



**Meeting Minutes
Cultural Affairs Advisory Board Meeting
May 6, 2021**

Call to Order

The virtual meeting was called to order by City Liaison, Kevin Pickard.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Aura Abreu, John Barrant, Charmaine Donald, Myrurgia (Maggie) Pichardo, Carole Simmons, Glinda Townsley

Absent: Martha Martinez

City Liaison: Kevin Pickard

Open Discussion

Introduction

Kevin Pickard, Leisure Services Director, introduced himself and welcomed all board members. Each board member was introduced and then spoke a little about themselves. All were happy to attend the virtual meeting and look forward to being a part of the board.

Approval of CMT Rules

Glinda Townsley made a motion to accept the CMT Rules as written and it was seconded by Aura Abreu. The motion was carried without opposition.

Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

Glinda Townsley was selected as board chair and Carole Simmons was selected as Vice chair for the 2021 board.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2020 meeting was made by Carole Simmons and seconded by Aura Abreu. The motion carried without opposition.

Old Business

New Business

The City's Response to COVID-19- In an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19, the City closed facilities to the public, cancelled programs and operated remotely, asking as many employees as possible to telecommute. Leisure Services shifted its focus to inform residents about available local, state and federal social services resources. Throughout the pandemic, staff members from every division worked within the community, providing a variety of services while maintaining CDC guidelines to ensure public safety.

Social Services

- Drive thru Food Distribution- worked with Feeding South Florida, has assisted with 63 events, with and estimated 43,000 meals given away to date
- Compassion Call Center- assisted residents with questions about COVID-19 testing, paying bills, finding housing, etc.
- Assisted the Islamic Foundation with food distribution
- Walmart delivery program- assisted seniors with food deliveries
- ADRC delivery program- assisted with frozen food deliveries

- Worked with Rotary Club of Weston to provide Sunrise residents with restaurant food and support local restaurant businesses.
- Cares Act Funding- Leisure employees assisted the City's Grants Division in distributing Federal and State monies to residents that needed help paying their utility bills, rent and mortgages.
- Aquatics
 - Re-opened pools in June with COVID-19 protocols in place
- Athletics
 - Implemented an online E Gaming Tournament
 - Youth Soccer- small, scaled down program
 - Youth Baseball- small, scaled down program
- Programs
 - Summer Camp 2020- ran a small camp for about 100 children for working parents in need of childcare
 - Summer Camp 2021 is being planned for about 300 children this year
- Tennis
 - Interior renovations were made to the facility during its closure
- Cultural Arts
 - Tech staff was responsible for the City's virtual commission meetings and filming videos
 - Built a large sign in support of all 2020 graduates
 - Tech staff are busy building large holiday decorations
- Special Events
 - Graduation Parade for Piper High School's Class of 2020
 - Drive-In Movies
 - Drive-Thru Back to School Round-Up
 - Virtual 911 Ceremony
 - Virtual Halloween 5k Race
 - Drive-Thru Halloween Event for approximately 1275 children
 - Drive-Thru Winter Wonderland Event for approximately 1000 children
 - Drive-Thru EggStravaganza for 600 children
 - Drive-Thru Earth Day Event
 - Assisted Broward County with a virtual dance for Special Populations
- Facilities Maintenance
 - Staff continued to work diligently keeping the parks open for residents to enjoy. The fields were closed until re-opening in June with COVID-19 protocols in place.
- Golf
 - The Bridges at Springtree re-opened in June with COVID-19 protocols and restrictions in place. The golf course has been very busy since reopening.
- Senior Center
 - Virtual Memorial Day Ceremony
 - Virtual Veteran's Day Ceremony
 - Drive-Thru Bingo Events
 - Drive-Thru Mother's Day Event
 - Virtual Book Club
- Transportation
 - All bus services were stopped and the drivers were busy with food deliveries. At this time, transportation is running "on demand" until further notice.

G.O. Bond Projects Update- Kevin Pickard shared a few status updates on the projects which continued throughout the pandemic:

- Civic Center Athletic Club renovation was completed and reopened to the public with social distancing protocols in place.

- City Park renovation was completed and is now open. Glinda Townsley shared that she visits the park and it is beautifully done.
- The Senior Center is very close to completion and the plan is to reopen when all other facilities and programs start again.

Future Meetings- Board members shared their views about returning to in person meetings as we work towards returning to pre-COVID operations. All views will be taken into consideration as the City staff awaits a decision to be handed down from the City Manager's Office.

Upcoming Events

Memorial Day Ceremony- The first event planned to return to pre-COVID operations- will be held on Monday, May 31, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Civic Center Amphitheatre.

July 4th Celebrations- these events are currently being planned as normal.

Board Discussion

Glinda Townsley expressed her gratitude to the City for all of the programs, virtual events and social services assistance offered to the residents this past year.

Charmaine Donald asked if there are any plans for the Cultural Festival this year. Kevin Pickard shared that the City is hoping to return to pre-COVID operations by the middle of June and the festival plans are ongoing.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Barrant and seconded by Maggie Pichardo. The motion passed without opposition.

Transcribed by:

Karen Gallagher, Board Secretary