

SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of September 14, 2009 meeting
Coral Gables Youth Center

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

Paul Hunt
Senior Services Coordinator

Anastasia Smith
Recreation Specialist-Senior Services

Tricia Spencer
Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

Marli Lutz
Executive Director, Coral Gables @ Home

Letty Ellis
Program Assistant – Seniors Program

1. Chairperson Carol Brock called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.
2. C. Brock welcomed and thanked the guests for attending the meeting and that the Board needs their support, ideas and input.
3. The Board introduced themselves by stating their name and who appointed them; C. Brock stated she was elected by the Board as chair person.
4. Approval of Board minutes from August 03rd, 2009 – The minutes were approved. Motion was passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Excused Absences – C. Brock said that Esther Castiglia might not be able to attend the meeting, if she does not attend her absence will be excused.
6. C. Brock said that the City Manager, Patrick Salerno, was unable to attend the meeting but agreed to meet with the Board at a later date. Since City Manager P. Salerno did not attend, C. Brock suggested changing the agenda. A motion was made by Frank Lynn to change the agenda. Motion was passed unanimously.

Over the years the Senior Services programs have blossomed; C. Brock thanked Anastasia Smith and Letty Ellis for their work in planning and implementing the senior programs. C. Brock also thanked Belkis Frangente, for her volunteer service in teaching programs for the seniors.

7. C. Brock opened the forum for a discussion.

Maria Gonzalez, a resident of Coral Gables and a member of Senior's Choral group asked if the choral group could meet more than once per month; Clara Moreno, another resident of Coral Gables and active Senior's member stated that a presence of the members of the Senior Board would be appreciated at the programs and activities. Board members acknowledged the request and stated that while they may not be physically present at the programs they work continuously as a Board member to improve the quality of life of seniors in the community.

Elaine Duncan wanted to know when the University Baptist church moves out if the City of Coral Gables would consider purchasing the building. Norma Lemberg stated that for the last five to six years they have been talking about and searching for a location for a Senior Center and the idea of the church had been discussed. C. Brock added that one of the questions they were going to address to City Manager P. Salerno was about the Senior Center; she also concluded that in order to receive grants and additional funding for senior services they need to have a permanent Senior Center.

8. Senior Services Divisional Reports:
 - a. **Report on Senior Services – Paul Hunt**

Paul Hunt introduced himself to the attendees at the meeting; he said that he is basically the City Social Worker and provides advocacy services to seniors and their family members. One issue that has come up with seniors is transportation. P. Hunt continued to say that he was awarded a small grant for the senior transportation program and he has implemented a program which is a demonstration project by using the taxi cabs of Coral Gables to transport seniors wherever they need to go. The process is that you would come here to the Coral Gables Youth Center and at the registration desk you can purchase coupon books. The coupons are only for Coral Gables residents aged 65 years and above. The coupons can be used 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is no limitation on the distance travelled. Sales will be limited to one coupon book per person. A coupon book

will contain four (4) \$5 coupons. Each book will sell for \$10 each and can be used all at once. The program runs from September 01st, 2009 to December 31st, 2009.

b. Senior Center Programs – Anastasia Smith

Today was movie day and review, the movie was called “Tootsie.” Jerry Stein did the movie review. “Life Without Stress” is a five week workshop that started this month. The recent Casino trip had 47 participants. Next month Line Dancing classes are full. There is going to be monthly bingo held once a month after the weekly lunch. This month’s lunch and lecture is by Justin Moss who is going to speak about the Florida Grand Opera. The seniors helped mail out the monthly calendars for the last two months.

9. Old Business

a. Fire Fees - Senior Exemption

C. Brock mentioned that the Board made their opinion, of no fire fees for Seniors, known to the Mayor and City Commission. C. Fahringer further commented that the Board voted against Fire Fees for seniors during the August meeting.

b. Sr. Citizens Budget Update

The annual senior luncheon was removed from the senior services budget. C. Brock said that they would still like to offer the senior luncheon but may consider charging a nominal fee of \$5.00; Of course, staff and the Board would continue to garner sponsorships as had been done the last several years. C. Brock took this opportunity to ask those in attendance that if there was a small fee for attendance at the Luncheon would they continue to attend. Overwhelmingly, those in attendance stated yes, they would pay a fee to attend the annual luncheon.

b. Art Show Report

The Senior Art Show will be held on November 13th and November 14th, 2009; the deadline for all applicants is October 1st. There are 7 entries so far; photography, ceramics, soft crafts, paintings and drawings can be entered into the show. There is confirmed sponsorship from The Palace, Inc. they will provide the drinks and food. A. Smith will be securing the prizes.

c. Coral Gables at Home Update

Marli Lutz introduced herself to everyone; she is the Executive Director of Coral Gables @ Home. It is a non for profit organization that helps seniors to feel safe and confident about their decision to stay in their homes by providing services such as personalized grocery shopping, transportation to and from medical appointments, discounts on home repairs and more. This program offered is the first of its kind in Florida. There is a fee for this service.

d. Golden Gables Newsletter

C. Brock asked everyone that if they have any ideas for the Golden Gables newsletter, please let her know and she'll be happy to speak with Belkys Perez about their ideas. In closing she thanked everyone for attending the meeting and look forward to seeing them again at our next meeting.

10. Date and time of next meeting

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

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

**ATTACHMENT:
1. Attendance List**