

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS
MAY 5, 2010

J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
09	09	09	09	09	09	09	10	10	10	10	10

MEMBERS

Linda Scarcell-Degrave
Sandra Mannis
Dr. Andy Gomez
Bonnie Blaire
Dr. Richard Whittington

*	*	*	P	E	*	P	*	*	P	*	P
*	*	*	P	P	*	P	*	*	P	*	P
*	*	*	E	P	*	E	*	*	A	*	A
*	*	*	P	E	*	P	*	*	P	*	P
*	*	*	P	P	*	P	*	*	P	*	P

APPOINTED BY:

Donald D. Slesnick II
Maria Anderson
Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Wayne "Chip" Withers

A – Absent
P – Present
E – Excused
(*) No meeting

Staff:

James J. Kay, Engineering Division Supervisor
Mirtha C. Francamacaro, PW Central Division
Paul C. Hunt, Senior Citizens Administrator
Margarita Cardenas, IT Department

Mrs. Scarcell-Degrave called the meeting to order at 8:18 a.m.

Board-Related Commission items – None.

City Update:

Mrs. Scarcell-Degrave asked Mr. Kay for an update. Mr. Kay introduced himself and informed the Members that Mr. Pino had been called to the City Manager's office and had asked Mr. Kay to attend in his place. He informed the Members that all city-owned buildings have been brought up to ADA compliance and that the City is looking at the right-of-ways to make sure that it installs ramps in the right places. He also spoke briefly about the Ponce de Leon Project Phase II which will alleviate the traffic situation in the City as well as efforts to promote safety on the thoroughfares, sidewalks, etc. and the ramps will be updated, making it safer for residents and visitors alike.

Mr. Kay said that he would try and address any questions of the Members.. Mrs. Mannis asked how many accidents have occurred on the roundabouts. Mr. Kay said he was not aware but that he would talk to the Police about it. He asked Mrs. Mannis if she was aware of any and she said that she did not know how many but that she knew they have happened. Drivers do not know how to drive thru them. Mr. Kay explained that if anyone is in the roundabout, they are already in it, they have the right-of-way. That is the rule of thumb to follow.

Dr. Whittington: How about who gets there first, to the yield sign? If cars are approaching the yield sign ...The first car that gets to the yield sign should have the right-of-way to the roundabout. Mr. Kay noted that the person who gets to the yield sign first, should have the right-of-way. Mr. Kay further explained that on a four-way stop, the person who reaches the intersection first has the right of way, but if both approach the yield sign at the same time, maybe we should follow the rules of the road, ships and so forth, the person to your right has the right-of-way.

Dr. Whittington said that there are tire marks on the roundabouts which indicate that people do not know how to deal with them.

Mrs. Blaire asked Mr. Kay if there are any instructions, or guidelines that we can give to our citizens to help drivers deal with the traffic calming devices.

Mr. Kay noted that it is very difficult to install roundabouts where there is no sidewalk. The City has done so, but it is difficult to put a crosswalk where there is only grass on the sides of the street.

Board Member Reports – Meeting Attendance:

Mrs. Scarcell-Degrave: There are a couple of changes to the December 2, 2009 minutes and those minutes will be sent out once corrected.

Dr. Whittington asked if we had had a meeting in January. Since we did not, the meeting was in December, the minutes should reflect that correction. He asked that since he was not advised of the meeting, he asked to be excused, which the Members had agreed to. Dr. Whittington suggested Members should be notified in advance of an upcoming meeting. He is okay with e-mail. Those members who do not have access to e-mail will be advised via telephone.

The Members agreed to hold the meetings every other month. Next meeting July 7, 2010 @ 8:00 a.m., 2nd Floor Conf. Rm., Coral Gables Youth Center Bldg.

Mrs. Scarcell-Degrave will be out from the end of June through the end of July. Mrs. Blaire agreed to chair the July 2010 meeting and address the topic of Disabled Parking Patrol.

Guests

1. **Margarita Cardenas**¹: The Disability Board's webpage needs to be updated. They can input all the information, names and telephone numbers of the Members, as well as where senior services can be obtained. She did not know how the Members will be brain storming or whether the Board will engage a person/business to produce the webpage. Right now the webpage is very straight forward and supply the information on ADA. The number shown on the webpage is the switchboard at City Hall. Any changes she can be reached at (305) 460-7744.

Dr. Whittington suggested that the Board may want to make a decision on the videos right now. Mrs. Scarcell-Degrave said that she would like to see the videos first. Until we have something to replace them with she said to keep them. Mrs. Blaire noted that the children's choir video is timeless; Mrs. Scarcell-Degrave noted the Proclamations for the school... Corrections will be made to the webpage, telephone numbers, address, etc. Discussion among the members. Ms. Cardenas will print the webpage to distribute to the Members. The Members also reviewed the Parks & Recreation webpage, which is where Mr. Hunt's department is located.

Mrs. Blaire had many good suggestions as to various links that would access groups such as Florida Assisted Technology, as well as various programs to better assist our disabled constituency. She also suggested that we could coordinate Special Event Days in Coral Gables, such as visits to the various ADA compliant parks or guided tours of the City. Persons with mobility restrictions can partake of such events. Mrs. Blaire also brought up the subject of cooperating with Mr. Hunt and the Senior Citizens Board to coordinate City-wide events.

Mrs. Scarcell-Degrave said that there is an excellent Disability Board program in a city in Colorado, she could not recall the name of the City. She will try to find that particular web site so that we can get some ideas. We may be able to review that and get some ideas.

Mr. Hunt offered local resources information. This Board is primarily involved with the City's responsibilities under ADA, but there are a range of issues in the private sector (how you make your home accessible and that type of thing) which are related. Mr. Hunt been dealing with the Coral Gables Congregational Church for a number of years to provide independent living for those citizens with restrictive mobility (providing ramps). And with a \$5,000 and \$10,000 a year grants to help with those ramps. Volunteer architects do the plans and the City has been cooperative.

2. **Paul Hunt**: Mr. Hunt described his duties as the Senior Citizens Administrator which lends help to the Coral Gables seniors by supplying and accessing services to seniors. The City of Coral Gables does not have a Live-in senior facility, but The Palace, which will be under construction soon, will offer housing and services to seniors. He offered his services and encouraged Members to reach out to him if he could be of any assistance. He gave a brief description of the City board programs especially geared for senior citizens. They go to the theater, go out to dinner, meet for exercise, etc. Activities are held at the University Baptist Church building. He described some of the changes that will make an apartment (home) accessible, such as installing larger bathroom doors, eliminating thresholds, wash and dryer installed 18' off the floor, etc. Mr. Hunt's involvement with various private sectors and religious organizations has produced many good results.

Mrs. Scarcell-Degrave noted that it would be helpful to add links and upgrade information on the Disability Board website. Mrs. Scarcell-Degrave asked Ms. Cardenas if the IT Department would do the revamping. Ms. Cardenas explained that the City is choosing a company, but that is not going to happen any time soon. At least a year. She shared her e-mail address with the Members: mcardenas2@coralgables.com.

The Members thanked both Ms. Cardenas and Mr. Hunt for attending the meeting and for providing such detailed information.

Mr. Hunt brought a calendar of events and he shared the now expired City of Coral Gables Senior Taxi Discount Program. He suggested the Board contact the Center for Independent Living, call Kelly Green. Copies are made part of these Minutes.

Old Business

A quick review of the Disability Board through the years and what the Board has accomplished was discussed. A current and correct list of Board Member names and phone numbers will be sent out to each Board Member.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Scarcell-Degrave adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

¹Ms. Cardenas is no longer with the City. Another staff member from IT (Junior) has assumed her duties. Maybe we should ask that he attend the July meeting of the Board.