

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 7, 2008, 8:00 a.m.

City of Coral Gables Development Department

95 Merrick Way, Suite 450, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	M	J	J	A#	S	O*	O**	N	D	J	F	M	A	COMMISSIONERS
José R. Garrigó	P	P	P	-	P	P	E	P	-	-	P	P	P	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Bobbi Litt	P	P	P	-	E	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Bernice Matalon-Roth	P	E	P	-	P	E	P	P	-	-	E	P	P	Commissioner Maria Anderson
Carol Damian	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	P	Commissioner Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Beatriz Pereira				P	-	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	Commissioner Wayne "Chip" Withers
Andrea Cole						E	P	P	-	-	E	P	P	Board Appointee
Miguel Diaz de la Portilla									-	-			P	City Manager David L. Brown

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

- = No Meeting

* Regular Meeting and FY2006-2007 Final Reports

Regular Meeting + FY2007-08 Grants Workshop

** FY2007-2008 Cultural Grant Applications Review & Scoring

Staff In Attendance:

Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, Development Director

Recording Secretary:

Nancy C. Morgan, Coral Gables Services, Inc.

Guests: Janet Gavarette, Dr. Perri Lee Roberts, Brian Dursum, University of Miami.

Chair Carol Damian called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

I. Minutes of March 3, 2008:

Mr. Garrigó made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2008 meeting as presented. Ms. Cole seconded the motion, which passed. Mr. de la Portilla recused himself from voting (since he had only recently been appointed).

II. Introduction and Welcome to New Board Member Miguel Diaz de la Portilla:

Dr. Damian welcomed Mr. Diaz de la Portilla, who reviewed his background, after which Board members briefly introduced themselves.

III. Informal update on University of Miami Master Art Plan: Janet Gavarette

Ms. Gavarette discussed passage of the Art in Public Places Ordinance and expressed appreciation that the City exempted the University from some provisions, but included a provision that requires the University to have a campus master art plan. Ms. Gavarette distributed a copy of the new plan brochure and reviewed its contents.

Ms. Rivenbark stated the City's support of the plan, and mentioned that the exemption exists as long as the University adheres to the criteria.

Mr. Dursum, responsible for shepherding the program, reviewed established processes and procedures. All art donations and offerings on campus pass through the Museum, and a committee oversees the program, meets monthly and ensures no breakdown in communication. The University also appointed an individual who works specifically with sculptures. Maintenance is funded by the University.

During discussion of the integration of the University's cultural program into its web site, Mr. Garrigó asked Ms. Gavarette to help the Board design the cultural portion of the City web site, and Ms. Gavarette agreed to discuss with Ms. Rivenbark ideas and resources used by the University that may prove helpful in this regard.

The Board informally reviewed the program and plan and was pleased with their results. Admiration was also unanimously expressed for the University's web site, with specific reference to culture featured on the home page in addition to the award-winning Arts and Sciences web page, which the Board will use as a template for designing the cultural portion of the City's web site.

IV. Discussion regarding Recommendations for Arts Advisory Panel Members:

Dr. Damian explained the Board's responsibility for creating the Arts Advisory Panel, a group that serves as the introductory and advisory arm of the Board for the City's art acquisitions and other arts-related issues within the City. Members of the Panel, usually five people, are arts professionals, whose input will be particularly critical as the City moves forward with the arts master plan.

During discussion, Ms. Litt recommended Dora Valdes-Fauli and Ms. Cole recommended Freda Tschumy. Dr. Damian pointed out that Brian Dursum, Marijean Miyar and Peter Boswell, long-term members of the Panel, would likely remain in service. The credentials and backgrounds of each person were reviewed, after which Ms. Rivenbark reported that the selection should be confirmed by the City Commission should the prospective panel members be willing to serve.

Dr. Damian will write a letter inviting participation to the five candidates.

V. Status Reports:

- a. **Art Cinema Project:** The project passed first reading at the Commission meeting. Second reading will occur once the bids have been received. The City and a private foundation will each contribute \$250,000 to the project, and it is clearly understood by the Public Works Department that the budget is firm. The program was revised to reduce costs without damaging quality. Ms. Rivenbark will work with the Art Cinema operator to develop a business plan.
- b. **Arts in Public Places program:** Glenn Weiss, Senior Planner, City of Coral Springs, provided copies of the San Diego and Coral Springs scope of services as a basis for the City to hire a consultant to help build the master plan, which must be in place prior to collecting monies through the ordinance. The Arts Advisory Panel will be a second group to review formation of the master plan. Copies of the scopes of service were distributed to Board members for review. Mr. Weiss also recommended qualified consultants.
- c. **Cultural information – City web site:** Ms. Rivenbark met with the City Manager, Assistant City Manager and Public Affairs Manager regarding placement of culture on the City's web site and the Board's long-term desire to have culture emphasized. The City Manager agreed that navigation could be easier on the home page to guide interested visitors to cultural information. As it was suggested that the Development Department provide desired information, Ms. Rivenbark advised that she would download all the current cultural information and physically draft proposed revisions. Various options were discussed, and the Board was enthusiastic about the "green light" for culture to appear on the home page. To facilitate the process, it was agreed that a draft of the design will be ready by the beginning of May for Board review and revision. It will then be forwarded to the City Manager for review.

VI. Additional Board Business:

- a. **General City Update:** City budgets are being revised downward by 5% to 10% due to uncertainty about revenue streams because of recent State-wide property tax reform. Ms. Rivenbark assured the Board that efforts were being made to preserve \$175,000 for cultural grants. Staff is also examining ways to generate additional revenues to augment City grant funds through innovative, pro-culture fundraising activities. Such activities would provide opportunities for people to support culture, with the assurance that 100% of the funds would be

dedicated to culture. Various ideas were enthusiastically discussed by the Board and will be further explored. It was also unanimously agreed that it was important for cultural groups to express their appreciation to the Commission members for the City's cultural support.

Mr. Diaz de la Portilla made a motion to encourage the City Commission to maintain cultural grant funding of at least \$175,000 in the next budget cycle. Dr. Matalon-Roth seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. **Other Board business:**

Dr. Damian reported that Ms. Rivenbark, Parker Thomson and she accompanied Dan Keys to Ingraham Park to identify the location for installation of Jean Ward sculptures, which will be grouped amid trees. For the benefit of newer Board members, the history of the sculptures was relayed. After they are placed, a photographic documentation will be created for public use.

Dr. Damian gave Ms. Rivenbark the orientation package distributed by Miami-Dade Trust with the suggestion that relevant portions of the package be used as a model for Board orientation. Board members were supportive of moving forward with an orientation.

Regarding revision of cultural grant guidelines, Dr. Matalon-Roth will schedule a meeting with staff to accomplish this task.

Ms. Rivenbark will e-mail date options for the annual July workshop, most often held the last two weeks of July.

Ms. Litt reminded Board members to attend as many City-supported cultural events as possible. Dr. Damian suggested staff e-mail names of grant-recipient organizations to allow Board members to research performance dates and events.

Regarding the Board's gift in memory of Florence Dawson, Ms. Rivenbark met with several City directors, who are in process of reviewing nine possible locations for a memorial garden for City employees who passed away.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

**Upcoming Meeting: Next regular Board meeting: Monday, May 5, 2008, 8:00 a.m. –
Development Department Conference Room**

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Swanson Rivenbark, AICP, CEcD
Development Director and Secretary to the Board