

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS  
 CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM  
 WEDNESDAY, March 7, 2018 8:00 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

<b>MEMBERS</b>	F 18	M 18	A 18	M 18	J 18	J 18	A 18	S 18	O 18	N 18	D 18	<b>APPOINTED BY:</b>
Blake Sando		<b>P</b>										Vince Lago
Shedrick Boren		<b>P</b>										Mayor Raul Fauli-Valdes
Patricia Sowers		<b>E</b>										Patricia Keon
Richard Whittington		<b>P</b>										Frank C. Quesada
Marie-Ilene Whitehurst		<b>P</b>										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:**

Mr. Jay Mizrachi – Jonathan’s Father  
 Mr. Samuel Joseph, Chair – School & Community Relations Committee

**CITIZEN ADVISORS:**

1. Bonnie Blaire

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting was called to order at 8:08am

**MEETING ABSENCE:**

Ms. Patricia Sowers was absent.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

February 14, 2018

Motion by: Dr. Whittington / 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Whitehurst / All approved unanimously

**SECRETARY’S REPORT:**

Next meeting date to be determined and advised to Board at a later time.

**BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Acknowledgement of new appointed board member Mr. Shedrick Boren**

Mr. Sando acknowledged presence of new board member Mr. Shedrick Boren as well as introduced all board members present and absent at today's meeting. Mr. Sando expressed to Mr. Boren importance of board and of his presence in order for board to be able to conduct such business as passing resolutions.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Mr. Jay Mizrachi – Jonathan's Father – Jonathan's Day coming to City of Coral Gables**

Mr. Sando introduced to the board Mr. Jay Mizrachi, being Jonathan's dad, who will be addressing the board regarding Jonathan's Day event. Mr. Sando stated that Mr. Mizrachi will be explaining to the board the role his employer CBS plays regarding this event.

Mr. Mizrachi stated that his employer CBS has been a supporter of events which assist to bring awareness to such matters as Autism as well as other disabilities, special needs, etc. Mr. Mizrachi stated that Jonathan's Day is operated and owned by CBS 4. Mr. Mizrachi advised this event was created four years ago on behalf of his son, Jonathan who is autistic. Mr. Mizrachi stated the theme of the event has been Acceptance & Adventure, which is what the event is all about, a fun day where all with different disabilities/special needs can enjoy a day filled with adventure.

Mr. Mizrachi stated the event for the past few years has been held in the Village of Palmetto Bay, which has been great; however the venue itself is limited to the park and there is not much that can be done outside of the event site. Mr. Mizrachi stated that the reason for looking into changing the venue to the City of Coral Gables, in agreement with his wife, who is on the board of CARD along with Mr. Sando feel that the City can provide the ability for participants to spend the day throughout the City beautiful.

Mr. Mizrachi stated that CBS will commit as it has done in the past to be a media sponsor and will produce commercial spots promoting the event, recognizing the hosting city, write articles around event and advertise the event such on the television spot Focus on South Florida.

Mr. Mizrachi stated that he would like to make it very clear that CBS and himself due to his role at CBS, do not act or get involved with the details regarding sponsorships, organizer or act as selling arm. Mr. Mizrachi stated that it is up to the City or venue to seek potential sponsors and/or partners, the facilitation of this partnership is out of their hands. Mr. Mizrachi stated that they are the marketing arm for this event.

Mr. Boren asked as to what the event would actually be. Mr. Sando stated that last month he met with the Director of Parks & Recreation along with others regarding events which the City has hosted. Mr. Sando stated he believes such an event as Jonathan's Day can commence with tents lined up just like it is done for the Farmers' market in front of City hall where resources and information can be made available to all attending event and then 5K race which can commence

right there as well, continue to Granada Golf course and back to Country Club Prado. Mr. Sando stated that the 5K race can be handled via organization such as Foot Works who have data basis with information of people who like to run and City can hire them as a vendor to take over logistics for this part of the event. Mr. Sando stated that another important concept of hiring such an organization is that they will have participants come in and will be made aware of the purpose of the event and of City as well as having a fund raiser component.

Mr. Sando provided copies of a package from website regarding last Jonathan's Day at Palmetto Bay where the vendors which participated can be seen. Mr. Sando stated that this package could be used as reference to what the vendors of a future event could be.

Mr. Sando stated that he believes the area known as the Merry Christmas park which has the facility where kids can be kids can be a great location for event. Mr. Sando stated that this event in past has benefited CARD, however now that the City of Coral Gables Advisory Board on Disability Affairs will be involved, would he consider expanding the event to other organizations which focus on other types of disabilities not being autism. Mr. Mizarchi stated that he feels there is no issue with doing so and that at the last events there have been vendors present providing all type of resources for various disabilities.

Ms. Elejabarrieta asked Mr. Mizarchi who in Palmetto Bay does all the organization of the event and if they assume the cost. Mr. Mizarchi stated that Palmetto Bay has done all of the organization for this event in the past and has also assumed the cost involved.

Ms. Elejabarrieta asked Mr. Mizarchi what has been the role of CARD during this event. Mr. Mizarchi stated that he does not get involved in the business aspect of event. Mr. Sando stated he spoke with Mr. Mizarchi in regards to CARD role and event. Mr. Sando stated that he was informed that during first year of the event CARD did receive a check of approximately \$7,000.00 from proceeds, however regarding events thereafter; CARD has not received any funds. Mr. Sando stated that he believes that CARD does not have capacity to organize such an event as this.

Mr. Sando stated that he met Director Couceyro of Parks & Recreation who advised there are real hard costs involved with such an event and that there may be some cost that the City of Coral Gables can waive, however others which will have to be assumed by vendors, private sponsorships, etc. Mr. Sando stated that for example for a 5k there is street closure requirements and police officers are needed at an approximately cost of \$3,500.00.

Ms. Elejabarrieta stated it was necessary to make it clear that there is a difference between "Host" which means City will allow for event organized by others to be held at a City venue and "Organizing Event" which would be considered as a City special event requiring additional steps such as budgeting, approved, staffing, etc.

Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that the Board had passed motion regarding hosting such an event during the month of October and if it would be ok with Mr. Mizarchi for Jonathan's Day to be done then. Mr. Mizarchi stated that for them CBS, October is fine and there are no issues.

Ms. Elejabarrieta asked if there is someone whom can be reached at Palmetto Bay and Mr. Mizarchi stated that it would be best not to contact them at this time due to not being sure event will be taking place at City of Coral Gables.

Mr. Boren asked what it that is needed from Board at this point is. Mr. Sando stated that at this time it is up to the Board to pass a motion to take to commission regarding the City hosting and organizing such an event. Mr. Sando stated that he believes if the City is unable to organize, Board then should go forth with trying to raise funds via other means in order to proceed with event.

Ms. Elejabarrieta recommended resolution be amended to urging the City of Coral Gables to Host and Organize such an event in general, not specific to Jonathan's Day so in future other events can take place. Mr. Sando stated that his thoughts are that it should be presented to commission specifically as Jonathan's Day due to the important support regarding promoting of event CBS 4 provides.

Dr. Richard Whittington stated that he is in agreement that it should be presented to commission as Jonathan's Day due to its history as well as its name recognition, however feels that it should be a more inclusion disabilities event. Ms. Whitehurst stated that she believes it should just be presented as disabilities event, making it more inclusive.

Ms. Whitehurst stated that she believes clearly that Palmetto Bay has made a financial commitment to this event and she would like to know if the Board can have a more clear sense of how much funds were actually utilized.

Mr. Sando stated that they have information of all the vendors/sponsors who have participated in the past and they can be reached again. Mr. Sando stated that he would like for resolution presented to commission to include wording specifically to Jonathan's Day due to its recognition and it can also state "but not limited to".

Ms. Blaire stated the Board would need to be clear of what actions they would like to take going forth regarding this event. Ms. Blaire stated that if they are looking for City to host event and then obtain funds and organization elsewhere or does Board want to pursue City host as well as organize event. Ms. Blaire stated she feels Board should be looking at securing a venue and reaching out to other major organizations; search out a community partner if it is not a problem with CBS 4, which may want to be part of this event providing support.

Mr. Sando asked who would be able to assist with reach regarding cost. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that it would be via Parks & Recreation department.

Ms. Elejabarrieta stated if the Board is seeking for City to organize event, the wording of resolution passed last month needs to be changed.

Mr. Sando stated for a motion to be made in regards to include the wording on resolution for City to host and organize event.

Motion by: Mr. Boren / 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dr. Whittington / All approved unanimously

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised that she would amend resolution.

**Mr. Samuel Joseph, Chair – School & Community Relations Committee**

Mr. Joseph introduced himself as Chair of School & Community Relations Committee as well as also being part of special needs initiative.

Mr. Joseph discussed the importance of the School & Community Relations Committee which is directly associated with schools throughout the City of Coral Gables. Mr. Joseph stated that without ever stepping inside the school or telling them how to conduct their jobs, the committee's goal is to assure public schools are performing at their best, assure outside of schools look good, and provide internships as well as mentorships.

Mr. Joseph stated that committee has eight commission approved projects; one being special needs initiative project. Mr. Joseph stated that their main goal is to live up to the resolution Principal of Inclusions which City passed and working together with Parks & Recreations department there has been many small goals achieved.

Mr. Joseph stated that the committee works directly with the School District providing assistance with obtaining support needed by schools in our area which have become more inclusive schools but need more resources. Mr. Joseph stated the committee was looking into having a learning disability academy however it was determined that instead of just having one school, it would be best to have programs available throughout schools.

Mr. Joseph stated another of the residents concern was the accessibility to a place which could have information as to where the various services are available; a one stop location within City where people can come in and get information or services they need.

Mr. Joseph stated that one of the most important issues is regarding the unemployment rate for adults with special needs; currently at 60%. Mr. Joseph stated they are commencing by working with City Human Resources department reviewing process and then will be reaching out to outside sources as well to see how best address this issue.

**Discussion on County Commissioner Sosa \$1.5 Million Dollar funding**

Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that the City is currently looking at two locations; it's at its very initial stages.

**Opening up of Area at Adult Center**

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised that in regards to previous Board inquiry regarding availability of a room/area where adults with disabilities could use to meet, watch movies or play games, it has been determined that a room at the Adult Center can be utilized on a monthly bases on Thursday 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Ms. Elejabarrieta advised that at this time there will not be staff assigned to the room/area unless the Board determines it is necessary. Ms. Elejabarrieta suggest that Ms. Sowers be appointed has the contact person on behalf of the Board regarding this matter,

therefore there will not be any Sunshine issues. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated she will speak with Ms. Sowers and advise her contact Ms. Vester directly in order to coordinate how to best proceed.

**Sensory Free Movie Night – Coral Gables Cinema**

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised that during April which Autism Awareness Month the City will be working directly with the Coral Gables Cinema in order to conduct a Sensory Free Movie Night and she will be keeping the Board posted regarding progress of this. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that for future, this event can also serve as a small resource event.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Mr. Sando stated that he would not be available for next meeting of April 4, 2018 and inquired how board felt in regards to moving the meeting to another date.

Motion to move meeting date from April 4, 2018 to later date in month: Dr. Whittington / 2<sup>nd</sup> Ms. Whitehurst

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn: Ms. Whitehurst / 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Boren / All Approved unanimously  
Meeting adjourned 09:36 a.m.