

CITY OF CORAL GABLES ADVISORY BOARD ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS
VIRTUAL - VIA ZOOM
WEDNESDAY, September 9, 2020

- MEETING MINUTES -

MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY:
	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	
Blake Sando	*	P	E	**	**	**	**	**	P				Vince Lago
Vanessa Liebl	*	P	P	**	**	**	**	**	P				Mayor Raul FauliValdes
Mary Palacio-Pike	*	P	P	**	**	**	**	**	P				Patricia Keon
Philippa Milne	*	P	P	**	**	**	**	**	P				Jorge L. Fors, Jr.
Marie-Ilene Whitehurst	*	E	P	**	**	**	**	**	P				Michael Mena

P – Present
E – Excused Absence
A – Absent
(-) – No Appointment
(*) – No Meeting
(**)-No Meeting – COVID19

STAFF:

Carolina Vester – Parks & Recreation
Raquel Elejabarrieta – Labor Relations & Risk Management
Eglys Hernandez – Labor Relations & Risk Management

GUEST:

Paola Villanueva – CILSF

CITIZEN ADVISORS:

Bonnie Blaire
Debbie Dietz

PUBLIC GUEST:

Ms. Ira Diaz – The Advocacy Network on Disabilities
Ms. Karen Martinez – The Advocacy Network on Disabilities

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 10:03am

MEETING ABSENCE:

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

March 4, 2020

Motion by: Mr. Blake Sando / 2nd: Ms. Mary Palacio-Pike / All approved unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: None

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

The Advocacy Network on Disabilities- Ms. Ira Diaz

Ms. Diaz advised Board regarding data available of Coral Gables residents which have contacted their office between the time from of mid-March and August reflecting a 50% increase in calls. Ms. Diaz advised approximately 25% of the calls were regarding seeking financial assistance. Other assistance being requested is by seniors seeking in-house support and parents regarding education and children with special needs. Ms. Diaz advised she has been made aware of efforts conducted by various departments within the City such as assistance with groceries. Ms. Diaz stated one of the biggest challenges is issue regarding care givers. Ms. Diaz stated there is both a concern regarding having care givers go into homes and shortage of caregivers available. Ms. Diaz also spoke of importance to have mask which provide access to view mouth or shields in order to facilitate communications.

Ms. Diaz advised of grants they have received via Children's Trust Fund and services they have been able to provide. Mr. Sando asked how families can be made aware of these programs. Ms. Diaz advised it would be best for families to contact them directly and provided phone number 305.596.1160. Ms. Diaz advised once a family contacts them no matter what their situation is a complete a complete assessment is conducted to identify best services they can acquire. Ms. Milne asked if it would be possible to have Ms. Diaz information placed on email sent to Coral Gables residents advising of their availability and Ms. Elejabarrieta stated it could be.

Salvadore Park Expansion- Ms. Carolina Vester Parks & Recreation

Ms. Vester presented Board power point detailing expansion of Salvadore Park and its inclusive project. Ms. Vester explained upgrades to make restrooms accessible and installation of various new accessible to all playground equipment. Ms. Vester stated that only one existing tree which does have rot already will be removed and replaced with new tree. Ms. Vester advised Board of upcoming virtual community meeting and the importance of their presence at this meeting in order to be voices heard which are in favor of this project. Board was provided with meeting registration information in previous email, during this presentation and reminder prior to meeting will also be sent out. Ms. Vester asked and welcomed comments from the Board and guest, also advised they can be made in writing via parksprojectscoralgables.com. Ms. Whitehurst asked regarding what light bollards were and Ms. Vester explained they are low impact lights in post propped up throughout area. Ms. Diaz stated that she was impressed with the scope of the project and suggested if it would be possible to research if the installation of some type of seatbelt can be considered in the swing or merry go round to accommodate children with lack of muscle retention. Ms. Diaz also stated that she believes the light bollards can provide parents with barrier for their children identify as space they are to stay within. Ms. Vester advised she will contact the equipment manufacture and discuss this possibility. Ms. Blaire asked regarding the sticks utilized in the music playground instrument, how were they secured. Ms. Vester advised they are connected to the instrument itself and if misplaced, would be replaced upon needed. Ms. Blaire asked regarding cool area available at the playground. Ms. Vester stated in the playground there is not a cool area, however surrounding area has plenty of natural shading by canopies of trees. Ms. Blaire asked regarding benches having internet. Ms. Vester stated benches are solar generated and do have access to charge device but do not provide WI-FI. Ms. Vester stated that WI-FI will be available that the park itself.

Activities for Month of October

Ms. Liebl suggested a video be made reflecting accomplishments achieved and Board to introduce itself. Ms. Whitehurst suggested instead of a video, if the City could do banners recognizing October as Disability Month and placing same throughout City. Ms. Liebl agreed with both options. Mr. Sando stated he agreed that banners would be a good idea and asked if a business would be recognized (Business Award) again this year. Ms. Liebl advised Business Award presentation would be conducted by Chamber of Commerce at their award ceremony. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated she would look into and advise Board. Ms. Elejabarrieta advised City would be recognizing Disability Month at commission meeting. Ms.

Palacio-Pike agreed in regard to making a short video. After further discussion, it was agreed to review and investigate if there is a possibility of conducting video. Ms. Elejabarrieta advised she would be contacting CGTV staff and accessing possibility of producing video as well as checking into banners.

Voluntary Registry Program – Ms. Raquel Elejabarrieta

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised of program in place at Miami Beach. Ms. Elejabarrieta presented on Miami Beach website form available. Ms. Elejabarrieta advised City is in review of their program and have reached out to Miami Beach to further discuss. Mr. Sando stated he felt this was a great idea, suggested if possible having a place where family can upload a picture of their loved one and an area where the number provided by Safety Net System can also be added. Mr. Sando believes these two additions will further assist law enforcement and families. Ms. Whitehurst stated she is concern regarding assuring the safety of this information and it remain private. Ms. Elejabarrieta advised City is looking at this carefully and considering issues such as public records request compliance, privacy, safety retainment of information, etc. Ms. Elejabarrieta stated will provide at next meeting progress regarding this project.

Additional information – Ms. Raquel Elejabarrieta

Appointing of Ex-Officio Member – Ms. Elejabarrieta advised request made by Board during March 4, 2020 meeting will be presented in Resolution form at September 22, 2020 upcoming City commission meeting.

Ms. Elejabarrieta advised Board during July 14, 2020 commission meeting, City presented Proclamation declaring July 26, 2020 as “ADA 30th Anniversary and Commemoration Day” in Coral Gables.

Mask – Ms. Elejabarrieta informed Board City purchased several of these masks and has provided same to employees.

OLD BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEXT MEETING: October 14, 2020

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 11:20am