

# City of Coral Gables

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



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 1, 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**

**Meeting began at 4:08pm**

## **ROLL CALL**

### **a. Approval of Excused Absences**

**A motion to approve the absence of Joan Valdes was made by Jim Berlin, and second by Richard Thurer. All in favor, passed unanimously.**

#### **Present:**

**Edward English**

**Jim Berlin**

**Joan Valdes**

**Julian Sevillano**

**Richard Thurer**

#### **Absent:**

**Celia Suarez**

**Jane Mass**

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**A motion to approve the minutes from March was made by Richard Thurer and second by Julian Sevillano. All in favor, passed unanimously.**

## **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

AAC supervisor Katherine Anderson, shared with the board that the ADA accessible doors have begun installation. Katherine was happy to report that both sets of doors will be outfitted for accessibility.

Katherine followed up with a discussion item from last meeting pertaining to a designated drop off spot in front of the center. She has been in contact with the Parking department and will get feedback from Parking director soon. She will follow-up with the Board when she has more information.

Due to construction at Salvadore Park, Pilates in the Park has now been moved to the grounds of the Merrick House. They will continue Fridays at 10am. The Center has partnered with the Coral Gables Museum which will now host Line Dancing with Maria Fleites on Fridays at 2pm. Baton Twirling has been added as a new Virtual Program.

Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro spoke to the Board on reopening plans of the AAC. As of now, we are expected to open to full operations by mid-June. However, the Center is looking to do smaller sessions of programming at the center sometime in May.

Jim Berlin asked how programming and AAC information is being distributed to participants. Katherine Anderson responded to the board that flyers or notifications are emailed to past Zoom participants, through the Park's Newsletter, the City's newsletter, and emails to current program participants.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. FL Nursing Home and ALF legislation**

We approached the board with what specifically are they looking for when asking about adult living facilities that are being created in the city. Jim Berlin received information on these ALFs from the Planning and Zoning department back in September and wants to know more about the types of facilities these will be. He would like a more in-depth description of the requirements in order to live in these facilities. Items such as occupancy, restrictions, if the City has any connections to these buildings, are there any city regulations that they need to be met, is there legislation on any nursing requirements for these facilities, etc. After speaking with Jim, staff will look more into this and will share with the board any information they are able to obtain.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS****a. Scams Targeting Seniors**

Board Member Edward English wanted to share with the Board his recent experiences with scammers that have been calling or emailing him. He expressed his warning of not listening to IRS scammers calling for your social security numbers or credit companies offering to help reduce rates. Another scam that he has received are from mock medical services asking to help reduce costs. Ed also received a call about a sweepstakes scam asking for him to purchase gift cards on their behalf. He recommends if you have received these types of calls to report their numbers or what information that can be obtained to a lawyer to be filed.

**b. Future Board Members & Gables Election**

The Board had a discussion on the upcoming election process. Staff spoke to the Board again about the upcoming elections and how the results will affect the terms of members currently serving. If their commissioner is being replaced or is not re-elected, they will be able to stay on the board until they are replaced after the May 31st date. Board members who will be terming out because they have met the eight years of service, are also allowed to stay until they are replaced. Those same board members must take one term cycle off before they can reapply for the Senior Citizen Advisory Board. However, they can apply to serve on another board.

Jim Berlin brought up the topic of virtual reality being used in nursing homes to simulate brain function in patients. A discussion was had amongst the board members about the topic. Kathrine Anderson has read about the VR company in recent literature and will possibly explore the idea later on, however at this time it's a very high cost associated with the system.

**ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 6th 2021 at 4pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 4:50pm

**NOTE**