

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 4, 2021

4:00 PM

The Board meets the first Thursday of each month.
Adult Activity Center, 2 Andalusia Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33134
Senior Citizens Advisory Board

*Chairperson James "Jim" Berlin
Vice Chairperson Celia Suarez
Board Member Jean Connelly
Board Member Edward English
Board Member Julian Sevillano
Board Member Richard Thurer*

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting began at 4:07pm

ROLL CALL

A MOTION TO EXCUSE MARGARET GROVES ABSENCE WAS MADE BY RICHARD THURER AND SECOND BY CELIA SUAREZ. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION TO EXCUSE EDWARD ENGLISH ABSENCE WAS MADE BY CELIA SUAREZ AND SECOND BY JULIAN SEVILLANO. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Present: 5 - Chairperson Berlin, Vice Chairperson Suarez, Board Member Connelly, Board Member Sevillano and Board Member Thurer

Excused: 2 - Board Member English and Board Member Groves

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER MINUTES WAS MADE BY JULIAN SEVILLANO AND SECONDED BY RICHARD THURER. A discussion on the difference between Brain HQ and Fun Start was made by Jim Berlin. The office hours for Marco Rubio's satellite office at the AAC was also discussed. No changes to the minutes were needed. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

a. Presentation on GUIDE by Labor Relations Director Raquel Elejabarrieta

The City's Labor Relations & Risk Management Director Raquel Elejabarrieta along with the Chair of the Disability Affairs Board Mary Palacio presented on G.U.I.D.E also known as Gables Unique Identification During Emergencies program. The program is developed with the intent to serve all members (youths and adults) of our community who have a disability, complex medical need, or condition that may benefit from extra awareness while interacting with first responders. The program will provide a better understanding of the enrolled individual's disability or complex medical need prior to EMS responding to a scene, which will in turn allow first responders to continue acting with care and diligence while providing more efficient services, primarily in cases involving safely locating an enrolled individual.

Director Raquel Elejabarrieta reviewed the application with the Board and where they can find the application to the program online. Director Raquel Elejabarrieta has asked the assistance of the Senior Advisory Board to help promote the GUIDE program and get ideas of how to market the program to eligible residents. Board member Jean Connelly suggested that they reach out to homeowner associations of well-known senior housing communities. Board Chair Jim Berlin added that this information should be included at any senior outreach events promoting the AAC and the Senior Board. Other suggestions included teaming up with the University of Miami and the Alzheimer's research department.

Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro shared with Labor Relations & Risk Management Director all the different ways we share information with the public. Avenues the department uses include E-newsletters, social media, Facebook, system rec-connects, door hangers for special events and word of mouth.

Board member Richard Thurer wanted clarification on if there was any type of waiver that the participant would need to sign prior to registering and if any or all disclosed medical information would be kept classified. The Labor Relations Director explained to the board that there is a waiver and release form that the participating resident would sign acknowledging that this is a voluntary program, and no way obligates the City to review the submitted information before interacting with the resident. In the waiver it also states the understanding that all the information provided may be considered a public record under the State of Florida's Public Records Act and may be subject to disclosure.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro shared with the Board that due to the lack of staff to fill part time vacancies, we have begun working with the HR department to put together a compensation plan for wage increases for part time staff to make the department more competitive. We have also had full time vacancies and to help cover facility hours, assistant supervisor Manny Guerrero has been moved over to the Tennis division for the foreseeable future.

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson continued with the supervisor's report by going over the upcoming Art Show event on November 19th that will also include food, wine and music. Board members have been asked to be the judges again this year and will make their selections the Thursday before the event at 5pm. Board member Richard Thurer suggested that the winning art be showcased in the Center for an extended period of time.

Other upcoming events include the November Night at the Cinema featuring the film 'Bonnie and Clyde' and a December matinee of 'Some like it Hot'. This movie series is sponsored by Commissioner Menendez and is free to guests.

The Annual Luncheon is set for Friday, December 10th, 2021, at 1pm. The luncheon will feature Karaoke, a live dance performance and have an ugly sweater competition.

The Golden Passport free transport card continues to be a successful satellite office at the Center. Users that are 65 and older can fill out their application and have their picture taken at the Center and have staff send in their information to the County for them.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion on Important Items to Present to City's Lobbying Group

Back in the September meeting Board member Richard Thurer requested that the Board be more involved with the City's hired lobbying firm and be able to communicate to them directly. Commissioner Menendez explained that he would be happy to help present items that the Board felt affected Coral Gables seniors and present them to the City's hired lobbying firm. With that, Board Member Richard Thurer brought forward to the Board legislative items that he felt needed support and that he would like presented to the City's Lobbying firm.

These items included:

HB 105: Regulation of Smoking by Counties and Municipalities

GENERAL BILL by Fine ; Altman ; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Benjamin ; Duran ; Eskamani ; Goff-Marcil ; Grieco ; Killebrew ; LaMarca ; Morales ; Tant

Regulation of Smoking by Counties and Municipalities; Authorizes counties & municipalities to further restrict smoking within boundaries of public beaches & public parks under certain circumstances.

SB 224: Regulation of Smoking in Public Places

GENERAL BILL by Gruters ; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Bradley ; Farmer ; Berman

Regulation of Smoking in Public Places; Authorizing counties and municipalities to further restrict smoking within the boundaries of public beaches and public parks under certain circumstances; prohibiting smoking within the boundaries of a state park, etc.

A MOTION REQUESTING THE CITY TO SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 105 REGULATION OF SMOKING BY COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES AND SENATE BILL 224 REGULATION OF SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES AS INTRODUCED IN TO THE STATE LEGISLATION. MOTION WAS MADE BY RICHARD THURER. THIS MOTION WAS SECOND BY JULIAN SEVILLANO. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION WAS MADE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS**a. Update on Community Outreach Program**

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson reviewed her request with the Board of having each member provide a list of organizations or agency's that the Board would like to reach out to in order to create more awareness of the Senior Advisory Board and the Adult Activity Center. Katherine is currently working on a PowerPoint presentation to use as a visible aid when she reaches out to said organizations. She will share the presentation with the Board in December.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Plans for Neighborhood Exposure

The Board was also interested in creating neighborhood exposure for the Center and the Senior Advisory Board. Katherine offered to help the Board in creating pamphlets of upcoming activities and allow them to set up a booth at the upcoming Art Show to interact with patrons. Director Fred Couceyro also suggested that the AAC in conjunction with the Senior Advisory Board set up a booth at the Harvest Market and at the Farmer's market in spring to promote and speak with patrons.

Board Chair Jim Berlin also wanted to acknowledge Commissioner Menendez and Commissioner Anderson.

A MOTION WAS MADE THANKING COMMISSIONER MENENDEZ AND COMMISSIONER ANDERSON FOR MEETING WITH THE BOARD IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER AND FOR COMMISSIONER MENENDEZ COMMUNITY EFFORTS WITH HIS NIGHT AT THE CINEMA MOVIE SERIES. THIS MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM BERLIN AND WAS SECOND BY CELIA SUAREZ. NO DISCUSSION WAS HAD. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

The next meeting is scheduled for December 2nd, 2021 at 4pm.

Administrative Assistant Sarah Espino reviewed the perks that Board members receive and asked that each board member bring in their Board member card so it can be uploaded into our Rectrac software to verify any discounts board members receive.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:31pm

NOTE