

**City of Coral Gables**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Senior Citizens Advisory Board**

405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
www.coralgables.com

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Thursday, March 1, 2018

5:00 PM

The Board meets the first Thursday of  
each month.  
Coral Gables AAC, 2 Andalusia Ave,  
Coral Gables, FL 33134

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**@5:01**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present - Evelyn Budde, Richard Thurer, Jim Berlin, Hendrik Woods, Jane Mass**

**Excused absence – Joan Valdes and Celia Suarez**

**Guests – City Manager Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, and Katie Kreter**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Motion by Evelyn, seconded by Jane**

## **AAC COORDINATOR REPORT**

**AAC hosted the first “Dinner and Movie” event. It was co-hosted by the United Way. There were 75 attendees, including many representatives from the United Way who answered questions.**

**Next event is the Pasta and Puccini concert will be on March 9. Gerard Ortega and members of the Rising Stars will be performing opera. There will be a “new format” using the stage in the center of the room surrounded with tables. Tickets are selling very fast.**

**Summer Newsletter will be out 2nd week in March that will cover Summer Programming for May, June July and August.**

**Registration period starts earlier, March 12 for Residents and March 19th for non-residents. The AAC registration period is aligning with the Youth Center schedule.**

**Saturdays are open until noon. We currently have participants who are using the art studio and computers. Saturdays allows time for people to register and visit the AAC who don’t have time during the week.**

**Jim wanted to thank Ying Pestien and Gisela for putting together the Transportation outing to get the Golden Passport. There were about 30 participants who used public transportation to get their passports and have lunch.**

**CITY MANAGER REPORT & DISCUSSION**

City Manager mentioned that the City of Coral Gables goes on a Business Luncheon Circuit to update groups on City of Coral Gables "happenings". She offered to bring some of these discussions to AAC members in order to update them with accurate information regarding City of Coral Gables current projects. She mentioned that this would also give the City Directors an opportunity to visit with the community.

Jane began the Coral Gables shelter discussion by summarizing the information that Natalie had provided from the County regarding shelter location options.

Jane wants to discuss how to pursue using a Resolution to ask the County for a shelter located in the City of Coral Gables.

Jane felt that many seniors living in Coral Gables lived in areas that need to be evacuated on a short amount of time. In many instances, Jane mentioned resident would arrive at the shelter to find that it was already full.

The Board asked why some of the schools could not be used as shelters. The City Manager explained that establishing a shelter had different types of requirements before and after the storm. Most schools did not meet the shelter requirements. Some schools are identified to be used "during a storm", while others to be used "after the storm".

South Miami HS was suggested as a possibility however transportation would be an issue. The CM was not interested in taking on the transportation responsibility.

Jim asked about UM being a potential shelter. The CM mentioned that the UM was not an option because UM evacuated all their students. Some were sent home, others sent to hotels and those not interested in leaving the campus stayed at UM police department.

CM agreed that the idea of doing a "Resolution" to request the County to consider having a shelter located in CG was valid. She felt that they would be amenable given all the confusion and turmoil that was experienced after Irma.

Regarding the idea to help "non-medical special needs" residents who need help getting to a shelter, or don't want to stay home alone during the storm, the CM suggested that the City could provide transportation for the residents (i.e. Trolley or bus service to leave at a certain times).

Board members discussed the lack of parking facilities during the last storm. Parking garages were filled with residents from other Miami communities.

The CM told the Board that in the future, residents will be told that ID's will be checked prior to using the garage parking. Gables residents will be given priority to enter the City Parking Garages before other communities.

The CM reviewed the process for using a Resolution. A "Resolution" is used when there is an "action" that requires the City commission to take action. This "Resolution" comes to the Commission as a separate item from "minutes". This item is considered "minutes requiring action". The Commission individually takes that item up and will act on that specific Resolution "up or down".

Currently, the City is working on budget planning for next year; requests can be included during the budgeting process. The Board can work with Fabien on any budget requests using his chain of command budget process.

CM updated the Board on the progress of the new public safety building on Alcazar/Salzedo. CM stated that the Commission has approved most of the recommendations related to the public safety building and the project is moving well. Jane asked CM to talk about the AARP Age Friendly Communities concept. Jane mentioned that she had seen that the Miami Dade County was on the list of cities working on this concept and asked if there was a way to link with County's project.

Richard made a motion to put together a Resolution asking City Commission to petition the County to establish a shelter in the City of Coral Gables. Jane seconded the motion.

Jane asked the CM to talk to the Board regarding her thoughts on the AARP Age-Friendly Communities concept. CM mentioned that in 2014 there were 78 Age-Friendly Communities in 29 states, as of February 2018 there are 215 communities. BINDER name

The World Health Organization defines an Age- City as one that "encourages active ageing by optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age" and "adapts its structures and services to be accessible to and inclusive of older people of all ages and abilities.

This AARP program oversees the National Network of Age Friendly Cities on behalf of the World Health Organization and offers communities a process on how to do an honest assessment.

How you are doing?

What are the deficits?

How will you work together to address any deficits?

How is CG doing based on those criteria?

CM suggested that the Board look at this concept for the City of Coral Gable. Recommended that they reach out to other communities to see what they are doing and see if there was interest in working together on the application assessment.

Fabien offered to reach out to some of the communities in order to get them to help us get started and discuss steps that they have taken to start the process. One suggestion was to contact a previous City employee, Eric Machado. Palmetto Bay has been on the list since March 2017.

CM suggested that this project could be a goal that the Board would be willing to take on. Costs associated with it, could be incorporated into the AAC's budget process.

CM gave Fabien a copy of the Coral Gables Community Foundation application for fund requests. It has a \$5000 fund available. The Age Friendly Communities project appears to compliment the mission of Community Foundation. This \$5000 fund will not cover all costs associated with a specific project but it would be a good idea to start a relationship with the Coral Gables Community Foundation.

These funds could be used to do additional programming for AAC or pay for specific equipment that to be used by specific programming needs. It could also be used to pay instructors for specific programs or to match grant funds to cover other special dinner and movie programs.

The application to acquire these funds doesn't have to be done by the AAC as the applicant. An application for the funds could be done by a 501C partner. Some potential partners to mention were OSHER and United Way. College Students could also get course credit to help build a portfolio.

The contact at the Coral Gables Community Foundation is Mary Snow. Mary would need to know the purpose for the money, what the end results are and how you will measure success.

Jane asked what the AAC would have to do if they wanted to pursue AARP Age Friendly Community Assessment Process. The City Manager suggested that they would need help from Parks and Recs in order to build a Resolution for Commission support. The Resolution would ask for the necessary planning study money to be included in the budget. The City has an in- house Grant writer that could help. She also suggested that individual Board members could discuss the project and get support from

their own individual commissioners.

Another topic discussed was the multiple ways that the City is planning to get information to residents prior to hurricane season in a form that is more comfortable for all ages. Besides the social media outlets, the City wants to use other “low tech” media such as the City Magazine and the Neighbors newspaper to get the word out. They are also talking with UM’s radio station WVUM to update the community hourly when students have evacuated. The hope is to ensure that all plans are lined up and the word out prior to hurricane season.

There was a question regarding the City’s position on low cost housing. The City Manager explained that CG is interested in “Workforce Housing”, which is typically lower square foot cost. It is no longer best practices to have separate “low income” and “high income” buildings. It is healthier to mix them. The City is looking at creating zoning incentives for developers. The trend is to create zoning incentives to have developer include some lower and some higher end units that also include teacher units and workforce housing.

Coral Gables is not a HUD eligible community; it does not meet the demographic requirements.

The Commission is interested in looking at potential affordable units that are well designed with around 750 square feet, have high end amenities in the rest of the building and accessible to transit.

The CM gave Fabien information on other types of seminars that she thought would be interesting to this Board. One of them was called Forging Neighborhoods for all Generations. An idea mentioned was on “How to Communicate in a Multigenerational Engagement”. It was mentioned that in order to get different groups communicating you need to use different types of tools; How to communicate with communities that are not using internet and Facebook, etc.

The City did a Survey asking residents how they would like for the City to communicate and in what the method and language that they preferred. Communication in Spanish would be available upon request.

Jane asked a question regarding ability to link into Vince Lago’s Blue Ribbon Committee that evaluates status after the storm.

City Manager mentioned that she attended the first meeting which focused on debris. 360 thousand cubic yards, lost 600 city trees, 38 thousand public city trees but saved a 1000 trees that were able to survive. City did not pick up inside private yards.

Committee wants to talk about electric undergrounding. They are interested in the Bloomberg Challenge for the portable electric grid for Emergency Services to travel with us. The UM Engineering School is working with us.

The City Manager mentioned that the next scheduled Commission meetings were March 20th and March 27th.

#### ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

Next meeting scheduled for April 5th

Fabien mentioned that he sent Solanch, assistant to the CM, topics that are of interest to seniors.

#### ADJOURNMENT

@6:14