

SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of October 5, 2009 meeting
Coral Gables Youth Center

MEMBERS	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	APPOINTED BY
Catherine Fahringer	P	P	P									Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Norma Lemberg	P	P	P									Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Esther Castiglia	E	E	A									Comm. Maria Anderson
Dr. William Schiff	P	P	P									Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Frank Lynn	P	P	P									Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Evelyn Budde	P	P	E									City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Carol Brock	P	P	E									Senior Citizens Advisory Board

A = Absent

C = Cancelled

E = Excused absence

P = Present

N = No quorum

R = Recessed

S = Sick

V= Vacant Position

STAFF:

Luanne Santangelo
Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

Anastasia Smith
Recreation Specialist-Senior Services

Tricia Spencer
Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

Marli Lutz
Executive Director, Coral Gables @ Home

Katie Kreter, resident
Coral Gables

Poppy Chimerakis, resident
Coral Gables

Patrice Fike, resident
Coral Gables

Clara Moreno, resident
Coral Gables

Amanda Del Rio, student
University of Miami

1. Vice Chairperson Catherine Fahringer called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.
2. C. Fahringer welcomed and thanked the guests for attending the meeting.

3. Approval of Board minutes from September 14, 2009 – A motion was made by Frank Lynn to approve the meeting minutes of September 14, 2009. Motion was passed unanimously.
4. Approval of Excused Absences – Frank Lynn motioned to approve the excused absence of Chairperson Carol Brock from the meeting. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board. Dr. William Schiff motioned to approve the excused absence of Evelyn Budde. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.
5. Luanne Santangelo received an e-mail from Esther Castiglia announcing her resignation from the Board. C. Fahringer motioned to approve the resignation of E. Castiglia. Motion was approved unanimously by the Board.
6. F. Lynn made a motion to thank Chairperson C. Brock for appearing before the City Commission and the City Manager at the Budget Hearing. C. Brock gave a great presentation and conveyed the concerns of the Board. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

7. Senior Services Divisional Reports:

a. Report on Senior Services – Paul Hunt

Paul Hunt was absent from the meeting.

b. Senior Center Programs – Anastasia Smith

There is now a two month calendar instead of a month to month calendar. Flu Shots will be given on October 9th at the University Baptist Church. October 14th, monthly bingo begins after lunch and will be held every second Wednesday of the month. On October 19th there will be a lunch and lecture; the lecture will be titled, “Positioning Yourself for Smart Investment Planning.” Marilyn Bruno is the speaker at this lecture and gives free monthly informative workshops and the Senior Center. October 20th there will be a trip to the Everglades Wildlife Outpost in Homestead, Florida. Also on October 20th, A. Smith will visit Coral Gables Senior High School’s Interact Club to personally invite students to the Senior Art Show. On October 23rd, there will be a Self Defense Workshop. On October 27th there will be a trip to see “The Color Purple” at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts. New Italian classes begins in November with a new volunteer, her name is Alessandra Prado. Last month A. Smith visited Lola B. Walker Homeowner Association and presented senior program information to them. Today Coral Gables @ Home visited the Senior Center to discuss on-line programs and they are also looking for senior bloggers.

Letty Ellis developed a resource guide for seniors.

9. Old Business

a. Senior Art Show – Dr. William Schiff

There are 42 artists signed up to participate in the Senior Art Show with 116 pieces submitted to the show; 60 paintings, 22 photographs, 22 hard crafts and 12 soft crafts.

There are 23 artists from last year participating again. Preparations are going well. The Palace, Inc. will be presenting the opening reception refreshments.

A. Smith said that she is working with Fabio Rodriguez of Marketing, on the invitations. Dr. W. Schiff requested that Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark be invited.

b. Transportation Committee Report – Norma Lemberg

The discount coupon books are available; they can be purchased at the registration desk here at the Coral Gables Youth Center. One of the problems we are being faced with is that seniors are having a difficult time coming to the Youth Center to purchase the coupon books. N. Lemberg suggested that P. Hunt should make a presentation at the University Baptist Church during one of the luncheons and have the coupon books available to purchase.

c. Coral Gables at Home Update

Marli Lutz distributed issues of The @ Homebody newsletters. On October 29th at 2:30 p.m. there will be a nutritional seminar held at Doctor's Hospital in the south end of the cafeteria. M. Lutz offered to send volunteers to help out at the Senior Art Show if needed. She also requested that Coral Gables @ Home be included in the resource guide as well. Less than half of Charter memberships to Coral Gables @ Home are available; by January membership is expected to be completely filled then the rate will increase after that.

d. Sr. Citizens Budget Update – Luanne Santangelo

On Tuesday, September 29th, the budget was passed by the City Commission. Budget reductions were made throughout the Parks and Recreation Department including the loss of 6 positions (3 unfilled; 3 filled). The only change to the Senior Division budget, which had been previously discussed, was the removal of the City sponsorship for the Annual Luncheon. The Luncheon can still be held with the assistance of sponsors.

10. New Business

a. University of Miami Survey

Amanda Del Rio, a student at the University of Miami attended the meeting to discuss and distribute a survey that gathers information on how those who work and live in Coral Gables prefer to receive information. The University of Miami is working closely with the Gables Home Page program.

11. Open Items

City Manager, Patrick Salerno will be meeting with the seniors on November 02nd, 2009. It will be held at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall at the University Baptist Church located at 624 Anastasia Avenue.

Poppy Chimerakis thanked the Board for doing a great job. She also thanked A. Smith and L. Ellis for the wonderful job they are doing and would like to see the same excellence continue.

L. Santangelo said that she received an e-mail from C. Brock advising her that Dr. W. Schiff won the Positive Living Intergenerational Award. The Board congratulated Dr. W. Schiff.

12. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board will be held on Monday, November 2, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at the Coral Gables Youth Center at 405 University Drive.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.