

# City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
[www.coralgables.com](http://www.coralgables.com)



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 2, 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 4:00pm**

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Present:** 6 - Chairperson Berlin, Vice Chairperson Suarez, Board Member Connelly, Board Member Schild, Board Member Sevillano and Board Member Woods

**Excused:** 1 - Board Member Thurer

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**A MOTION TO APPROVE LAST MEETINGS MINUTES WAS MADE BY JULIAN SEVILLANO AND WAS SECONDED BY CELIA SUAREZ. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

**a. General Updates**

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson began the Supervisor's Report by discussing a visit to the Public Safety Building, inquiring who would be interested in the tour Mayor Lago mentioned in the previous Senior Advisory Board Meeting. Every board member in attendance stated that they would be interested, Board Vice-Chairperson Celia Suarez then asked whether there was a specific date in mind and Community Recreation Assistant Director Carolina Vester stated that they would aim for March. Board Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin stated that he had 5 additional guests he would like to bring if possible, Carolina Vester then stated that the board can bring guests but that they should attempt to keep the group size to 15 people maximum.

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson then discussed the upcoming weekend stating that the first weekend of the new season of An Afternoon at the Cinema sponsored by Commissioner Kirk Menendez would be taking place on Saturday February 4th at 12pm showing "That's Entertainment" and has already sold 115 tickets out of the 130 available. Katherine Anderson mentioned that the next movie to be shown on March 4th is "What's Up Doc?" that will be showing at 12pm. Board Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin then inquired as to where these movies are shown, Katherine Anderson responded that they are shown at the Coral Gables Art Cinema located at 260 Aragon Ave.

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson then mentioned the May 5th Spring Fiesta Volunteer Luncheon, stating that planning had begun for the event with tickets expected to go on sale for residents late March to Early April and for non-residents by the end of April. Katherine Anderson then discussed that the idea of Tuesday nights and Saturday mornings open domino play in March. Katherine Anderson then stated the popularity of the Aqua Zumba class, stating that there 10 members on the waiting list, so they have begun looking into starting a second class. AAC Supervisor Kathrine Anderson then mentioned that she had recently met with AvMed about sponsoring programs for the AAC including a class called drawing for longevity and lectures on many different subjects including nutrition, health & wellness, and sexual education seminars.

Board Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin then inquired whether there had been any more information regarding a Mind & Melody Sponsor, AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson then responded that they have not heard any further information on the sponsor. However, Kathrine Anderson then stated that Mind & Melody reached out stating that they were in the process of receiving a sponsorship from the Parkinson Foundation and were working out the details to see if they would be able to host the classes at the AAC. James "Jim" Berlin then inquired if this was the Alzheimer's caregivers supports group that meets on Thursday's, Katherine Anderson stated that it was a different group but that the class has been noted to benefit people with Parkinson's and Alzhiemer's.

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson then stated that the AAC has officially added 13 new programs to its calendar since reopening and that the center has been seeing a surge in new members, leading to some programs filling up to capacity. Board

Member Kelley Schild then inquired about how the Saturday shifts were going since beginning in January, Katherine Anderson stated that they have been a little slow, but they believe that they will begin to pick up as more people learn about these new weekend classes. Board Member Jean Connelly then stated that she had recently learned about a program called the golden ticket for seniors that provides free opportunities or coupons for certain events throughout Miami-Dade County, Katherine Anderson said that she would research this program further.

#### **b. Special Events**

Community Recreation Assistant Supervisor Carolina Vester began by discussing the upcoming Pierce Park Ribbon Cutting, handing out flyers containing information on the upcoming event taking place on Saturday February 11th at 3pm. Carolina Vester went on to give some history about the park, stating that it is one of Coral Gables oldest parks bordering Coconut Grove. Carolina Vester then asked the board to please RSVP if they are interested in attending the ribbon cutting ceremony and that they would love to have the Senior Advisory Board be in attendance for the ribbon cutting.

#### **c. Administrative Updates**

Board Vice-Chairperson Celia Suarez inquired about Country Club updates, specifically whether the pool would be operational soon. Community Recreation Assistant Supervisor Carolina Vester then stated that she has high confidence that the Country Club will begin to move in the right direction now under the supervision of Coral Gables Golf and Country Club Division Director Mitchell Zuriarrain. Carolina Vester noted that there were some difficulties when the Community Recreation department took control of the Country Club stating that it is a private sector facility being run like a public facility. Carolina Vester then stated that there have been some difficulties getting the Country Club pool up and running, however they believe that the pool should be opening sooner rather than later. Carolina Vester then stated that Mitchell Zuriarrain has already begun bringing in new programming like Zumba under the stars, afternoon tea times, and the upcoming daddy daughter dance.

Board Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin then inquired whether there was anything a non-member could do at the Country Club, Community Recreation Assistant Supervisor Caroline Vester informed him that he would be able to still eat at the Le Parc café, restrooms, rentals of rooms and the facility for events, and that some events are currently open to all members and residents, however this will be changing to eventually only be open to members of the Country Club. Board Vice-Chairperson Celia Suarez then inquired about the dates for the teatimes for which Carolina Vester stated she would send them over to AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson so that she may share them with the rest of board.

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson shared some sample flyers relaying updated information about the mobile permitting that the City has begun to offer, Board Member Kelley Schild then inquired as to whether there was a way that we could begin giving this informational flyers along with any related citations. Community

Recreation Assistant Director Carolina Vester stated that this seemed like a very interesting idea and that she would make sure to pass it along to development as a suggestion. Caroline Vester then stated that they just did the opening for the 427 building which is going to be home for Code Enforcement & Development Services, and encourage the board members to go check it out on their free time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Board Member Hendrik Woods then mentioned Frank Button and everything that he accomplished for the City of Coral Gables specifically when it came to parks and questioned why there doesn't seem to be much memorializing him in the parks. Community Recreation Assistant Director Carolina Vester responded stating that there had been a plaque created in his memory located between Country Club and Majorca Park. Hendrik Woods then inquired about Fink's studio and whether it is open for public viewing. Carolina Vester stated that it is now the home of Economic Development but that the original intent was to have areas where the public can go in and look but that they would need to reach out to Economic Development to get more information. Carolina Vester then asked Hendrik Woods to send an email to Katherine so that they can follow up with Economic Development.

Board Member Hendrik Woods then asked if there were any updates on the Phillips Park redesign. Community Recreation Assistant Director Carolina Vester then stated that it is scheduled to be discussed in the upcoming Commission Meeting. Carolina Vester then stated that the department is in the process of applying for a grant that they are feeling positive about. Board Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin then stated that he had seen an interesting article in the paper referring to a recent ruling by a judge finding that the city had gone too long without communicating with the citizens for their input on the project now deeming that they no longer have the necessary approval.

Board Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin then asked Board Member Kelley Schild whether she was able to find any additional information on Baptist Health employee housing. Kelley Schild stated that she could not find any further information on Baptist and that she may have been mistaken and that it may have been Publix.

Community Recreation Assistant Director Carolina Vester then discussed the difficulties with finding new park space and how the department is going to have to continue becoming more creative about finding space. Carolina Vester then listed as an example the rooftop park that is in the works seeing how parking garages have a top floor that always seems under utilized.

**OLD BUSINESS****DISCUSSION ITEMS****a. Farmer's Market Recruitment Booth**

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson then mentioned an email she had sent out earlier in the week to the board members regarding a trip to the Coral Gables Farmer's Market Saturday February 4th from 9am-11am to spread information regarding the Adult Activity Center. Board Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin then asked whether there would be any sort of flyer for them to handout with information about the Adult Activity Center, to which Katherine Anderson responded stating that she had printed out a welcome flyer, Senior Advisory Board flyer, and Calendars of the AAC's activities to hand out in the morning. Katherine Anderson then stated that she had recently spoken to Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro about developing a glossy mailer flyer with generic information that could be handed out in the future. Community Recreation Assistant Director Caroline Vester then mentioned the idea of an evergreen brochure, containing information that does not change to reduce the need for replacements to be printed.

**b. Upcoming Elections**

Board Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin inquired whether there were any goals the board wanted to accomplish that they could push for in the upcoming election, specifically mentioning the possible fee for Assisted Living Facilities to Board Member Kelley Schild. Kelley Schild stated that there was nothing at this time but that she would bring it up if anything were to come up.

**ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

Next Meeting is set for March 2nd at 4:00pm

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm

**NOTE**