

CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS

Minutes of March 4, 2009

Youth Center, Second Floor Conference Room

MEMBERS	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	APPOINTED BY
Linda Scarcell-Degrave	P	E	*	*	*	P	*	*	*	*	*	P	Donald D. Slesnick II
Zenaida Fernandez	P	E	*	*	*	E	*	*	*	*	*	E	Maria Anderson
Kelly Sastre	P	P	*	*	*	P	*	*	*	*	*	P	“Ralph” Cabrera, Jr.
Bonnie Blaire	P	P	*	*	*	E	*	*	*	*	*	P	William Kerdyk, Jr.
Deborah Swain	P	P	*	*	*	P	*	*	*	*	*	P	Wayne “Chip” Withers

(*) There were no meetings.

STAFF:

Alberto Delgado, Secretary

Beatrix Falstreau, CPS

A - Absent

P - Present

E - Excused

GUESTS:

None.

Meeting Attendance

Ms. Sastre, chairman, called meeting to order at 8:30. Ms. Sastre read e mail from Ms. Fernandez regarding her being unable to attend. Ms. Sastre will contact Ms. Fernandez to determine as to how the e mail was meant – not being able to attend this meeting or resigning from the Board. Discussion regarding possible candidates for Board members since Ms. Sastre and Ms. Swain will leave the Board in May due to having completed eight years which is the allocated time.

Ms. Swain made motion to defer Ms. Fernandez’ attendance, second by Ms. Scarcell-Degrave. All members voted in favor.

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

Mr. Delgado advised that Ms. Mendoza is in attendance and will update the Board on the ADA projects.

Ms. Mendoza stated last time she brought a list of everything that had been completed but did not bring the list today since it’s the same list with a few projects that have been completed since then but everything else is under construction or under design and if the design is done, the permit is being worked on.

The **Granada Pro Shop** rest rooms are completed, **all the Parking Lots** have been done, the asphalt and concrete work is done, they are working on the striping. The **City Hall**

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Bathrooms are done, the **Conference Room** is done and the offices still have a few small details still remaining. The **Ramp** outside City Hall is being worked on which is the official access for people with disabilities to enter City Hall by going from the parking lot, into the court yard and into City Hall. The existing ramp in front of City Hall at Biltmore Way even though it looks like it is an access, has problems with the slope. The ramp from the court yard will be completely accessible meeting all the requirements. The contractor has been selected and we are ready to start.

The Salvadore Tennis Center is almost ready to start, **the Biltmore Tennis Center** is done - as far as ADA. **Van Accessible Parking** is 80% done but still working on parking garages since the vans are too high to get into garage. Discussion on putting up signs directing public where accessible parking is. Most likely it will have to be on street. Mr. Delgado stated Parking Garage #5 and #1 will be demolished and rebuilt providing accessibility. The one that is a problem is #4.

Mr. Mendoza further stated that the **other projects** which have to be done are the **sidewalk extensions** which they have been working on and spent \$64,000.00 but there is still a lot more and funding is needed. The **other project** is the **new Museum**. The plans are not complete and what has to be done is to send the plans to the DOJ for review.

The **Biltmore Hotel** is responsible for improvements at the **Biltmore Pro Shop** which they are doing.

Ms. Blaire asked if there is a liability issue relating to the ramp in front of City Hall, possibly posting a warning sign to which Mr. Delgado responded that once the other ramp is completed, this issue could be addressed via a sign advising this is not an accessible entrance, referring them to other entrance which is not challenging. Ms. Blaire further suggested review by the City Attorney, which will be done.

El Rado Street

Mr. Delgado advised Board of a problem at the above location stating that in the City there are three or four substandard streets which are like alley ways. The minimum width of a standard street is 59' which allows for sidewalk, swale and two way street. 60' are ideal which applies to 50% of city streets. The problem with El Rado, Wallace and Tangier is they are only 30'. Those streets do not appear residential since the 5' sidewalks are right up to the street pavement, and there is no green area. El Rado is up for repair via the Road Improvement Program. Some homeowners there approached the City stating before spending the money what can be done to beautify the street to make it more residential looking. There are two options -one keeping it as it is, just replacing the sidewalks and putting new asphalt, the other is to remove the sidewalks, put swale and

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have a street without sidewalks and green area can be used to plant shade trees. The issue is one of ADA since one of the residents who lives in Minnesota but comes down here on vacation, is legally blind but can walk in well defined sidewalks which would create a problem in the event the sidewalks are removed in that particular location. The neighbors were sent a letter asking which option they preferred and this resident responded to the Mayor stating there is a the husband would not be able to walk in the street if sidewalks were removed. So the issue will be brought before the City Attorney to review removing the sidewalk which is already there. This is another issue where a determination needs to be made whether it can be done or not. Discussion of possibilities of moving sidewalk onto private property via easement or one side of street or other. The survey of neighbors showed 27 in favor of removing sidewalk, 15 against. Second notice will be sent to complete the needed 2/3.

Stimulus Package – ADA Items

Mr. Delgado stated that ADA items have been included. However, the City is not getting the money expected. Will get money for transportation, transit, the rest is unknown. The ADA projects are in the list sent to Tallahassee. If we get some money we have targeted mostly to complete Mercy's projects –complete sidewalk extensions, etc.

Board Related Commission Items

None.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER REPORT

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Blaire moved to accept the minutes of September 3, 2008, as written, second by Ms. Scarcell-Degrave. The minutes were unanimously approved. .

Liaison Reports

Children with disabilities program

Ms. Sastre reported she called Ms. Santangelo at the Youth Center and was informed that she is on leave for three months. Ms. Sastre has not heard anything about the program and has not seen anything in regard to this. It has been pretty much kept open that if there is a child with special needs, they will do everything possible to accompany same.

Merrick Educational Center

Ms. Sastre related on letter she received from Merrick Educational Center. They were so happy to have been honored at the Commission meeting and the Coral Gables Rotary Club. The Rotary Club also secured \$1000.00 in funding for the principal to use for the children. The Center sent a thank you letter to Ms. Sastre, the Past President of the Coral Gables Rotary Club and Commissioner Cabrera who sponsored the plaque.

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Merrick School

Ms. Blaire stated that since becoming she became involved in the school's FCAT issues a year ago, the school achieved a "C" grade on the FCAT. Her involvement with the school has been very positive. Ms. Blaire read an article in the Miami Herald's March 2 edition, front page, about the school, its programs and some wonderful photos. The photos not only cover what they are doing in the school but it relates back to the day of the dedication of the trees. Ms. Blaire presented the Gazette covering the dedication. Ms. Blaire further discussed the two trees, the hope for a third tree and the plaque to be mounted on the rock. Ms. Blaire requested the minutes reflect an article which comments on the wonderful job done by both Public Service Dept. and Public Service Department. She further described a wonderful photograph of some of the employees, i.e. Troy Springmyer, the person who assisted in the procurement of the trees, Pat Burns, Public Works, assisted a great deal. Dona Lubin who had been helping and will continue to help with some of the issues, was there and, finally, Dan Keys was there. Ms. Blaire further discussed what should be on the plaque which will be handled by Mercy. Upon completion it will be imbedded in the rock. Ms. Blaire further elaborated on the ceremony and the individuals involved.

Ms. Blaire also discussed needed landscaping in front of school. Mr. Delgado will look into this.

Old Business
Holiday Choir

Ms. Sastre thanked Ms. Swain and Ms. Scarcell Degrave for their attempts to get the annual choir presentation going. Mr. Delgado discussed an article in the Herald about Auburndale School including a photograph of the children.

Parking Enforcement

Discussion on reactivating parking enforcement. Mr. Delgado feels the Parking Dept. can enforce the disabled parking, even on private property such as Publix, provided the department has enough enforcement personnel. Mr. Delgado will again check with the current Parking Director, Kevin Kinney.

New Business
None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 A.M.