

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS
 CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
 WEDNESDAY, December 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	
Adrian Mesa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	A	A	A	Raul Valdes-Fauli
Patricia Sowers	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	Patricia Keon
Blake Sando	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vince Lago
Richard Whittington	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	E	P	P	Frank C. Quesada
Marie-Ilene Whitehurst	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	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: None

CITIZEN ADVISORS:

1. Bonnie Blaire
2. Debbie Dietz

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Sando called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

MEETING ABSENCE:

Mr. Adrian Mesa was absent.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

November 1, 2017 – with corrections pending – When addressing Mr. Whittington do so as Dr. Whittington / Change on page 2 – from Ms. Sowers to Ms. Whitehurst

Motion by: Dr. Whittington / 2nd Ms. Whitehurst / Approved unanimously

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

Board addressed issue regarding board member Mr. Mesa's not attending meetings.

Ms. Hernandez advised that several attempts were made in various forms, via email and telephone calls. Ms. Hernandez advised telephone messages advising all information regarding meeting dates, times and location were left on Mr. Mesa's voicemail.

Dr. Whittington stated that it would be best if Mr. Mesa is addressed directly in order to see if there is any issue regarding his participation on the board.

Ms. Blaire stated that another way of trying to communicate with Mr. Mesa can be via a certified letter.

Mr. Sando stated that it would be best for the board to prepare an order on how to proceed in the future if it becomes necessary regarding Mr. Mesa participation as a board member. Mr. Sando stated he would also be reaching out to the Mayor.

Ms. Elejabarrieta stated she would review and check with City Clerk office in regards to recommendations on how to best proceed.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Ms. Whitehurst stated she had reached out to Ms. Gisele Prado of Miami Dade Leisure Access Program regarding possibly partnering with them reference a resource fair. Ms. Whitehurst stated that the resource fair that Miami Dade Leisure Access conducted was held at Tropical Park because most attendees have children who attend the daycare center at Tropical Park.

Ms. Sowers stated she believes that the board should continue to provide support to the ongoing efforts regarding the Supper Club held by DIG. Ms. Sowers stated that a senior citizen participated at the Supper Club dinner and seemed to have enjoyed herself. Ms. Sowers stated that the senior citizen expressed that there were not many activities in the City for senior citizens. Ms. Sowers stated that she advised the individual about the senior programs the City provides.

Ms. Dietz spoke in regards to Supper Club dinner held on December 4, 2017 at John Martin's Irish Pub. Ms. Dietz stated that there was less participants and felt that the restaurant may have been a little more intimidating and CPK. Ms. Dietz stated that they believe it would be best to hold the next event at CPK. Ms. Blaire stated that she was not aware if the Supper Club dinner was advertised via City of Coral Gables media. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that it was and that it was also placed on the City's calendar of events.

Ms. Blaire stated that there is a senior citizen board currently available and that it would be a good idea to share with that board information regarding future Supper Club dinner events. Ms. Dietz expressed that they would prefer to focus on young adults between the ages of 25 to 50.

Mr. Sando asked if Casa Familia seems interested in Supper Club dinner. Ms. Whitehurst stated that they would definitely look into supporting these events. Mr. Sando expressed that returning the event back to CPK is a very good idea. Mr. Sando stated that he believes for the upcoming dinners it would be better to establish two dates like one in January and next in February. Ms. Dietz stated that was a very good idea.

Ms. Blaire asked if the Center of Independent Living was providing DIG support. Ms. Dietz stated that they did provide support at the first dinner. Ms. Blaire stated she feels that they should provide support not only for these events but others due to the City of Coral Gables providing them with office space.

Mr. Sando stated that something else that can be done for upcoming events is include other entities on the flyers and such which in turn makes those entities be present.

Ms. Whitehurst asked if the board would like to consider as a board event for October the resource fair. Mr. Sando asked if it would be like an organization like DIG who would take over such an event. Ms. Whitehurst stated that it would be best to provide a recommendation to the City in order to see if they can assist with this.

Ms. Blaire stated that it would be best to come up with a business plan approach and reach out to such organizations as United Way, CIL, etc. and give them the opportunity to run the event. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that the City has limited resources to put on an event such as this. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that obtaining a location is not the issue; it is who will be in charge of the event, city staff, etc.

Ms. Whitehurst stated that this would be an opportunity for the City to step up to the plate to do something as recommended by the board. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that she believes such events are handled by the Parks & Recreation Department and they already have limited resources. Ms. Sando stated that it would be best if Ms. Carolina Vester is invited to the next board meeting in order to see how best to proceed with this matter.

Ms. Sowers expressed her doubt of how many disabled adults would attend such event. Mr. Sando stated that care givers, parents, and other would attend. Ms. Whitehurst stated she does not see this type of event as a Saturday event, she feels it would be more of a weekday or week night event. Ms. Blaire stated the importance of partnering up with some entity/partner due to cost involved to hold an event such as setting up, picking up, etc.

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised the board that the rules on excessive absences states that the City Manager may remove a board member from a board that meets monthly on a regular basis if the member has more than 3 absences. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that a board member can also be removed at any time by the City Commission. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that we will continue to reach out to Mr. Mesa the remaining of this week.

Mr. Sando asked in regards to the Christmas Park and it being accessible. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated she has received excellent reviews; however, the bulk of reviews would be received

directly by the Parks & Recreation Department. Ms. Dietz stated that she and husband do not feel it is accessible at all. Ms. Dietz stated that there are currently just two mats, one which provides access to the entry and the other to the food area however, there is no accessible path to access picnic area, no accessible picnic benches and no access for those who use wheelchairs to other events incorporated in the park. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that she would have these concerns looked into.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Sowers stated that she would like to send board information regarding an employment program which she recently became familiar with while in Tampa so that same can be discussed at upcoming meeting next year.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn: Motion by: Ms. Whitehurst / 2nd Dr. Whittington
Approved unanimously
Meeting adjourned 09:10 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 8:00am at the *Coral Gables Youth Center's Conference Room* – Board to be advised via email.