

# City of Coral Gables

*405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
[www.coralgables.com](http://www.coralgables.com)*



## Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, August 6, 2020**

**5:00 PM**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

**@5:03pm**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:**

**Celia Suarez  
Jane Mass -CHAIR  
Jim Berlin  
Joan Valdes  
Julian Sevillano  
Richard Thurer**

**Absent: Edward English**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**A motion to approve February minutes was made by Richard Thurer,  
Second by Celia Suarez. Passed unanimously.**

**A motion to approve the March minutes was made by Richard Thurer,  
second by Julian Sevillano. Passed unanimously.**

**I. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson began the meeting with welcoming everyone back after months of not meeting due to Covid-19. She then gave a brief summary of all the virtual programming via Zoom that is being offered while the center is closed. Programs include: Total Body Fitness, Pilates, line dancing, Life in Motion, Zumba, Body and Brain yoga, Thai Chi, chair Thai chi, embracing aging, current events, book club, Spanish book club. All these programs are currently free and open to anyone interested in participating. Katherine said that the center wants to be there for its community and not limit who can join.

Jim Berlin asked how the program information is being shared with participants. Katherine responded that a monthly flyer is emailed to current participants that have joined through Zoom and to the participants that have done the class in person prior to the closures. The flyer is also shared on social media and the City website. The email flyer will go out one week prior to the start of each month. Katherine also explained the registration process if board members are interested in participating and why we are requiring registration.

Julian Sevillano offered to volunteer his time in creating a new virtual movie program that he has been doing with the Village of Key Biscayne. Julian gave a brief description of how he conducts the class with Key Biscayne participants to the board. Katherine has been able to keep in contact with Roxy at Key Biscayne to share programming ideas and agreed to meet with Julian later next week to discuss the possibility of adding the program.

Katherine continued the meeting with letting the board know of the upcoming National Senior Citizen Day on Friday August 21st. She will be having a 2-hour long event via Zoom with guest speakers to discuss different topics our patrons might be interested in learning about. Lectures include nutrition, independent living, and exercise. Julian offered to give Katherine contact information to another potential guest speaker.

Fall programming and events are still pending. But Katherine would like feedback from the board on how to put on their annual Art show but as a virtual event. Celia made the comment that the artist should do a brief recording of their art pieces to present during the show. Katherine had the same idea and asked for support of the board to continue in that direction. Celia motioned to proceed, Julian second that motion and offered his YouTube channel to help broadcast the event. The board is in full support of a virtual art show.

## **II. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Joan Valdes brought up the zoom Thai Chi class and wanted to promote it amongst the board. She thinks its been excellent and gave the board her testimonial.

Jim Berlin brought up the topic of senior housing that is being constructed off Bird Road and LeJune. He wanted to see if the board had more information on the structure and reasoning behind the construction in that location. No one had information to provide on the new housing center. Jim will see if he can find out more information and report back to the board next meeting.

Jane Mass asked Jim Berlin to share his experiences with the COVID testing centers. Jim mentioned about the free testing service offered by the Coral Gables Fire Department for those who are not mobile. Joan also told the board about her COVID testing experience. The board spoke about COVID positive numbers in the county.

Jim Berlin then asked for Mitch to speak about the Park's Master Plan. Parks director Fred Couceyro was able to speak on behalf of Mitch to inform the board about the almost complete Master Plan. Fred let the board know that with the pandemic the plan has been slightly delayed, but we have still been able to continue virtually with the consultants. The plan included two portions that encompass the Parks system as a whole and a plan specific to the Youth Center. Public meetings are still pending for final strategic implementation and financing for the Parks Master plan. The Youth Center plan is still pending hard numbers and timetables for possible construction options. Both plans will require a lot of funding and prioritization of what should be executed in a timely matter. Both Fred and Mitch believe the new master plan to be a very realistic re-plan of what the City wants and will depend on the City to establish what spending they will approve to achieve full implementation. Fred went over the major themes of the master plan with the board. Niche programming and specialized facilities were not high in demand by the surveys conducted. We hope to have a completed plan presented to commission by the end of the year.

Fred also notified the board of the five new parks that were ready to open to the public right before the start of the pandemic. He relayed to the board we have not been able to open these new parks or any of our smaller existing parks to adhere to the guidelines set by the county to ensure social distancing and limit any use of fitness equipment and playgrounds.

Fred gave the board additional COVID updates for our department. Currently, only parks larger than one acre are open to the public. Once the county opens play structures, then all remaining parks will open in the Gables. Senior Centers and Adult Activity centers have yet to reopen county wide, so our center will remain closed until further notice. The Youth Center had put on an eight-week summer care program but was cut short due to the increase of cases. The program did adhere strictly to the CDC and Child Care guidelines put in place to limit exposure to our participants and received great feedback from parents.

With the start of the school year approaching, we will be trying to host a Virtual Study Hall for children on site at the Youth Center to help facilitate their online classes while their parents are at work.

The City Manager cancelled the re-openings of the Venetian Pool and the Fitness Center expressing an abundance of caution. These facilities will be re-evaluated every few weeks as cases decline.

Joan asked if voting will still take place. Fred has not heard of any cancellations and will continue as normal. The use of the Youth Center is still in question due to the programming of childcare and trying to restrict cross-contamination.

Part time staffing has been reallocated to parks monitoring or are still working from their respective facilities. Some staff have been granted permission to work from home.

### **III. ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

September 3, 2020 is the next scheduled board meeting. The board requested to change the time to 4:00pm.

City Clerk's office will be notified of the change.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

#### **NOTE**