

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS
CITY OF CORAL PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
2151 Salzedo Street 1st Floor CMR Room
VIRTUAL – VIA ZOOM –
WEDNESDAY, November 6, 2024
MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY:
	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	
Jennifer Ward Sando	*	P	P	P	P	P	*	E	P	P	P	**	Mayor Vince Lago
Justine Chichester			P	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	**	Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Mary Palacio-Pike	*	P	P	P	P	E	*	P	P	P	P	**	Commissioner Kirk Menendez
Bonnie Blaire	*	P	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	**	Commissioner Melissa Castro
Vanessa Bedoya	*	P	E	P	P	PZ	*	P	P	P	P	**	Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
													Ex-Officio Member Chamber of Commerce

PZ = Via Zoom

A – Absent
E – Excused Absence
(-) – No Appointment
(*) – No Meeting
(**)-No Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS:

QUORUM: Quorum was reached

STAFF:

Raquel Elejabarrieta – Human Resources Director

Eglys Hernandez – P/T Administrative Assistant Labor Relations & Risk Management

GUEST:

CITIZEN ADVISORS:

Debbie Dietz

Jennifer Durocher, Director of UM-NSU Card (Via Zoom)

PUBLIC GUEST: None

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order 10:03am

MEETING ABSENCE: None

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

October 2, 2024

Motion by: Bonnie Blaire / 2nd Justine Chichester / Approved unanimously

SECRETARY'S REPORT: None

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

December Board Meeting

Board discussed having a meeting in December and it was determined no meeting would take place. Board also decided regarding January 2025 meeting, if to be held normally, it would fall on Wednesday, January 1, 2025, therefore it was agreed that it would be moved to 2nd Wednesday of the month, January 8, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS:

Re-Cap Director Training – Ms. Palacio Pike

Ms. Palacio-Pike stated that everyone that she has spoken with, stated the training was great. Ms. Palacio-Pike stated it would be interesting to explore other ways to address this topic in the future. Ms. Dietz stated it would be great to hear from participants what they feel would be needed to assure going forth they receive the assistance needed regarding this topic.

Ms. Elejabarrieta stated in the past board would have representatives from other city departments come to meetings and express what they are doing within their department. Ms. Palacio-Pike suggested if it would be possible to have the participants complete a questionnaire.

Ms. Justine Chichester was acknowledged by all regarding what a great job she did with the training. Ms. Chichester said that it was a lot of work and that she was happy to have been able to do it. She also stated that if another training is to occur in the future, she thinks it would be best if it be more of a collaboration with the board and commence preparation earlier.

Re-Cap Adventure Day – Ms. Palacio-Pike

Ms. Palacio-Pike stated there were more vendors at this year's event, including three which employ people with disabilities. Ms. Sando stated parking was challenging, however she was able to attend with her son. Ms. Sando spoke regarding the possibility of having an official entrance which would have attendees go through the resource fair prior to going into the playground. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated she is not sure that this can be done, however she will be researching. Ms. Dietz asked if the location will be changing for next year. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated she has not been advised of this.

Ms. Dietz stated there was no access to disability parking including the official spaces. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated she was not sure what occurred but would be looking into it and advise. Ms. Chichester stated perhaps having a drop off area. Ms. Bedoya stated perhaps considering adding additional spaces for that day.

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised reviewing map; the accessible parking spaces were there. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated she was not sure what occurred on that day and that it will be brought to the attention of those parties in charge and will be addressed.

Update: ReelAbilities: Ms. Elejabarrieta

Ms. Elejabarrieta stated it is still being reviewed and no contract has been signed. Ms. Blaire stated it may be good to review how this will be promoted.

Ms. Chichester stated that there was a meeting where the committee brought up many ideas, however, later, they were advised the committee was no longer needed. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated the proper use/functions of the committee will be reviewed.

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised there is another meeting as to whether the city will move forward with ReelAbilities as the City has several concerns that the crowds needed will not be drawn.

Ms. Blaire stated what she believes is happening it is an internal issue with the city, there is a lot of pressure on a very small staff to not only do all these special events that are occurring right on top of each other. Ms. Blaire stated best to use this opportunity for the city to review and reflect all they are doing.

Ms. Palacio-Pike stated she feels it probably would be best for this event to be rescheduled to a later date instead of January 2025.

Autism Police Vehicle: Ms. Palacio-Pike

Ms. Palacio-Pike stated she wanted to make the board aware regarding Autism Vehicle. Ms. Palacio-Pike stated back in September Officer Flores went to Crystal Academy where hours were spent with the children, staff as well as other adults within the spectrum regarding the new design. Ms. Palacio-Pike asked if it would be possible to see the design prior to completion. Ms. Elejabarrieta advised she would research and request final design for review.

Santa's Visit – City of Coral Gables Fire Fighter Event – Ms. Elejabarrieta

Ms. Elejabarrieta spoke of upcoming Santa's visit to families with children with disabilities and asked for board to advise if they have any recommendations of any families.

Crystal Academy Holiday Show: Ms. Palacio-Pike

Ms. Palacio-Pike advised that the holiday show for Crystal Academy will take place at City Hall on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.

DIG Christmas Holiday Party: Ms. Chichester

Ms. Chichester advised board on upcoming DIG Christmas Holiday Party, Monday, November 11, 2024, 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 11:05am

Motion to Adjourn: Bonnie Blaire / 2nd Vanessa Bedoya / Approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEXT MEETING: January 8, 2025