

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 7, 2019

5:00 PM

The Board meets the first Thursday of each month.

~~Coral Gables, FL 33134~~
Senior Citizens Advisory Board
~~Coral Gables, FL 33134~~

CALL TO ORDER

@ 5:01 PM

ROLL CALL

Present:

**Celia Suarez
Edward English
Jane Mass
Jim Berlin
Joan Valdes
Julian Sevillano**

Absent:

Richard Thurer

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion to approve October's meeting minutes was made by Jim Berlin and second by Julian Sevillano. Passed unanimously.

II. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

The City Manager's office representative Solanch Lopez, assistant to the City Manager, started tonight's meeting with presenting a power point presentation to the Board on the City-Wide Satisfaction survey that was conducted last year. She went on to mention that this will be a reoccurring survey that she will head and is expected to get started next year. Solanch also notes although the survey results did not go into the age specifics because of random samplings for transparency purposes, she has taken note of this and will try to have it incorporated for the next survey in the upcoming year.

Solanch continued by explaining to the board what the purpose of the survey was and how the survey was broken down. The survey was to express the following: Overall survey objectives, methodologies of collecting data, development of the survey, timeline, and comparative results against other Cities. The Survey was to capture the following results: an overall rating of the quality of life, Identify factors that contribute to that quality of life, community investment priorities, gauge satisfaction for city services, and to identify information on city services that will be used for the strategic planning process for the City.

She then let the board know that out of the 20,000 surveys that went out to our residents, 942 surveys were completed and returned which gave the City a 95% confidence rate so it is statistically valid and has significant results. Solanch then went into the survey timeline that was as follows: In late 2017 best practices for the survey were discussed with consultant, early 2018 survey objectives were determined, October 2018 first mailing batch of surveys went out, November 2018 2nd mailing batch was sent out, early 2019 results were presented to commission, mid 2019 a separate consultant took survey results and made an easy to read results page to get out to the public.

Solanch then went over the all the survey results that were presented to the public to the Board and brushed on the top key factors that the city residents found to be of importance. We took note that Parks specifically had a 93% satisfaction rating and a 92% importance rating. We also concluded that a high percentage of residents receive most of their information from the Parks Living in the City Beautiful Magazine. All results can be viewed at www.Coralgables.com/survey.

From all the information that was gathered from the survey results, Department Director Fred Couceyro mentioned we can use surveys like

these to help allocate city dollars to higher ranked projects in order to fulfill the need of residents. After viewing results, Jane Mass and Edward English had questions dealing with street lighting and what the City is going to do about it? And Ed had specific concerns with dark traffic circles and the lack of visible signage navigating these circles. Fred said he will forward these concerns to the Traffic Advisory Board.

With the conclusion of the survey result presentation, Jim Berlin asked about the age demographic for the City satisfaction survey versus the Parks survey and he believes there are more senior participants than other demographics. Solanch concluded that based on the returned results, older residents were simply more interested in participating in a mail- in questionnaire as opposed to a younger demographic. She is hoping to work with a new consultant that will help us with a mailed out questionnaire that will have an access number that residents could log in online and submit a online questionnaire to help target our younger demographic and gain a better sampling of all our residents. The board agreed that this would be a good idea.

III. AAC SUPERVISOR REPORT

Katherine Anderson began by thanking the Board for being so supportive her first two months at the Adult Activity Center. She also wanted to say thanks to the Board participating in this year's Art Show, she believes it made the event a big success. Jane followed up that thank you with stating how well-organized Katherine made the judging for the Art Show this year and hopes it continues.

Katherine continued her report, letting the board know that Assistant Supervisor Manny Guerrero and wife welcomed a healthy baby boy on November 5th and plans to return to work January 9th.

The AAC will be closed Veteran's Day Monday November 11th, Thanksgiving November 28th and Friday November 29th.

The Annual Holiday Celebration Luncheon tickets will go on sale Tuesday November 12th and will be an Italian menu catered event. The theme of this year's event will be a Holiday Ugly Sweater event with a sweater contest. The event will take place Friday December 13th from 1-4pm. Board members will have complimentary entry to the Holiday luncheon.

Katherine also mentioned to the Board they had a very well attended Health fair. Prior to finishing, Celia Suarez wanted to congratulate Katherine and staff on a well put together Western Round Up.

There will be a book reading on Monday November 18th at noon with the author of "Haunting Paris", Mamta Chaudhry. The author will be discussing her novel with the group. It will be a free event.

Katherine notified the Board that she is planning on ticketing all events in order to track admission numbers and gauge successes. This will allow for feedback for opening the center during the evenings and weekends for extended hours. With the start of the new yoga series Unwind and Rewind, she hopes this program will gain enough of a following to open the center later Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Fred Couceyro expressed to the Board that this is the direction the department would like to move in with the return of Manny in January.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Fred Couceyro spoke briefly to the Board on the Master Plan Visioning workshops and wanted to say thank you to the Board members that came out to participate. He also paired his overview with a power point presentation. The workshop was a presentation put on by a consultant company who is constructing our City's masterplan which went into detail on what we are trying to accomplish and the process we are going through to construct a masterplan. The consultants presented all finding by dividing the Gables into four quadrants and showed which priority investment items each quadrant is willing to invest in. Top rating items were walking paths and sidewalks, small neighborhood parks, natural parks and preserves, dog parks, walking, running paths and trails. Programming & activity investment items residents would like to see more of included fitness and wellness, nature enjoyment, outdoor and adventure recreation, performing arts, and aquatics.

In current attempts to meet resident needs, the City has already begun contracts with the Underline Metro Rail development project with a soon to be dog park.

Next steps for the Master Plan will be to put all the information that was gathered at the workshops together in a comprehensive Master Plan document which will develop the City's plans as to what to do in parks, how to finance these projects, what the implementation plan will be. This will all be presented to the Commission and will move forward from there. Fred mention that the the question of whether a voter referendum to pass a parks bond to fund some of these projects will occur, and as of right now the consensus is that one would pass if it came time to vote.

Joan Valdes asked how to request additional pet waste stations in her neighborhood. Both Fred and Mitch let the Board know that all pet waste receptacles need to be requested through the email address PETPOO@coralgables.com. A parks crew team will then investigate the request to see where the best location site would be, if there are other receptacles in the area, and if the location meets all ADA criteria.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Joan Valdez presented information to the Board and to the staff on the new Ring of Fire play that's being performed at Actors playhouse. She would like the Actor's Playhouse and the AAC to partner for groups sales and fostering a relationship between the two facilities for future events.

Jim Berlin had brought up the South Florida Institute on Aging and requested information on it. Katherine did some research on the agency and found out they are a nonprofit organization based out of Broward county that began in the 1960s. It began as a partnering system that would pair seniors with foster children and has progressed to other programs like veterans partnering with recently returned home veterans and helps with transitioning to civilian life again.

Katherine asked which direction the board would like to go with the Institute on Aging, and the Board would like to have a member of the Institute speak or provide information to the Board to try to create a connection. Jim also asked how the institute receives funding? Katherine knows that they partner with larger agencies like the AARP and Broward County, but she will reach out to see what information we can obtain.

Joan Valdez brought up a senior's bocce ball tournament and Fred is in full support of the tournament.

VI. ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

The next meeting will be held December 5th 2019 at 5:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Joan Valdes. Second by Jim Berlin. Passed unanimously.

@5:59pm

NOTE