

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS  
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2014, 8:00 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY:
	13	13	13	13	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	
Sally Baumgartner	-	-	P	E	*	P	P	P	P	*	*	P	E	P	P	P	James C. Cason
Patricia Sowers	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	*	*	E	P	P	P	P	Patricia Keon
William Beckham	E	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	*	*	E	E	P	P	P	Vince Lago
Bonnie Blaire	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Richard Whittington	P	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	E	*	*	P	P	P	P	P	Frank C. Quesada

**P – Present**  
**E – Excused Absence**  
**A – Absent**  
**(-) – No Appointment**  
**(\*) – No Meeting**

**STAFF:**

Kenny Ingersoll, Project Coordinator Assistant – Public Works Department

**GUEST:**

1. Kelly Denham, City of Coral Gables – Police Department
2. Raul Pedroso, City of Coral Gables – Police Department
3. Marcus de la Rosa, City Coral Gables – Fire Department
4. Dave Vargas, City Coral Gables – Fire Department
5. Charlotte Lorber – Resident

**CITIZEN ADVISORS:**

1. Matt and Debbie Dietz, Disability Independence Group

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Ms. Blaire called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**MEETING ABSENCE:** None.

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

- **November 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Beckham moved to approve the November 5, 2014 meeting minutes. Mrs. Sowers second the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** None.

**BOARD-RELATED COMMISSION ITEMS:**

Mrs. Blaire reported that the Annual Board & Committee appreciation reception is being held at the Coral Gables Country Club tonight at 6:00 pm. She also mentioned that tonight, starting at 7:00 pm, is the first night of the caroling competition held at 550 Biltmore Way. The competition will go through the weekend.

**CITY UPDATE:** None.

**BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:**

Ms. Garrido mentioned the Board's annual report needs to be prepared for this year.

**PROGRAM:**

Mrs. Blaire introduced Mr. Dietz and the program to be presented involving first responder. Mr. Dietz stated he would like to discuss a proposed program involving animals that are abandoned because their owners have disabilities, are bed-bound or need other care. He mentioned the "Kiddle Ordinance" which came about a situation at the City of Doral. He stated that in the City of Doral there were two blind women with their service animals having lunch when one of the dogs started having seizures. There was an off-duty City of Doral Police Officer who refused to help and therefore called 9-1-1 which stated they were not animal people and couldn't assist. After 45 minutes a good samaritan drove her to the veterinarian and the dog died. After this event, an activist from Doral asked Mr. Dietz what can be done to address situations like these. This is how the Kiddle Ordinance was developed for the City of Doral which states that if there is a Police Officer or Fire Fighter who is not involved in an emergency, they can take the service animal to an emergency veterinarian for care. Ever since the passing of this ordinance at the City of Doral, it has been proposed from City to City and it's currently in front of the City of Miami Beach for approval. Firefighter Vargas from the City of Coral Gables suggested that this ordinance to be presented to the City of Coral Gables' City Commission for approval as well. Currently, the City of Coral Gables Fire Department has oxygen masks for dogs and cats. The Fire Department is enthusiastic about this ordinance. Mr. Dietz drafted the ordinance for the City of Coral Gables and would like for the Disability Affairs Board members to review and consider making a recommendation for City Commission approval.

Firefighter Vargas added that this ordinance will become a problem solving tool which will formalize their efforts.

Officer Denham commented that the City of Coral Gables' Police Department goes above and beyond to assist residents and visitors. She is pleasantly surprised over the City of Doral's initial reaction and believes this is a positive step.

Mr. Beckham motioned to recommend this ordinance to the City Commission for approval. Mrs. Baumgartner seconded and it was passed unanimously. The proposed ordinance was delivered to the City Attorney's Office.

Mr. Dietz discussed another program currently in development. He stated that in the City and across the Miami-Dade County there are many elderly, disabled, victims of domestic violence who do not seek help or medical assistance because they do not want to leave their animals unattended. Those animals that are left unattended are picked up by animal control and are euthanized. This program proposes an animal foster care system for these individuals in which they can register their animals for this service. In addition, first responders and/or social workers will have access to these services as well. The idea is for animals to go into the temporary foster care system rather than animal control.

Mr. Beckham asked how this program will be funded. Mrs. Dietz said they are still looking into this. However they've thought about this becoming a Jobs program for adults with disabilities, which will also be a great training program. There are also some potential partners.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Dietz updated the Board regarding the autism wallet identification cards presented a few meetings ago with Lt. Barta. She stated the video has been completed and the outreach program will follow. They have had many requests. Mrs. Dietz thanked the Board for their support in making this happen.

Mrs. Blaire stated that she has been working on the Consumer Information Center for Disability Affairs office. Apparently, there's some missing information which will be taken to the City Attorney's Office after this meeting.

Mrs. Blaire also mentioned the audible crossing signals on Miracle Mile / Aragon and Giralda. Sally Baumgartner will be involved when a committee is formed regarding Miracle Mile improvements.

Mr. Beckham stated that his son is willing to assist with coming up with disability information and awareness programs through the Chamber, as discussed in November's Board meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Advisory Board on Disability Affairs  
December 3, 2014 - Meeting  
Continued

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, January 7, 2015, 8:00 am to be held at the *Coral Gables Youth Center's 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room.*