

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS
 CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017 8:00 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY:
	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				Raul Valdes-Fauli
Patricia Sowers	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	EA				Patricia Keon
Blake Sando	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P				Vince Lago
Richard Whittington	P	P	P	P	P	EA	E	P				Frank C. Quesada
Marie-Ilene Whitehurst	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P				Michael Mena

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

STAFF:

1. Raquel Elejabarrieta, Director of Labor Relations and Risk Management / ADA Coordinator
2. Eglys Hernandez, Labor Relations and Risk Management

GUEST:

1. Fire Chief Marco De La Rosa
2. Carolina Vester – Assistant Director Parks & Rec
3. Mark Thompson – Special Olympics

CITIZEN ADVISORS:

1. Bonnie Blaire

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Sando called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

MEETING ABSENCE:

Ms. Patricia Sowers had an excused absence.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

- July 5, 2017 Minutes & August 9, 2017 Minutes approved pending minor corrections needed be completed.

Motion by: Mr. Richard Whittington / 2nd Ms. Marie-Ilene Whitehurst / Approved unanimously

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

Ms. Elejabarrieta shared a draft of the annual report that must be submitted to the City Manager by October 1st. Ms. Elejabarrieta explained the process and the 6 questions that need to be answered in the annual report. Ms. Sando asked about the “cost” associated with running the Board. Ms. Elejabarrieta explained that the cost consist of mostly the hourly rate of the City employees (Ms. Garrido, Ms. Hernandez and Ms. Elejabarrieta) that support the Board. Ms. Blaire wanted to know reference passed Resolution – General Inclusive and Autism - when they were passed and recommended that they be included in this annual report. Ms. Blaire stated she feels it would best for the Board to reflect on its annual report all of the board’s accomplishments.

Mr. Sando made motion to approve annual report subject to all changes discussed:

Motion made Mr. Whittington / 2nd motion Ms. Whitehurst – All approved

Ms. Elejabarrieta stated she will review and include resolutions passed, as well as other accomplishments, example: Hiring of new staff / success of 25 children with disabilities participating in the summer camp / new programs established Bocce, Special Olympics, Associates of agencies, Center of Independent Living, etc. Ms. Elejabarrieta will be updating annual report and make it available to members before presenting it.

Ms. Elejabarrieta passed around copy of Miami Herald Neighbor’s Ad which was placed and it was suggested by Ms. Blaire that it be included as part of annual report as well. Mr. Sando suggested that in the future, board be able to participate in creation of future ads.

Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that she would advise at what commission meeting proclamation would be presented at. It has to be determined who will be receiving it and for members to be present.

Ms. Elejabarrieta stated regarding upcoming meeting with Best Buddies and opportunities with local businesses.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation by Fire Chief Marcos De La Rosa – Miami-Dade County’s Emergency and Evacuation Assistance Program

Chief de la Rosa made a power point presentation on Miami-Dade County’s Emergency and Evacuation Assistance Program (EEAP) that is for eligible individuals in Miami-Dade County who need evacuation assistance and/or sheltering or who would like to receive a wellness call after a disaster, if an evacuation was not necessary for the individual’s location.

Chief de la Rosa stressed the importance of pre-storm registration with Miami-Dade County evacuation program. Chief de la Rosa provided the Board members with copies of: 1) storm surge planning zone map; and 2) registration information sheet for the County’s EEAP. Chief de la Rosa also advised that 311 is an all access information number and that the City of Coral Gables will be also making available a hot-line for its residents and that the number would be made available through various forms of media (Facebook, City Twitter account, CGTV, etc).

Ms. Elejabarrieta asked if the registration for City residents with special needs would be with the City of Coral Gables or with Miami-Dade County. Chief de la Rosa stated that it would be with Miami-Dade County. Chief de la Rosa stated that Miami-Dade County is the initial entity that provides evacuation for those registered and that the City of Coral Gables is available and ready to assist with the process if Miami-Dade County requests assistance.

Ms. Blaire asked the individual being evacuated could be to another individual’s home such as to a family member or just to an evacuation shelter. Chief de la Rosa advised that the EEAP only provides evacuations to shelters.

Ms. Elejabarrieta asked how many City residents which are currently registered with EEAP. Chief de la Rosa stated that as of this time it was only a handful - less than 15.

Ms. Blaire asked about shelters for individuals with animals that require evacuation. Chief de la Rosa advised that Miami-Dade County had recently provided a list of pet friendly evacuation centers. Chief de la Rosa advised that service animals are welcomed at evacuation centers.

Chief de la Rosa provided the latest weather briefing on the path of Hurricane Irma and discussed the steps the City was taking to prepare for the arrival of the storm.

Mr. Sando asked if by registering a child does this provide shelter as well to their family. Chief de la Rosa explained that when initial registration is completed for child, all members accompanying the child should be included in the registration in order to allow the evacuation center to prepare properly for all individuals (cots, food, water, etc,) which will be needed.

Ms. Blaire asked if during the storm a house catches fire what is a resident to do. Chief de la Rosa advised that due to safety concerns at a certain point during the storm emergency services will not be available (wind speeds of 45 miles or up). This is because cause of possible flying

debris and other dangers. Therefore, Chief de la Rosa suggested that residents make alternate plans prior to the storm (e.g. contact with neighbors) in case of emergency displacement. Chief de da Rosa explained that residents should prepare to be self-sufficient for approximately 72 hours. Chief de la Rosa also stated that it is the City's goal, when possible, to reduce this time.

Ms. Whitehurst asked about calling Red Cross for assistance. Chief de la Rosa explained that Red Cross efforts come into action after the storm. Miami-Dade County is first response.

Mr. Sando expressed concern for the lack of information made available concerning the EEAP. Ms. Elejabarrieta suggested that it would be best to conduct public service announcements at the start of Hurricane Season via CGTV (Coral Gables Television) to inform the resident of this program.

Ms. Blaire asked if there were any evacuation shelters within the City. Chief de la Rosa stated that there were no evacuation centers within the City.

Presentation by Carolina Vester – Asst. Director of Parks & Rec – Inclusion Program / Special Olympics

Ms. Vester provided copies of a recent publication of living in The City Beautiful magazine highlighting inclusive programs being offered by the Parks & Recreation Department. Ms. Vester stated that the magazine was also recently mailed to the residents' home and should be received shortly.

- 1) *Gift In Golf (GIG) Page 29* – Inclusive golf program for boys and girls with functional autism ages 6-16 years old;
- 2) *Accessible Recreation Program Page 32* – Three (3) Tier program which facilitates a process for participants to proceed to becoming Special Olympics athletes.

Ms. Vester advised that the above programs are offered at a low fee for easy access to participants. Also provides some programs facilitate the ability for pairing between participants with special needs and someone without special needs.

Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that City of Coral Gables program participants have the option of becoming part of Special Olympics or just continue as participants.

Ms. Vester discussed the steps that the City must take in order to develop a Special Olympics program. She also discussed how the City determined that Bocce Ball would be the initial sport that it offered as part of the City's Special Olympics program.

She stated that when reviewing the area of the batting cages, it was determined it was the proper size for a Bocce court, therefore, facilitating the use of an existing area for two purposes. It was determined that Bocce ball was not only a fun sport but one that would be accessible to all

participants regardless of their disability. Ms. Vester advised that the Bocce Ball Special Olympics program was commencing that night and also discussed the registration process.

Mr. Sando asked which of the sessions being offered could a participant chose. Ms. Vester stated the participant could join all three sessions and that the participants can still participate even if the participant is not enrolled in the Special Olympics Program.

Ms. Vester also advised that the City has in the past and will continue to serve as host to Special Olympics events such as swimming and gymnastics.

Ms. Vester advised that during this summer session there were 25 participants with different disabilities that participated in the different summer camps offered by the City.

Presentation Mr. Mark Thompson – Executive Director at Special Olympics Miami-Dade County

Mr. Thompson spoke about the importance of a Special Olympics program not only for its participants, but the difference it makes to the whole family. Mr. Thompson provided details about the current programs offered in partnership with Special Olympics and that are available throughout several entities within the county. Mr. Thompson stated that the Special Olympics program currently has over six thousand athletes strong. He discussed the sports available as well as the different competition events (state, national and international). Mr. Thompson discussed the registration forms required and the process for the athletes to be allowed to compete with the Special Olympics. Mr. Thompson congratulated the City for their efforts to start a Special Olympics Program. Mr. Thompson expressed the importance of giving participants the opportunity to compete and be recognized.

Mr. Thompson also stated that Special Olympics has resources available such as videos, tapes, books which can assist with programs and which he will provide to the City.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned 9:25 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Date scheduled is for Wednesday, October 4, 2017 8:00am to be held at the *Coral Gables Youth Center's Conference Room* – Board to be advised via email.