

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS  
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2017 8:00 A.M.**

**- MEETING MINUTES -**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>APPOINTED BY:</b>
	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	
Sally Baumgartner	P	P	P	E	P	P						James C. Cason
Patricia Sowers	P	E	P	P	P	P						Patricia Keon
Blake Sando	P	E	P	P	P	P						Vince Lago
Richard Whittington	P	P	P	P	P	E						Frank C. Quesada
Marie-Ilene Whitehurst	P	E	P	E	P	P						Jeannette Slesnick

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

**STAFF:**

1. Raquel Elejabarrieta, Director of Labor Relations and Risk Management / ADA Coordinator
2. Lorena Garrido, Public Works Department

**GUEST:**

1. None.

**CITIZEN ADVISORS:**

1. Bonnie Blaire
2. Debbie Dietz, Disability Independence Group (DIG)

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to order by Ms. Baumgartner at 8:05am

**MEETING ABSENCE:**

Richard Whittington (Excused Absence)

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

June 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Sando moved to approve the June 7, 2017 meeting minutes. Ms. Whitehurst seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT: None**

**BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:**

Ms. Whitehurst mentioned that she spoke with Mark Thompson from Special Olympics and Mr. Thompson informed her that they are very interested in collaborating with the City on developing a Special Olympics program. Ms. Whitehurst also mentioned that the City of Doral has a very large and well-managed Special Olympics program. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that she would provide Mr. Thompson's contact information to Fred Couceyro, Parks & Recreation Director.

There was discussion on the different sports offered by Special Olympics and the positive experiences that the Board members had when their families participated in similar programs.

Ms. Sowers mentioned that she went to dinner at Spris and asked whether they would accommodate a large group for dinner. She mentioned that during the week it is not as crowded and that she is going to go forward with setting up a dinner for young adults with disabilities and will work with Ernie Martinez on organizing this dinner.

Ms. Sowers stated that she spoke with a supervisor at Publix (her son's employer) and informed her of the resolution that the Board passed concerning the incentive program for businesses that demonstrate a commitment to principles of inclusion. She also stated that Publix would be willing to offer a tour of the supermarket and explain the day-to-day operations of a supermarket.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Ms. Elejabarrieta distributed copies of the two resolutions that contained the revisions that were discussed by the Board during the June Board meeting and informed the Board that the two resolutions are being placed on the agenda for the July 11, 2017 City Commission meeting.

Motion was made by Ms. Whitehurst, seconded by Mr. Sando and approved unanimously to accept the two resolutions as follows:

***A Resolution by the City of Coral Gables Advisory Board on Disability Affairs recommending that the City of Coral Gables develop a citywide incentive program recognizing businesses and organizations in the City that have demonstrated a commitment to the principles of inclusion and that have enhanced opportunities for persons with disabilities to fully and effectively participate in everyday community life.***

***A Resolution by the City of Coral Gables Advisory Board on Disability Affairs identifying a need to combat social and physical isolation of post-secondary school aged adults with disabilities and urging the City of Coral Gables to facilitate cooperation with businesses, universities, disability agencies, organizations and other entities and to actively engage resources towards the development of multi-dimensional cultural, social and recreational opportunities and programs in the City for post-secondary school aged adults with disabilities.***

Ms. Elejabarrieta also advised the Board that Commissioner Keon was sponsoring a resolution accepting the recommendations made by the Board in the two resolutions and directing study and action in accordance with the resolutions. She also informed the Board that Ericka Kofkin, the City's Special Populations Coordinator, will be introduced to the City Commission during the July 11th City Commission meeting. Ms. Elejabarrieta informed the Board that she would send an e-mail to the Board members advising them of the approximate time that the two resolutions could be heard by the City Commission so that those Board members who are available can attend.

Ms. Elejabarrieta informed the Board that Mark Trowbridge from the Chamber of Commerce was provided a copy of the resolution concerning the incentive program for businesses that demonstrate a commitment to principles of inclusion.

Mr. Sando asked once the City Commission accepts the two resolutions approved by the Board how is the community informed of the resolutions. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that that would be up to staff and this Board to determine how best to educate the community and businesses on the resolutions. She also mentioned that the City has many ways to inform the public such as e-mails, newspaper ads, newsletters, etc.

Ms. Baumgartner requested an update on the audible crosswalks for Miracle Mile. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated that the City is working with the County on this issue.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Ms. Dietz suggested that we invite someone from the Chamber of Commerce to one of the Board's meeting or for the Board to attend one of the Chamber's functions to inform them about the resolutions.

Ms. Elejabarrieta also mentioned that over 10 children with different disabilities were able to fully participate in the City's summer camp program and they were assisted by the City's Special Population Coordinator and two counselors.

There was discussion on which schools within the City have special education programs.

Ms. Dietz asked whether the Board would be holding a Disability Workshop series for City employees on the different disabilities similar to what the Board presented last year. It was discussed that in the past the workshop was not held back to back and that there was usually a year in between workshops.

Mr. Sando asked whether the City had planned anything for the month of October, which is Disability Month. Ms. Elejabarrieta mentioned that last year the City Commission issued a proclamation for Disability Month and the proclamation was accepted by Ernie Martinez of the CIL. There was discussion on the possibility of presenting the first award to a business who demonstrates a commitment to principles of inclusion during the month of October.

There was discussion on who would be available for the August Board meeting and then the August Board meeting was moved from August 2 to August 9.

**PROGRAM:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned 8:52 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, August 9, 2017, 8:00 am to be held at the Coral Gables Youth Center's Conference Room.