

City of Coral Gables
Meeting Minutes
Senior Citizens Advisory Board

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

Thursday, January 4, 2018

5:00 PM

The Board meets the first Thursday of
each month.
Coral Gables AAC, 2 Andalusia Ave,
Coral Gables, FL 33134

CALL TO ORDER

@ 4:58 PM

ROLL CALL

All Board Members present

Guests:

Frank Fernandez - Director Public Safety

Fred Couceyro - Director of Parks & Recreation

Natalie Dias-Paz - OEM Specialist, Public Safety

Celia Suarez - Coral Gables residents

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved to approve by Jane Mass. All approved

QUESTIONNAIRE UPDATE REPORT

Jim reviewed senior residents survey completed in December 2017

2 groups surveyed on following categories:

Transportation, mobility safety, security, shopping groceries, housing, health services, recreational culture/caring community Safety

Received 81 replies.

37 from Fire Departments

44 from AAC respondents

Positive areas - health services

Main areas of concerns – transportation, walking mobility, transportation

One of the key challenges is addressing the transportation issue. Education is key.

Fabien will continue to offer Transportation Seminars at the AAC

Fred suggested that Fabien get Kevin Kenny or Jessica Kelly from Trolley Services

CITY MANAGER MEETING REPORT

Jane brought up the subject of lack of Senior Shelters during a hurricane.

Fred and Jane met with the City Manager regarding this subject. The City Manager City stated that the County was responsible for offering shelters.

City Manager suggested the use of a Resolution to ask the Commission to request the County to offer Coral Gables residents the option of a shelter that is closer to residents in Coral Gables..

Fred mentioned that he would send the board “samples” of other City “Resolutions” to help them with the process.

Fred summarized actions taken by the City to assist residents pre and post the storm.

City of Coral Gables activated the EOC Center, under Director Fernandez, with participation of all departments. EOC coordinates hurricane related services to residents pre and post storm.

Per City Operation directives, The AAC was used as the central location to house the Service Recon teams within 6 hours after storm calms down. City met this objective.

City Team visited residents that were on the City Emergency Contact Call list to do wellness checks. The list consisted of around 30 residents.

City team also delivered ice and food to residents who called the EOC. It was discovered that some of the residents on the list were not aware of the City services. It was also discovered during these visit that there are residents that were considered "medically dependent" that were not aware of the online process to register with the county. The AAC offered a place for residents to have access to electricity and food.

A priority item identified was “getting the word out” to citizens regarding coordination services offered by the City prior to hurricane season.

With limited access to electricity, some of the items mentioned to get the word out was the use of social media via Channel 77. This medium was only effective for the 60 and below population but not effective for the older segment.

To address the needs of the older population segment, the City Manager is trying to find alternative ways to get the word out such as radio. It was also suggested to have neighbors “look out for each other.”

Director Fernandez who has responsibility for Emergency Management Services, discussed his department’s role. He introduced Natalie Dias-Paz, an OEM specialist, who would be the liaison for the AAC Senior Advisory Board. Natalie would assist to coordinate any issues related to emergency services.

Director Fernandez addressed the issue of shelters in Coral Gables. He mentioned that the county did have facilities designated for residents but were not located in the City of Coral Gables.

He suggested to the board members that Natalie Paz could help them get an answer from the county regarding the reason for not having a shelter facility located in the City of Coral Gables.

Regarding the issue of assisting the “vulnerable population”, Mr. Fernandez mentioned that residents that were medically dependent were required to go to a shelter.

FEMA does not permit the City of Coral Gables to set up “Points of Distribution” for non- essential items such as ice or food. Residents must be prepared to be self-sustained for a minimum of 72 hours. He told the Board that one of the best sources of pre storm information were the TV stations.

Residents requiring a “higher level of assistance” or were medically or ice dependent needed to register online and follow the process established by the Miami Dade County Office of Emergency Management. Natalie Paz could be available to help residents register through the online process.

To help disperse information due to loss of power, Director Fernandez mentioned that Emergency Operations puts out “electric message boards” along the freeway and uses social media.

Jim Berlin raised a concern regarding the lack of timely evacuation notices and difficult to read maps that he received from the City.

Director Fernandez explained that Municipal Governments cannot take any action independently regarding evacuation notices. They have to follow the lead of Miami Dade County Operations. The County Mayor is the one responsible for declaring evacuation zones based on the national weather

service direction.

Jane suggested that the Board come up with suggestions regarding alternative ways to reach the older population segment.

The Board members discussed several ideas to further explore regarding alternate ways to reach the older population regarding storm preparation.

Doing a mailing to each residents over 65

Offering Service hours to volunteers to visit residents “door to door” to further educate and help them register online if they are medically vulnerable

Fabien mentioned that the AAC would work with the Emergency Management Services team and County to put together an education program prior to hurricane season that would help residents on all storm related options.

Director Fernandez assured the Board members that Emergency Management Services goal was to establish a “turnkey operations process” to handle all types of man or natural disaster.

Jane Mass accepted the invitation from Director Fernandez to participate in the Emergency Services Management Team as a liaison representing the AAC.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE DISCUSSION

Jane put a motion to accept Cecilia Suarez for Member at Large. All voted in favor

AAC SUPERVISOR REPORT

Report was postponed till next meeting.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

Fabien suggested having sub committees focus on the needs of the two types of senior segments.

ADJOURNMENT

@ 6:14 PM