

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 7, 2021

4:00 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

This is an Unofficial Meeting. The meeting began at 4:05pm.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Celia Suarez

Edward English

Jim Berlin

Julian Sevillano

Jane Mass

Joan Valdes

Richard Thurer

Absent:

Edward English

NEW BUSINESS

Administrative Assistant Sarah Espino quickly went over what it means to have an unofficial meeting and explained that the Board will not be able to vote on any items.

Due to time constraints, we began the meeting with our guest speakers Fire Chief De La Rosa and his staff giving an informative presentation on COVID-19 vaccinations.

Fire Chief De La Rosa quickly went over statistical data pertaining to Miami Dade County COVID cases and hospitalizations. Miami Dade County positivity rate is higher than expected at this time with 10%. Based on data obtained, most of those contracting the virus are younger demographics; which has led to fewer hospitalizations but higher cases. With this information, its important that our Seniors maintain protective actions and be careful of groups of people.

When it pertains to receiving the vaccine, De La Rosa informed the Board of current facilities that are administrating the vaccine. Adult living facilities and long-term care facilities for the elderly were among the first to receive the vaccine and agencies such as Leon Medical and Humana Health started receiving vaccinations this week. They will soon become community vaccination centers even if patients are not clients of those agencies. Jackson Hospital has begun vaccinations and appointments need to be booked online. That online link has been added to the City of Coral Gables website.

FIU and Hard Rock Stadium will be converting their testing sites to vaccination sites soon.

Chief De La Rosa did express to the board that it will not be uncommon if the Board sees on the news that there is a shortage in Florid of vaccines. He believes this will be temporary since each state must receive an allotted amount of the vaccine and production does take some time.

Chief Xavier Jones spoke to the Board regarding rumors circulating about the vaccine, those who it affects, trial testing and how quickly they were able to disperse the vaccine. He also spoke to the Board on how the vaccine works and the process needed for the vaccine to be effective.

Chief De La Rosa continued with the presentation explaining to the Board that the City is trying its best to obtain access to the vaccine for our

residents. They are working on obtaining blocks of appointment dates in neighboring communities or hope they will be able to administer the vaccine themselves to our Senior community.

Celia Suarez asked the Chief if the City's website can be used to book appointments at this time or if the website is for only information on where to receive vaccinations. Chief De La Rosa explained that the City's website will only provide the links to schedule appointments at other medical facilities. Celia then asked if the site will let us know what brand of vaccine is being offered at each site. De La Rosa informed the board that they must contact the facility to ask which brand is being offered.

A discussion on Pfizer Vaccines and Moderna vaccines took place among the Board.

In closing, Chief De La Rosa wanted to say thank you and recognize the Adult Activity Center's staff for helping with manning the hotline and contacting our residents during this trying time.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson quickly went over the statuses of the Zoom fitness classes with Maria, Fitness in the Park at Rotary Park, Current Events and Embracing Aging. She also let the Board know of the Zoom Social Hour with Maria was also a success. And as a way to keep in contact with our residents, the AAC's staff wrote and distributed almost 500 holiday cards this past December.

Katherine went over staff updates. AAC staff member Frances Collado has been manning the COVID hotline so if the Board has any questions, they can speak with her. Part Time employee Maria Fleites has been rewarded the Employee of the Quarter Award recognizing all her hard work. Mathew Solis has received a full-time position and will no longer be working with the City. Katherine also notified the Board that Assistant Supervisor Manny Guerrero was in an automobile accident and should be returning to work soon.

Katherine has recently applied for two grants through the Miami Dade Age Friendly Initiative for \$2500 each. The first grant she will try to use for a Saturday in the Park series to help utilize our parks and open spaces. She has not decided what kind of program series will be created but it will take place on Saturdays. The second grant she applied for was for assistance in making the entry doors ADA accessible with a push access entry. This item will happen even without grant funding, but the grant assistance is desirable. Grant winners will be announced in June.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Jim Berlin wanted to share with Jane and the Board that Gordon Sokoloff of the Transportation Advisory Board has a goal of having a monthly or quarterly meeting where all the City's Board Chairs will meet to discuss issues and share ideas to keep all our Advisory boards informed.

Celia Suarez asked staff, how is the information the Board just received from Fire Chief and his staff being disseminated to the all the residents of Coral Gables. Carolina responded that the fire department requested an email list of all residents in our Rectrac system database to use by our marketing department and EOC hotline to share information. The City will also be sharing information using our City website, social media platforms, and ENEWS. Jim Berlin suggested that they include this information in the Neighbor's section. Carolina explained that the City is no longer using that avenue anymore and has decided to stay more digital. Jim wanted to express that he does not agree with this decision and that there is still a large population that have not crossed over to using only digital media. Carolina will share his sentiment with the Marketing department.

We now have a Constant Contact newsletter called Play Gables Rec Newsletter. This will be used in leu of having a physical copy of our Community Recreation seasonal magazine and be sent out once a month. Katherine will forward the newsletter to the Board for them to enjoy.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

The next meeting is scheduled for February 4th, 2021 at 4PM

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 4:58PM

NOTE