

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS
 CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM
 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2015, 8:00 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	APPOINTED BY:
	14	14	14	14	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	
Sally Baumgartner	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	*	P	P	James C. Cason
Patricia Sowers	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	*	P	P	Patricia Keon
William Beckham	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	*	*	*	*	P	P	Vince Lago
Richard Whittington	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	*	*	*	*	E	P	Frank C. Quesada
Marie-Ilene Whitehurst														P	P	Jeannette Slesnick

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

STAFF:

Lorena Garrido, Public Works Department

GUEST:

1. Craig Leen, City Attorney, City of Coral Gables
2. Jim Baker, Center for Independent Living (C.I.L.)
3. Ernie Martinez, Center for Independent Living (C.I.L.)

CITIZEN ADVISORS:

1. Bonnie Blaire
2. Katie Kreter

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Baumgartner called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

MEETING ABSENCE: None.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

- **September 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Mrs. Whitehurst moved to approve the September 7, 2015 meeting minutes. Mrs. Sowers second the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Garrido reported the Disabilities Awareness Month Proclamation will be presented at the October 13th City Commission. She asked for members of the Board to be present.

BOARD-RELATED COMMISSION ITEMS: None.

CITY UPDATE: None.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS: None.

PROGRAM:

Craig Leen, City Attorney, opened his presentations with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). He stated the ADA became law in 1990.

When it relates to employment, employers need to reasonably accommodate individuals who either have a disability or obtain one while working.

These types of requests or accommodations are typically handled by an appointed ADA Coordinator. The City of Coral Gables' ADA Coordinator is Ernesto Pino ADA Coordinator and Lorena is his back-up.

Mr. Leen touched on service animals and what animals are recognized as "service animals" under the Florida Law: (1) dog; (2) miniature horse. He stated we are required to accommodate them. He mentioned an ordinance being worked on to allow fire rescue and police to take service animals to the veterinarian, when there's significant availability. They are also thinking of extending this service to comfort animals such as cats.

He continued to discuss some of the city's accomplishments relating to ADA, which included:

1. Hiring an outside counsel, Kara Nickel for ADA matters.
2. Ensuring Public Works projects such as the Granada Golf Course and other projects meet ADA standards.
3. Changing the policy to allow a care giver or parent to be in the pool with their child when participating in the swimming program at Venetian Pool. The City can also provide qualified care givers.

When it relates to public access and accommodations, such as City facilities and programs, the City also needs to do their best in order to accommodate individuals.

There's been a significant commitment by the City and the current administration to accommodate. The City is looking into providing new programs such as a golf program for children with disabilities in the future.

In closing, Mr. Leen stated there's a non-retaliation provision in the ADA. So if there's an employee or resident who is concerned about reporting ADA matters, they shouldn't be and they can always contact him directly.

Mr. Leen thanked the Board for making a significant, positive impact assisting with ADA awareness.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mrs. Blaire introduced Mr. Jim Baker, the new director for the Center for Independent Living (C.I.L.). He expressed his excitement of having the opportunity the City has given them to use the Youth Center's office space. This will allow them to reach out to local individuals in the area. He discussed the different types of services they provide.

Additional meetings will need to be scheduled in order to coordinate the opening of the Center's office at the Youth Center.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, November 4, 2015, 8:00 am to be held at the *Coral Gables Youth Center's 2nd Floor Conference Room.*