

SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of November 2, 2009 meeting
Coral Gables Youth Center

MEMBERS	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	APPOINTED BY
Catherine Fahringer	P	P	P	P								Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Norma Lemberg	P	P	P	P								Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Marilyn Bruno				P								Comm. Maria Anderson
Dr. William Schiff	P	P	P	P								Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Frank Lynn	P	P	P	P								Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Evelyn Budde	P	P	E	P								City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Carol Brock	P	P	E	P								Senior Citizens Advisory Board

A = Absent

C = Cancelled

E = Excused absence

P = Present

N = No quorum

R = Recessed

S = Sick

V = Vacant Position

STAFF:

Luanne Santangelo
Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

Paul Hunt
Senior Services Coordinator

Anastasia Smith
Recreation Specialist-Senior Services

Tricia Spencer
Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

Katie Kreter, resident
Coral Gables

1. Chairperson Carol Brock called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. C. Brock welcomed Katie Kreter to the meeting and recognized new board member, Marilyn Bruno. She also expressed her appreciation to M. Bruno for volunteering in Senior Services and SHINE.
3. Approval of Board minutes from October 5, 2009 – A motion was made by Evelyn Budde to approve the meeting minutes of October 5, 2009. Motion was passed unanimously.

4. Senior Services Divisional Reports:

a. Report on Senior Services – Paul Hunt

The Pilot Taxi Discount Coupon Program which was initiated in September has sold 40 coupon books so far. One issue that someone encountered was that they were able to take a taxi to the airport but could not get back from the airport. P. Hunt distributed an article that was in the October 22nd edition of the Miami Herald titled, “Seniors Getting Discounts on Taxi Fare.”

Norma Lemberg said that one of the problems we are being faced with is that seniors are having a difficult time coming to the Youth Center to purchase the coupon books. N. Lemberg suggested that at the next luncheon they should bring some of the coupon books to sell. P. Hunt also said that he has not spoken to anyone on the telephone that had an issue with coming to the Youth Center to purchase coupon books.

Dr. M. Bruno said that some people were hesitant to use a taxi cab and the ability of the driver to address an emergency situation. Additionally some individuals may have a limit to what they are willing to pay for transportation.

Dr. M. Bruno also added that 40 coupon books being sold is a respectable turn out and suggested that there should not be an expiration date for the coupons to be used or a limitation on how many coupon books a person can purchase.

The Board discussed changing the expiration date to extend the program. However, Mr. Hunt suggested we wait to see how the coupons sell over the next month and make a decision at the December Senior Citizens Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Hunt also noted that he directed staff to sell more than one book to a customer if they ask.

b. Senior Center Programs – Anastasia Smith

A. Smith thanked Dr. M. Bruno for last month’s lunch and lecture. Flu shots were given in October. Senior Services now offer three language classes, Spanish, French and Italian. On November 13th we have the Senior Art Show. Lunch and lecture will be on November 16th, the lecture will be titled, “Diabetes Truths and Myths.” November 23rd to November 27th the church will be closed. There is now a two month calendar instead of a month to month calendar. There are two different types of groups that will be performing at Christmas, the choral group and the dancing group.

9. Old Business

a. Senior Art Show – Dr. William Schiff

Preparations for the Senior Art Show are coming along very well. The art show was advertised in Gables Homepage and this month’s issue of the Golden Gables. There will be an additional article about the Senior Art Show in next Thursday’s Miami Herald. Adam Rosenbloom will be supplying the sound system and music. Judging procedures will remain the same.

Invitations have been mailed. Dr. W. Schiff requested that Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark be invited.

C. Brock mentioned that there were no RSVPs on the invitations; she also said that she would ask the mayor or the vice mayor if they will be able to attend.

Luanne Santangelo suggested that each board member contact their commissioner to invite them personally to the Senior Art Show.

10. New Business

a. Positive Living Award/Banquet

Dr. W. Schiff thanked C. Brock and N. Lemberg for writing the letter to nominate him for the Positive Living Award. The Board congratulated Dr. W. Schiff on winning the award in the category of Inter-Generational; he is not only responsible for the creation of the Senior Art Show but was instrumental in getting the students from Coral Gables Senior High School to participate in the Senior Art Show event.

11. Open Items

Coral Gables at Home

The Board expressed their concern regarding the donation of a City vehicle to Coral Gables @ Home. C. Brock will try to gather more information on the details of the donation to share with the Board at the next meeting.

Annual Senior Luncheon

The Board discussed different venues to host the annual senior luncheon.

Frank Lynn and Evelyn Budde will visit the University of Miami to look at the room that is available to see if it will accommodate the annual senior luncheon; they will also inquire about sample menus. A speaker for the annual senior luncheon is also needed.

The Board will begin looking for sponsors for the event.

Holiday party

N. Lemberg suggested that the Board incorporate a holiday party at their next meeting on December 7th; she would also like to invite past board members.

Senior Services Presentation

L. Santangelo informed the Board that, at the request of Commissioner Anderson, Director

Fred Couceyro will be making a presentation to the City Commission on the state of Senior Services. L. Santangelo invited the Board to attend the City Commission meeting of November 17, 2009. L. Santangelo will inform the Board of an approximate time once the Agenda has been set.

12. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board will be held on Monday, December 7, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at the Coral Gables Youth Center at 405 University Drive.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.