

CORAL GABLES LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Draft Minutes of Meeting, December 14, 2011
Coral Gables Sub-regional Library, Meeting Room

MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY
Sylvia Hernandez						P		E		P		P	Mayor Jim Cason
Amy Kutell	P		P		P		P		P		P		Vice-Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Pamela Admire	P		P		P		P		E		P		Comm. Maria Anderson
Lisa Bennett					P		P		P		P		Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Nancy Leslie	P		P		P		E		E		P		Comm. Frank C. Quesada

STAFF:

Dan Keys, Public Service Director
Ayliin Hernandez, Public Service Department

A = Absent
P = Present
E = Excused

GUESTS:

Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr., Coral Gables Commissioner
James Paul, Branch Manager, Miami Dade Public Library System

OPEN MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Amy Kutell, at 3:00 p.m. The roll was taken and a quorum was present. A motion was made to adopt the minutes from the October 12, 2011, meeting as written. The motion was seconded, voted upon and passed with a unanimous vote.

The Library staff was greeted and refreshments were provided.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Cabrera expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to address the board and discussed various topics. The Commissioner shared his personal experience of how instrumental the Coral Gables Library has been in his childhood development. He complimented the City's positive relationship with the Miami-Dade County Public Library System. He emphasized the importance of the Board's oversight and encouraged them to reach out to their elected officials whenever necessary. He advised that each member should be informed of the Robert's Rules of Order which provides the guidelines for making formal motions. The Commissioner encouraged everyone to attend the Boards and Committees, Ethics and Training Seminar on Friday, December 16, 2011.

The Commissioner informed the Board that the request for the membership increase had been approved. The Board expressed their appreciation for the approval as well as the Commissioner's efforts in bringing the item up for discussion before the Commission. Further discussion developed on the process involved in increasing the membership. One appointment will be made by the City Manager and the other by the Library Advisory Board. The Commissioner recommended that the Board review a list of qualified individuals that is held by the City Clerk's Office. He also recommended consideration of City residents.

The Commissioner mentioned that a marathon Commission meeting took place with regard to Somerset Academy's student enrollment increase. He advised that the City Commission had

approved a total of 260 students with no future increases. Discussion developed on how the quality of life of nearby neighborhoods might be affected. The Commissioner expressed his concerns on future changes and any possible harmful effects on the neighborhoods within the school's perimeter. The Board inquired on how the parking in the area would be affected. The Commissioner advised that the school agreed to work diligently to ensure that school events do not create conflict for the Youth Center or the Library. He emphasized that the Youth Center, the Church and the Library play an integral part in the area dynamics and they were all taken into consideration. He also mentioned it would be a topic for discussion during the next Commission meeting, January 10, 2012.

Commissioner Cabrera advised that the City of Coral Gables and the Biltmore Hotel are trying to finalize their financial relationship.

The Commissioner advised he has vacant Board appointments. One position in each of the following Boards: the University of Miami Community Relations Board, the Senior Advisory Board, the Disability Board and the Youth Advisory Board. Discussion developed on the qualifications for each Board. Ms. Admire and Ms. Leslie shared their comments and recommendations.

OLD BUSINESS:

LIBRARY HISTORY: None

LIBRARY REPORT: James Paul mentioned that Coral Gables is the only Branch Library that is open six days a week. They are trying to inform the public of the change in hours of operation.

The Library is operating with fewer staff. Story telling is still taking place. The Coral Gables Branch continues to be among the highest in circulation items, approximately 30,000 a month. The University of Miami students play a major part in the Library's attendance.

The Children's Room has two new smart computers which were provided by an IBM grant.

The Annual Book Sale at the Main Library was more successful this year than last year. The sales totaled between \$35,000 and \$40,000.

Mr. Paul mentioned that the City and the Library are in the process of a partnership with the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles. The purpose is to process Driver's License Applications two days a week, starting January 9, 2012. Advertising will begin once everything has been finalized.

Mr. Paul also mentioned that early voting for Miami-Dade County will begin on January 23, 2012.

LIBRARY MAINTENANCE: None

BUTTERFLY GARDEN: Ms. Leslie reminded the Board of the Garden Club's request to put fake moss around the base of the Butterfly Sculpture. Dan reassured he would have it done. Ms. Leslie inquired on more plants for the Butterfly Garden. Dan advised he would look into it and advise her.

CHILDREN’S MURAL: The Board observed and complimented the Children’s Mural at the entrance of the meeting room. Mr. Paul informed how he located and transported the Mural. The Board expressed their appreciation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sylvia Hernandez relayed Mayor Cason’s apologies for not be able to attend the meeting due to a recent optical procedure. The Mayor also requested notification of the following Board meeting. Amy Kutell confirmed that she would send the Mayor an invitation to the February 8th meeting.

SEGOVIA STREET UPDATE: Dan advised this project is moving along. Mr. Paul inquired on areas where the curbing had openings. Dan replied that those opening were for the irrigation and would be repaired. Ms Admire inquired when the supports could be removed from the trees. Dan replied it would take some time.

Discussion took place on the new Board Member selection. The Board agreed to share and review resumes of interested applicants at the next meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made and second and it passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

APPROVED:

Amy Kutell, Chair

ATTEST:

Daniel Keys, Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012, AT 3:00 P.M.
IN THE CORAL GABLES SUBREGIONAL LIBRARY MEETING ROOM
3443 Segovia Street, Coral