

# City of Coral Gables

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



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 3, 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**

**at 4:06pm**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:**

**Celia Suarez**

**Edward English**

**Julian Sevillano**

**Richard Thurer**

**Jean H Connelly-Virtually**

**Jim Berlin- Virtually**

**Absent:**

**Commissioner Mena's Appointee-VACANT**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**A motion to approve the May's minutes was made by Celia Suarez and second by Edward English. All were in favor. Motion approved unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS****a. EEAP Brochure Presentation Review with M.Pantin and Chief Stolzenberg**

A presentation was given on the Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program brochure by Communications & Public Affairs Division Director Martha Pantin and CG Fire Captain Daniel Amador. Martha began the presentation stating that this EEAP is a county program that the City is trying to share with any Gables residents that could benefit from the County emergency assistance. Martha is asking the Senior Advisory Board for ways to best get the word out to the senior demographic. She shared that the Disability Affairs Board advised that the information be printed and posted in high traffic areas to gain the awareness for those that are not computer savvy.

Captain Amador continued the presentation by explaining how the program works. This program is for individuals with functional and access needs who live alone or with families who cannot evacuate on their own due to medical or specialized transportation needs, are homebound or unable to walk and do not have transportation options, are on life sustaining medical equipment that requires electricity, or those who require assistance with daily living activities. Captain Amador shared that the Coral Gables Fire department works in tangent with Dade County and any pre-registered Coral Gables residents will receive priority assistance for specialized transportation, safe shelter, medical monitoring, and wellness checks. To register, residents can sign up online at [miamidade.gov/hurricane](http://miamidade.gov/hurricane), call 311 to contact the County for a digital application or a paper application. The program is available to anyone in Miami Dade County. Captain Amador will share a digital copy of the application to Katherine Anderson to share with the Board.

Richard Thurer asked how the CG Fire Department receives the contact information for those registered. Captain Amador stated the City will reach out to the County for the EEAP listing and the Fire department will contact residents from that listing.

Captain Amador expressed to the Board the importance to register early for the program and not wait until services are needed. Katherine Anderson will have the flyer produced in a larger size and post it at the Adult Activity Center along with having paper copies of the application for its members.

Jim Berlin asked Chief Amador is the City has made any progress on adding a hurricane shelter to the Coral Gables area. Both Fred Couceyro and Captain Amador expressed that this is on the County to establish a hurricane shelter in the Gables. Jim followed up with post storm, where will coordination be held for rescue recon. Fred does not have a definite answer,

but the intentions will be for all operations to run out of the new public safety building. Other satellite buildings might be used for food and supply pickups but that cannot be determined at this time.

**b. Reappointment of Board Member at Large**

Before continuing with new business, AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson took a moment to formally introduce the Board and City staff to the newly appointed member, Jean Connelly.

A motion to reappoint Celia Suarez as the Board Member-at-Large was made by Julian Sevillano and second by Edward English. All were in favor and motion passed unanimously.

**c. Selection of New Board Chair and Vice Chair**

A motion to nominate Jim Berlin as the Board Chair was made by Celia Suarez and was second by Richard Thurer. All were in favor, motion passed unanimously.

A motion to nominate Celia Suarez as the Board Vice Chair was made by Julian Sevillano and was second by Ricard Thurer. All were in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Celia Suarez asked staff if there is an appointed commissioner that champions the Senior Citizen Board. Fred Couceyro responded that there is not a designated Commissioner assigned to each board, but his admin assistant will follow up with the City Clerk's office to clarify.

Celia would like to invite each Commissioner one at a time to board meetings to officially meet them and allow the commissioners to get to know the board members. The board liked this idea and staff will help with scheduling these meet and greets.

## **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

AAC Supervisor Katherine Anderson began her update with reviewing the Summer programming schedule and shared with the board that she has begun increasing class sizes and will most likely increase fitness capacities again by the end of the month. Katherine also noted that the Center's volunteers are slowly coming back. Monday June 7th, the AAC will officially be fully operational. The coffee and tea station will return along with the Media Library that will debut the new laptops IT outfitted the center with. The knitting program will also be returning this summer. Brain Training is expected to return in July.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **a. Board Objective & Focuses for 2021-22**

Jim Berlin wanted to revisit the official function of the Senior Advisory Board and go over the goals the Board would like to pursue with the newly appointed members. Administrative Assistant Sarah Espino read aloud the function of Senior Advisory Board. Jim Berlin would like to add wording in the board's description tying the advisory board to the Adult Activity Center much like how the War Memorial Youth Center is tied to a board. Director Fred Couceyro explained that War Memorial Youth Center Association Board is not a City controlled board and does not adhere to the same rules and requirements that our advisory boards operate by. They are an organization that owns the land the Youth Center was built on and the board's purpose is to make sure that the land donated to the City for the Youth Center is always used predominantly for the youth of Coral Gables. Fred continued to explain that with the purpose of the Senior Citizen Advisory Board being to advise the City's commission and staff of items going on, offer opinions, and recommend actions, the Adult Activity Center is included in that purpose.

Jim Berlin wants the board to look at projects or objectives the board would like to pursue moving forward. He has asked that each member bring two or three objectives to the next board meeting to be discussed.

## **ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

The next meeting is scheduled for July 1, 2021 at 4pm at the AAC.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm

**NOTE**