

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS  
CORAL GABLES YOUTH CENTER – CONFERENCE ROOM  
WEDNESDAY, December 5, 2018, 2018 8:00 A.M.

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	J 18	F 18	M 18	A 18	M 18	J 18	J 18	A 18	S 18	O 18	N 18	D 18	APPOINTED BY:
Blake Sando	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vince Lago
Shedrick Boren	*	A	P	E	P	E	P	P	E	E	P	P	Mayor Raul Fauli-Valdes
Mary Palacio-Pike	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	Patricia Keon
Patricia Sowers	*	P	E	P	p	P	E	P	P	P	A	-	Patricia Keon
Richard Whittington	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	Frank C. Quesada
Marie-Ilene Whitehurst	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	Michael Mena

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

**STAFF:**

Eglys Hernandez, Labor Relations and Risk Management

**STAFF GUEST:**

Stephanie Throckmorton, Assistant City Attorney  
Ericka Kofkin, Special Populations Coordinator

**CITIZEN ADVISORS:**

Bonnie Blaire  
Debbie Dietz

**PUBLIC GUEST:**

Ms. Phillipa (Pippa) Milne

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting was called to order 8:03am

**MEETING ABSENCE:**

**MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:**

November 7, 2018 – Minutes approved pending changing of wording in Recap of Adventure Day for All  
Motion by: Ms. Whitehurst / 2nd: Dr. Whittington / All approved unanimously

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

None

## **BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### ***New Board Member Introduction***

Ms. Mary Palacio-Pike was welcomed to the Board

### ***Advisory Board meeting schedule for 2019:***

Mr. Sando addressed the Board regarding next meeting which would be for January 2, 2019; it was determined it would be best to forgo January meeting and convene on February 6, 2019.

### ***Disability Advisory Board Goals & Priorities for 2019***

Mr. Sando addressed the Board in regards to their vision for upcoming New Year and members voiced their ideas.

Mr. Sando stated that he looks forward for the Board along with staff to continue to work towards implementing the Business recognition program and present the first one during next year's Disability Month.

Ms. Whitehurst stated that she would like for the City to become more proactive in encouraging the Business community in regards to the availability of employment for individuals with Disabilities and if perhaps there can be a forum created where the Businesses can be addressed regarding this issue. Ms. Palacio-Pike stated that it would be best to address this with Mr. Mark Trowbridge of Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Dietz stated approximately six months ago, a meeting regarding this subject was held with Ms. Elejabarrieta along with a representative of Best Buddies. Ms. Dietz stated that another way this can be addressed is by presenting it at a Coral Gables Bar Association luncheon. Mr. Sando also suggested a presentation could be conducted at the Chamber of Commerce breakfast in October for disability month.

Mr. Sando addressed Ms. Milne comments (indicated below in Public Comments) and asked if there is data (numbers) that can be presented at next Board meeting regarding individuals with disabilities which have been employed by the City of Coral Gables. Ms. Blaire advised the information desk in City Hall has been manned in past by persons with disabilities and feels review of City's history will reflect past practices of hiring individuals with disabilities.

Ms. Palacio-Pike stated she has been approached regarding Police and their ability to address situations involving people with disabilities. Ms. Palacio-Pike stated she believes that Police should receive proper instruction regarding how to proceed in situations which involve individuals with autism and it should be mandatory. Ms. Dietz advised it is mandatory for all City of Coral Gables police officers to receive this type of training as well as City of Miami and Miami-Dade County. Ms. Blaire stated this program also includes CARD and other type of information which can be utilized to calm a situation.

Ms. Whitehurst expressed that there should be a better venue of communication in order to facilitate information regarding services provided by City to the community. Mr. Sando stated that it would be best for the upcoming year to recognize the resources which are offered by the City and then discuss possible ways to disseminate. Ms. Dietz suggested it would be good for Police to have available a resource table at future events. Ms. Whitehurst stated that it would be great to have City department representatives attend the Board meetings in order to provide updated information regarding services available.

Ms. Throckmorton stated special needs registry for emergency situations is conducted with Miami-Dade County and that they have very restricted requirements. Ms. Throckmorton stated she is not sure at what point County may inform and share information with cities.

Ms. Throckmorton stated that she is aware of the efforts being conducted by Parks & Recreation with Ms. Kofkin assistance regarding special programs for participants with disabilities.

Ms. Dietz spoke regarding internal training which was conducted in the past. Ms. Blaire stated the Chair of the Board had addressed this with City Manager and training was arranged for staff. Ms. Dietz stated that each Board member took charge of a subject and training was conducted whereas staff was indicated to attend. Ms. Throckmorton stated that she will discuss with Ms. Elejabarrieta in order to bring to the attention of City Manager and review possibility of organizing a similar training.

Mr. Sando stated that he would like to bring more awareness of the existence of this Board to others within the community and feels this can perhaps be done by conducting meetings in other locations as well as times where those with concerns can address the Board directly. Ms. Throckmorton stated that City has conducted this type of meeting in the past and feels perhaps it is time to do another one and will discuss this as well with Ms. Elejabarrieta. Mr. Sando stated that he believes this type of meeting should be conducted on yearly bases. Ms. Throckmorton stated that if Board would like to bring to Ms. Elejabarrieta perhaps a logo of invitation, posting of meeting or format that can be utilize to better disseminate information regarding upcoming meetings. Ms. Throckmorton stated that Board members could attend meetings of other Boards as well as invite members from others Boards to attend these meetings.

Mr. Boren stated that he would like to receive clarity as to what is the Board's purpose is; is Board representing people with disabilities and making sure their needs are met or is the Board focusing on business meeting the needs regarding people with disabilities. Mr. Boren stated that he would like to have a focus, evaluate what are the concerns from community and how to best proceed. Mr. Sando stated that he believes the Board's purpose is to obtain the concerns of disability community in Coral Gables, take those concerns to City government and provide recommendations of how to best service this population. Mr. Sando stated that the issue is that they have not been able to actually obtain more information from the community and would like to see how Board can facilitate this better.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### ***Follow up regarding proposed Plastic Straw Ban – Ms. Stephanie Throckmorton Assistant City Attorney***

Ms. Throckmorton stated staff received and took into consideration concerns from Board which was incorporated on final draft. Ms. Throckmorton advised that this will be on the agenda of upcoming commission meeting of December 11, 2018 and it is not a full blown ban on straws. Ms. Throckmorton stated this will affect special events permittees and contractors which come in via these special events. Ms. Throckmorton stated to provide as many straws as you want however not plastic straws, unless it is for an accommodation. Ms. Throckmorton stated it is to cover larger events and will not affect those with 100 or less people. Ms. Throckmorton advised that the City is working with the Chambers in regards to program known as Skip the Straw which is not to provide straws automatically, provide when requested. Mr. Sando asked if the Board wishes to have further discussion regarding this issue. Board determined no further need for discussion was required at this time.

Motion to support Resolution regarding Plastic Straw ban was presented

Motion by: Mr. Boren / 2<sup>nd</sup> by: Ms. Whitehurst / All approved unanimously

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ms. Phillipa (Pippa) Milne**

##### ***Employment Opportunities:***

Ms. Milne addressed regarding employment opportunities for individuals with Disabilities. Ms. Milne stated that she feels that at this type of presentation it would be a good idea to have the Employer along with an employee with disabilities present in order to express the benefits to both. Ms. Milne also stated that she believes it would be best for the City to lead by example employing people with disabilities and have them in visible to the public positions.

##### ***Dissemination of Information:***

Ms. Milne stated that she receives information from local officer regarding issues in her area via NextDoor.com. Ms. Milne asked if perhaps this venue could be utilized to better disseminate information to the public.

***Affordable Housing for individuals with disabilities:***

Ms. Milne addressed Board regarding her concern in reference to affordable housing for individuals with disabilities. Ms. Milne stated that she is going forth regarding this for her son, however is aware that affordable housing in Coral Gables is not available.

Ms. Milne that she would like to know to whom she can address how this and explain how such a program could be of a benefit to the City of Coral Gables. Ms. Milne stated that it would take a little more time to address and would like to do so at a future meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:**

February 6, 2019

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 9:06am

Motion by: Ms. Whitehurst / 2nd: Dr. Whittington / All approved unanimously