

SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of November 7, 2011 meeting
Coral Gables Youth Center

MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	APPOINTED BY
Nadejda Mishkovsky	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	P	R	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Carol Brock	E	P	E	P	P	P	R	P	P	R	P	Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Marilyn Bruno	P	A	P	P	P	P	R	P	P	R	P	Comm. Maria Anderson
										V	V	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
John Fisher	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	E	P	R	E	Comm. Frank C. Quesada
Evelyn Budde	P	P	P	P	P	P	R	P	P	R	P	City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Clara Moreno	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	P	Senior Citizens Advisory Board

A = Absent
 B = Not on Board at Time of Meeting
 C = Cancelled
 E = Excused absence
 P = Present
 N = No quorum
 R = Recessed
 S = Sick
 V = Vacant Position

STAFF:

Fred Couceyro
 Parks & Recreation Director

Anastasia Smith
 Recreation Specialist-Senior Services

Tricia Spencer
 Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

Katie Kreter, resident
 Coral Gables

1. Chairperson Carol Brock called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.
2. C. Brock welcomed resident, Katie Kreter to the meeting. She also welcomed new Board member Clara Moreno to the meeting.
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes: September 19, 2011** – A motion was made by Marilyn Bruno to approve the meeting minutes of September 19, 2011. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.
4. **Approval of Excused Absences** – Marilyn Bruno made a motion to excuse the absence of

John Fisher who was unable to attend because he is currently out of the country. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

5. **Senior Services Divisional Report**

a. Report on Senior Services – Fred Couceyro

The Matter of Balance and Enhanced Fitness programs have started. The classes will include a combination of strength training, aerobics, stretching and balance exercises plus lectures. SHINE has increased the number of days in which it operates out of the War Memorial Youth Center to Tuesdays and Fridays. Fred is working with the Economic Sustainability Department on finding locations for the Senior Center.

b. Senior Center Programs – Anastasia Smith

The Senior Activities Calendar for October/November will be mailed out soon. If anyone is interested in helping us with the mail outs, it will be held at UBC in the Fellowship Hall on November 16th from 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. There are two new classes, Memory Workout which will be held on Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in Room 101 and Beginning French which will be held on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in Room 101; both classes are full and the seniors enjoy it. On December 5th there will be a lecture about the Enhance Fitness program, complimentary refreshments will be served. On December 12th at 11:30 a.m. will be our 4th annual Senior Holiday party. We will be hosting a Toy Drive in partnership with the Coral Gables Police Department, please bring an unwrapped toy for a girl or boy. There will be new class session formats starting in January 2012; classes will be conducted on 6 to 8 weeks terms. Intermediate French and Enhance Fitness are some of the new classes the Senior Center will be offering as of January 1st, 2012; all new classes are already full and there is a waiting list for some classes. January 26th will be First Aid/CPR certification class. We have revamped our “Let’s See South Florida” tours starting with Art Basel on Miami Beach on December 1st, a trip to the Redland farms and distilleries on January 24th, 2012 and the Coral Gables Museum on February 7th, 2012; more trips will be coming in spring 2012.

6. **Old Business**

a. Art Show Wrap-Up

Carol Brock thanked Fred Couceyro, Anastasia Smith, Letty Ellis and the rest of the staff for helping with the Art Show; she also thanked The Palace, Inc. for its continued sponsorship of the event. There were 27 artists, 87 pieces of art and 151 people in attendance. Anastasia distributed an article about the Senior Art Show that was on Coral Gables Homepage titled, “Art Show Spotlights Works by Gables Seniors.” Fred Couceyro was not pleased with the hardware that was used to exhibit the Art, and will be using a different company next year. Dr. William Schiff called to thank everyone. He said that he appreciated the notes that were sent to him. He also said that the renaming of the

event in honor of him was the most important thing that happened to him in his life and was glad that he made a contribution to the City of Coral Gables.

b. Senior Center Update

Being at the Art Show in the auditorium, Marilyn Bruno thought it would be a nice place to put the Senior Center if the building was torn down. She also suggested that spaces in the auditorium can be partitioned off into small classrooms and expand when there are big events. Fred responded that the Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center was built on land donated by the War Memorial Association to be specifically used for youths, if not, the Association has a reverter clause that states if the Youth Center is not used for youth then it would revert back to them. Marilyn has also received a lot of feedback from seniors who are concerned that they might have nowhere to go if they are asked to leave the church. She also stated that it would be a great venture if we could have other activities with the youths and have a multi-purpose Youth Center. Fred said that he has received opposite feedback and that the City sought out the church because the seniors didn't want to be with the children. Carol Brock reiterated this and stressed how important location and parking is for seniors and for the new center. Fred responded that the City is going to get the right property with the right parking, size and location.

Nadia Mishkovsky inquired if there is a specific list of criteria that outside organizations can approach the City if they meet these criteria and would like their property to be considered for the senior center; maybe these property owners would like to redesign their facility.

Marilyn Bruno suggested that a comparison report should be done on properties that have been looked at as well as the criteria that is being contemplated, so that when they do find a place they don't duplicate what's being done. Carol Brock wanted to know what properties were looked at so far. Fred said that they have looked at 15 to 20 properties that has been entertained in terms of looking at them and vetting them out. The City is open to all possible properties. The property should be 10,000 – 14,000 square feet, it could be on an open lot or an existing building, there should be ample parking and it should be centrally located.

c. Health Fair Wrap-up

There were 207 people in attendance at the Senior Health Fair. Everyone enjoyed the Health lectures, Tai-Chi exercise, massage chairs, the health screenings, the lunch, as well as the free valet parking. Baptist Hospital is eager to help with next year's Senior Health Fair. Carol Brock said that the Health Fair was great and nicely done.

7. **New Business**

a. Positive Living Awards – Jim Pollack

Carol Brock thanked everyone for her nominations as well as Lucinda Peeble's nominations. Neither of them won but Jim Pollack was honored with the Positive Living Award in the Legal category. Jim is the volunteer leader of the Senior Center's Current Events and Jazz Classics groups. As a retired attorney, he also volunteers with the Put Something Back Pro Bono Project, a program that provides free legal assistance to needy individuals. The award ceremony date will be held on November 16th, 2011 and tickets cost \$150.00 each. If you know Carol or Jim you can buy the tickets for \$75.00. The Alliance for Aging greatly appreciates your attendance; it is a fundraiser and will be held at Jungle Island. Marilyn Bruno attended last year's event and said it was a lovely fundraiser.

b. Coral Gables Cultural Affairs – Dec. 1st meeting/Carol and Letty

The Coral Gables Cultural Affairs has asked Carol Brock to do a program about the Senior Center. Carol will be joined by Letty Ellis to talk about the Senior Center's programs (especially those relating to cultural affairs) and the difference that they are making from a socialization stand point to our seniors. It is a breakfast meeting and will be held on December 1st, 2011.

c. Advisory Board Nominees

Dr. William Schiff, appointee of Commissioner Ralph Cabrera, has asked to resign from the Board because of health reasons. Dr. Schiff's years of service to the Board were honored by naming the Senior Art Show after him. Carol Brock suggested Ying Pestian to Commissioner Cabrera for his consideration. Ying has expressed a desire for several years to be on the Board. Ying is an instructor at the Senior Center and teaches Mandarin. She is also a participant in senior activities as well. Other Board members were asked to contact Commissioner Cabrera with additional people qualified and willing to serve.

d. Article from Mayor Cason

Carol Brock distributed copies of an article titled, "Report: Cities Make Progress to Support Aging, But Not Enough." The report showed that only 17% of responding local governments have a strategic plan in place that reflects the needs and contributions of older adults. Nadia Mishkovsky worked on this original survey which took a snap shot of American communities' priorities for older adults. Carol suggested that this is something that the Board might make recommendations on in terms of strategic planning; the needs of what the local government have found could be applicable as we look for senior centers. Carol would like to create a sub-committee with Nadia Mishkovsky and Marilyn Bruno since they have worked on these surveys before and that could be the basis of making some general recommendations. Clara Moreno also requested to join the sub-committee as well. Nadia commented that it was a great idea and that sometimes things get missed when doing a survey and there are opportunities to fill the gap that you only see once you put a specific plan in place. Fred welcomes the idea and said that as a division, we do strategic planning and would be interested in this initiative if there is tangible, real achievability. Every year the Parks and Recreation Division meet with

their leadership team and having this input for our senior services programming and facilities, could be included in the SWOT Analysis as real, strategic goals.

8. **Open Items**

There was a brief discussion about Somerset Academica. Carol said that Somerset Academica has re-applied to increase the number of students in their school, however, the enrollment request has decreased to 435 students; 60% of students are non-residents of Coral Gables. Somerset Academica is also negotiating with neighbors to come to an agreement. Some of the Board members are adamantly against the Somerset Grace Academy Charter School changing the Future Land Use Map of the City of Coral Gables Comprehensive Plan, while others don't think it is a senior issue.

9. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next Senior Citizens Advisory Board meeting will be held on Monday, December 5, 2011. The meeting will start at 5:00 p.m. and will be held at the Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center located at 405 University Drive, Coral Gables.

10. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.