

City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.coralgables.com



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

4:00 PM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86149844627>

Adult Activity Center

Senior Citizens Advisory Board

Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin
Vice Chairperson Celia Suarez
Board Member Jean H. Connelly
Board Member Kelley Schild
Board Member Julian Sevillano
Board Member Richard Thurer
Board Member Hendrik Woods

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting began at 4:05pm

ROLL CALL

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABSENCE OF KELLEY SCHILD WAS MADE BY JULIAN SEVILLANO AND WAS SECONDED BY RICHARD THURER. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABSENCE OF CELIA SUAREZ WAS MADE BY RICHARD THURER AND WAS SECONDED BY JULIAN SEVIALLNO. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Present: 5 - Chairperson Berlin, Board Member Connelly, Board Member Sevillano, Board Member Thurer and Board Member Woods

Excused: 2 - Vice Chairperson Suarez and Board Member Schild

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION TO APPROVE LAST MEETING'S MINUTES WAS MADE BY JEAN CONNELLY AND WAS SECONED BY JULIAN SEVILLANO. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

a. General Updates

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson began by discussing some upcoming events at the center, stating that the movie "Casablanca" would be shown on May 6th at the Coral Gables Arts Cinema as the next installment of the Afternoon of the Cinema sponsored by Commissioner Kirk Menendez, Annual Spring Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Fiesta on May 5th. Katherine Anderson then discussed that she had reached out to former fire chief Stolzenberg to see about setting up a hurricane preparedness presentation.

Board Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin stated that he would like to acknowledge how great the tour of the PSB was being guided by Sergeant Escobar. Board member Richard Thurer then inquired if it would be possible to have a tour of the more focused on the fire department side of the building. Administrative Operations Supervisor Sarah Espino then inquired as to whether Richard Thurer would prefer a tour by someone on the fire department or to have someone join one of the board meetings to provide specific information, AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson then stated that she can see about having some additional information discussed during the hurricane preparedness presentation.

Board Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin then inquired if there was any movement in the additional fee for the assisted living facilities due to the extra strain they put on fire rescue, Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro stated that as far as he is aware this has not be done.

b. Administrative Updates

Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro began by discussing the upcoming elections meaning that there will be no commission meeting in April and that they will pick up again in May. Director Couceyro then went on to discuss the early voting that has been taking place at the Youth Center, stating that they have not seen a lot of voters coming through.

Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro then discussed how the department is currently undergoing budget requests and scenarios to determine next year's budget for each division. Director Couceyro then detailed the method in which divisions request additional funding, stating that they will request new needs that will be submitted to the City Manager. Director Couceyro then discussed the capital requests that the department puts through, stating that the focuses this year are the passive parks, walkways, dog parks and larger projects such as pickleball courts to help meet the demands of the active adult community with the hope of having at least 12 dedicated pickleball courts throughout the city.

Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro continued by discussing the Egg Hunt will be taking place on the upcoming Saturday and that hunts will be hosted at both the Youth Center and the Country Club. Director Couceyro then continued by discussing the fact that the Country Club had just held its first members mixer that had about 150 participants. Director Couceyro then discussed the fact that they are

continuing to see increasing memberships and that the pool should be set to open in approximately a week or two. Director Couceyro then discussed an upcoming event where there will be free gelato served to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Country Club on April 16th, goal is to have the pool functional by this event.

Board Chairperson James “Jim” Berlin then asked whether there was anything the department required assistance with heading into the summer, to which Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro stated that the department appreciates the boards support however there are no items that require their direct support.

Board member Richard Thurer then questioned whether there were any capital projects for the Adult Activity Center, Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro responded by stating that since this building is still new there are no large capital projects needed. Director Couceyro described the ability to use additional funds in the budget to fund capital improvement projects within the building. Board member Richard Thurer then inquired as to rooftop park mentioned in previous meetings, Director Couceyro stated that this is part of the mobility hub project and that as of right now it is planned to contain a walking trail, some fitness equipment and kids play equipment. However, there are no plans for a pickleball court to be included in the rooftop park for safety concerns but there will also be an indoor space located in the park to allow for rentals and classes. Board member Richard Thurer then inquired if there was any timeline as to when this rooftop park was expected to be completed and opened to the public, Director Couceyro responded stating that there was no such timeline at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

a. No Show Policy for Programming

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson began by discussing some potential changes to help with the registrations at the AAC, beginning with reaching out to the legal department when it comes to implementing a no-show policy for paid programming such as Zumba and Total Body Conditioning, and were told that they could implement some sort of stand-by system. Community Recreation Director Couceyro said that this is something that would need to be looked at more closely and that they would like to table some of the discussions so that Board Vice-Chairperson Celia Suarez can participate in the discussion. Katherine Anderson then stated that if this was implemented it would not occur until the Fall at the earliest.

Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro then stated that the commission has asked the department to review the pricing of different programs to potentially increase the price gap between residents and non-residents. Director Couceyro then specifically stated that this is something needed at the Granada Golf Course where there is such a small price gap between residents and non-residents that it is becoming difficult for residents to reserve tee times for themselves. Director Couceyro then stated that part of the goal of the Country Club to incorporate the Granada Golf Course with special limited number of memberships that include both the Country Club and the Granada Golf Course.

OLD BUSINESS**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro then mentioned that everyone should have received an invitation for the Boards and Committees Dinner on May 11th, for which both AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson and Director Couceyro said they will not be able to attend.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**a. Board Member Appointments**

Administrative Operations Supervisor Sarah Espino began by discussing the effects of the upcoming elections on the members of the board and going over the four-term limit. Sarah Espino stated that the new members of commission will hold the ability to appoint new board members or to retain the previous members on the board, and described the process in which to apply for a board position and informed Kelley Schild and Hendrik Woods who were appointed by those leaving their seats in the commission, recommending that they reach out to those who are elected to inform them that they are interested in retaining their seat on the Senior Advisory Board.

Board Chairperson James “Jim” Berlin then inquired as to the process of allowing another member the chance to become the board chairperson. Administrative Operations Supervisor Sarah Espino then stated that the position will be up for election after May allowing for someone else to become the Chairperson of the board.

Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro then shared that with Sarah Espino being promoted to Administrative Operations Supervisor there will be a new secretary to the meetings named Susan who was just offered the position and will soon becoming involved in the advisory board meetings.

b. Next Meeting is set for May 4th at 4:00pm

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm

NOTE