

SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of March 02, 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	E	P	P	P	P				Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Norma Lemberg	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P				Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Esther Castiglia	V	E	P	A	E	P	P	P				Comm. Maria Anderson
Dr. William Schiff	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P				Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Frank Lynn	P	P	P	P	P	E	A	P				Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Ginger Jochem	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P				City Manager David Brown
Carol Brock	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	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:

Paul Hunt
Senior Services Coordinator

Anastasia Smith
Recreation Specialist – Senior Programs

Tricia Spencer
Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

Katie Kreter, resident
Coral Gables

Harriet Wolf, resident
Coral Gables

Elaine Duncan, resident
Coral Gables

Holly Richards, resident
Coral Gables

Ying Pestien, resident
Coral Gables

1. Carol Brock called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.
2. Chairperson Carol Brock welcomed our guests, Katie Kreter, Harriet Wolf, Elaine Duncan, Holly Richards and Ying Pestien to the meeting. The guests introduced themselves to the

Board and then Board members introduced themselves to everyone by stating their names and their appointee.

3. Approval of Board minutes from February 02nd, 2009 – The minutes were amended. A motion was made by C. Fahringer and seconded by N. Lemberg to approve the amended meeting minutes of February 02nd, 2009. Motion was passed unanimously.

4. **Senior Services Divisional Reports**

- a. **Report on Senior Services – Paul Hunt**

P. Hunt said that he attended a meeting with the Bank of Coral Gables and they may be able to help with the transportation project. The AARP Foundation is trying to broker \$50,000 grants to help with transportation projects in three (3) communities in Florida. It is a county-wide program and they are looking for communities that have a minimum population of 200,000. Sarasota is one and they are considering Miami-Dade as another. P. Hunt said that he provides advocacy services to seniors and their family members.

- b. **Senior Center Programs – Anastasia Smith**

A. Smith said that the Tai Chi class for this month has 21 people registered. Dancercise session A is full, session B 17 people are registered and spaces are still available, computer classes for beginners have 6 people registered for the morning session and 5 people registered for the afternoon session. On Wednesday, March 4th seniors will be going to the Actors' Playhouse to see Les Miserables, 32 people have registered to attend. Last month's trip to the Miccosukee Resort & Gaming Center had 26 people, last two dinner programs had 6 people, February's current events had 37 people in attendance and Spanish beginners and conversation classes are doing great.

5. **Old Business**

- a. **Annual Luncheon**

A. Smith said that 208 people showed up at the senior luncheon. There were 13 no shows, 8 last minute cancellations, 12 people registered the day of the event, 17 dignitaries and 6 people at the display table, giving it a total of 243 who attended the luncheon.

C. Brock and the Board applauded A. Smith and L. Ellis for the wonderful job they did at the senior luncheon.

The budget total is \$3,000 for the '08-'09 fiscal year. \$8500 was given by sponsors and the break down is as follows: \$2500 from The Palace, Inc., \$5000 from the Bank of Coral Gables and \$1,000 from the Alma Jennings Foundation. The bill from the Biltmore Hotel for the senior luncheon is \$12,500.

A. Smith said that she sent C. Brock thank you letters to be approved by her to send to honored guests and sponsors.

C. Brock said that there could be a nominal charge of \$5.00 for next year's senior luncheon, this way it will make people more committed to attending. However, they should postpone that until it gets closer to the next senior luncheon.

6. New Business

- **Norma's Report on the Transportation Committee**

N. Lemberg distributed copies of the draft minutes from last month's transportation committee meeting. N. Lemberg reported that C. Fahringer, G. Jochem, P. Hunt & Maril Lutz felt that transportation problems affect all of us. Many of the problems were met with more minuses than pluses. The idea of using limousines, renting vans and even walking was discussed.

P. Hunt said that he is working with the Bank of Coral Gables on using vouchers for the pilot transportation program. The bank would process the vouchers in \$5.00 denominations, we should distribute as many as possible, the pilot project is probably going to last for 3 months, and it is important to show it is effective. Vouchers would be available at City Hall and at the Youth Center, they will all be serialized and the cover of the coupons will have a survey to fill in your name, age, and social issues such as Medicaid or other. He also said that he is looking at other kinds of possibilities but have not come up with anything that is feasible and the other ideas had problems. P. Hunt said that two of the vans at the Youth Center are not being extensively used and that each taxi cab in Coral Gables will have the voucher information hanging in their cab to smooth out any rough edges that may occur.

C. Brock asked P. Hunt if the Coral Gables taxi cab would take the coupons and he said that was the plan. C. Brock also said that the Transportation Committee needs to look at the long term to see if this test is successful and what is our next step, such as where to get money, how much money, etc.

E. Castiglia said that once we have all the pieces together, maybe they could get the Miami Herald involved publicizing it in order to get help from the public.

P. Hunt said that the grant money came from the Alliance for Aging who has a 501C3. It is a local arm of the Federal system but a non-profit organization.

F. Lynn asked for the telephone number of the City of Coral Gables taxi cab which was then given to him by C. Fahringer. The number is (305) 266-7799.

- **Distribution of Article**

C. Brock distributed copies of senior services information that is posted on the City of Coral Gables Parks & Recreation website. It contains information on frequently asked questions such as where is the Coral Gables Adult Activity Center located, is the center open everyday, what types of programs are there for seniors, etc., volunteer opportunities and helpful links such as the Alliance for Aging and the Florida Department of Elderly Affairs.

A. Smith said that she is going to work with F. Rodriguez from our Marketing division to update the senior services website.

- **Coral Gables Newsletter – Sally Jude, Environment Green Committee**

C. Brock said that she spoke with Belkys Perez who is profiling Sally Jude who is on the Environment Green Committee and is doing a lot for the environment. C. Brock also reminded the Board that if there is a resident or senior they would like to profile to let her know.

7. **Board Members Comments**

C. Brock said that she has received a couple of calls from residents who are upset about the Miami-Dade Guardianship program. One comment in particular was from a woman who is upset about the way her mother has been treated, her mother has since then passed away.

P. Hunt said that he has worked with that agency and need to know what the issues are.

N. Lemberg said that it is up to the Board to speak to the possible City Manager candidates who are still being interviewed to ask them what their plans for senior services are and for them to remind the City Commission that senior services are an important issue.

8. **Date and time of next meeting**

Monday, April 6, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Coral Gables Youth Center located at 405 University Drive.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.