

**CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS**  
**Minutes of November 7, 2007**  
**Youth Center, Second Floor Conference Room**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>J</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>APPOINTED BY</b>
Zenaida Fernandez	*	P	P	E	*	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	Donald D. Slesnick II
Kelly Sastre	*	P	P	P	*	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	Maria Anderson
Bonnie Blaire	*	E	P	E	*	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	“Ralph” Cabrera, Jr.
Deborah Swain	*	P	P	P	*	P	*	*	*	P	P	P	William Kerdyk, Jr.
													Wayne “Chip” Withers

(\*) There were no meetings.

**STAFF:**

Alberto Delgado, Secretary  
Beatrix Falstreau, CPS

**A - Absent**

**P - Present**

**E - Excused**

**GUESTS:**

Margarita Cardenas, IT Dept.  
Ayanes Apolinar, IT Dept.  
Robert L. Lessne, Ph. D.

Ms. Swain, Chairperson, called meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

The board members introduced themselves to the guests.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

***Board and Committees Holiday Party***

Mr. Delgado announced that this year's Boards and Committees' holiday party is planned for Thursday, December 13, 2007, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at City Hall. All the Board and Committee members are invited to this event. Also, the Holiday Chorus has been confirmed for Monday, December 10, 2007, 11:45 a.m., time to be confirmed with hotel.

***ADA Settlement Agreement***

Mr. Delgado advised they are proceeding with the construction of all the projects, designs have been approved, permits have been obtained and they are moving along with the construction of some of the projects. At the next meeting Mr. Delgado will present a list of the areas being worked on as well as the completed ones as far as construction.

***Board Related Commission Items***

None

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**PROFESSIONAL MEMBER REPORT**

***Meeting Attendance***

All members are in attendance.

***Approval of Minutes***

Ms. Sastre made motion to approve the minutes, second by Ms. Blaire. The minutes were unanimously approved.

***Guests***

***Robert L. Lessne, Ph.D.***

Dr. Lessne described his move to Coral Gables in 1954, his work with the Empire Furniture Factory, his election to President of the Board of Miami International Airport for the purpose of redesigning the airport for people with disabilities, Center for Independent Living, Federation of the Blind, Council of the Blind. Dr. Lessne discussed his various inventions, laws written by him, being an ADA activist, outlined various campaigns this committee can get involved in for public education purposes.

Mr. Delgado informed members that he had received an e mail from Dr. Lessne (who is with the American Legion) regarding some lighting problems at the flag pole located in the median at Alhambra and Salzedo, also mentioning some problems associated with individuals using a cane trying to cross the street; as well as various other obstacles encountered by blind individuals. Ms. Blaire questioned as to whether Dr. Lessne would assist the Board with some items in the future and were supplied with his contact information.

***Liaison Report***

***Web Portal Project***

The Board members and IT personnel viewed the Board's proposed web site created by the IT Department.

***Project Videos – past and future***

Discussion on making sure that all future projects will be videotaped. Mr. Delgado to obtain copy of video tape showing commissioners in wheel chair so that members may view same. Further discussion on availability of tapes pertaining to expos, etc. Members to come up with new ideas, not just what has already been filmed. Members who have questions or ideas may contact Ms. Sastre directly.

***Merrick Educational Center DCAT Team***

Ms. Blaire described her attendance at another DCAT meeting at the Merrick Educational Center, advising tremendous progress is being made in terms of completing the requirements the state has in place, the board will continue on this course, meeting once a month. Ms. Blaire praised the board. Discussion regarding accessing their web site.

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***Awards Program***

Ms. Fernandez presented an awards application for the Board's review and/or changes. Discussion on various questions contained in application, possible additions, which areas to target, need for good PR to be provided by Maria Higgins Fallon who will be contacted by Ms. Fernandez.

***Newspaper articles***

Deferred.

***Possible new member***

Ms. Sastre discussed a possible future member, Dr. Yano, and inviting her to the next Board meeting to make a presentation on children with disabilities with the possibility of recommending her to Mayor Slesnick for appointment to the Board.

***Old Business***

***Parking Enforcement Program***

Ms. Blaire advised the challenge was to determine the status of the disability parking enforcement program in which the City of Coral Gables participates and as a result shares in additional revenues which provides funding to do various projects. Ms. Blaire presented a statement of the program description and qualifications with the key issue being could this program be linked to the Parking Department rather than the Police Dept but the bottom line answer is no. The way it is set up, it must be linked to the Police Dept. This program exists through the Police Dept. because of the ordinance. Ms. Blaire will check with the State of Florida to find out what can be done to find an alternate course of action for the parking program.

***Holiday Choir-Auburndale AAA Chorus***

Ms. Swain advised the choir presentation will be on Monday, December 10, 2007, with noon being a good time since people can take lunch time to go there. Auburndale is fine with the children eating prior to the presentation. The hotel agreed to allow the event to be held there. Ms. Sastre left a message regarding lunch but after speaking to Laura, the new director of catering and special events, Ms. Sastre feels lunch will be provided for the children. Further discussion on Ms. Swain meeting with restaurant re providing some incentive via discount coupons to get public to come in for performance and then have lunch at the restaurant.

***New Business***

None

***Adjournment***

Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.