent Living HiTech Program to get work experience. Another idea would be to have the Chamber create a series of videos to de-mystify erroneous notions about persons with disabilities (similar to the employment success stories video shared by Ms. Lampon). Lastly, it will help businesses to have good information about accessibility and current tax benefits. This can easily be accomplished by asking Mark Dubin, (Center for Independent Living) to produce a workshop for merchants and restaurants regarding tax benefits and compliance issues.

It was also discussed with the Chamber that the Board is working on the audible street signals for Miracle Mile and the start of an employment initiative program. It would be good to see merchants advised and on-board with these efforts.

The Youth Center office for the (C.I.L) is still vacant due to lack of staff and funding. Zenaida Fernandez and Ellen Uggicione have volunteered to get trained in order to staff the (C.I.L) office. An additional volunteer would be needed. Mrs. Sowers has expressed interest. Katie Kreter from the Senior Advisory Board will also consider. Kelly Green from the (C.I.L) will train volunteers.

Ms. Lampon from (VR) discussed/brainstormed ideas for teaming-up with the (C.I.L) office. Ms. Lampon stated that the idea would be to provide more than just information at this office: collect referrals from the community and link those individuals to other services in the community.

Mrs. Blaire asked members what they envisioned for this office. Dr. Whittington suggested adding information on the City's website. Another suggestion was to keep a log of the calls that come into this office and tracking the outcome. Ms. Lampon's office has a model for this.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, September 3, 2014, 8:00 am to be held at the *Coral Gables Youth Center's 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room.*