

## City of Doral Special Needs Advisory Board Minutes

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Tuesday, July 18, 2017  
Doral Government Center  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Room  
8401 N.W. 53<sup>rd</sup> Terrace  
Doral, Florida 33166

**1. Call to Order 6:00 PM**

Meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m.

**2. Roll Call of Board Members**

Phillip Lloyd Hamilton, Board Member	Present
Corina Orozco, Board Member	Present
Rosa Sanabria, Board Member	Present
Vinita Tandon, Board Member	Present
Jorge van Balen, Board Member	Present

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Presentation**

John Althof, Dean of Students at Divine Savior Academy, presented about the special needs program which the school is planning to launch in the fall of 2018. The new school will initially serve kindergarten through middle school aged children with mild to moderate intellectual/developmental disabilities. Mr. Althof reviewed the staffing plan, support services, and admissions and tuition framework to-date. While Divine Savior Academy welcomes opportunities to discuss the planned school with potential partners and Doral community representatives, they are not yet ready for large public forum presentations.

**5. Discussion Items**

**a. Dedication of space and time in Doral Legacy Park for special needs social activities**

Jeorge Vega, from the Parks & recreation staff, advised the board that plans are already in place to have programming and social activities at the park for both children and adults with special needs. Activities will include bingo, video games, karate classes, and such. Board Chair Vinita Tandon recommended such activities

be scheduled during evening hours and that various community partners recommend that programming schedule includes Fridays.

**b. Dedication of time in the Doral Legacy Park Gym for special needs kids and adults**

As with the previous item, staff advised that plans are already in place to offer gym time for residents with special needs.

**c. Recognition of current Doral employers that employ adults with special needs and ideas to encourage more Doral businesses to do the same**

Board noted local business such as Chick-fil-A, Brain Freeze Nitrogen Ice Cream + Yogurt Lab, and Walgreens for their employment of persons with disabilities. Jorge van Balen moved to draft a proposal to the City Council to formally recognize these businesses; the motion was seconded by Rosa Sanabria and the Committee unanimously approved. Board Chair Vinita Tandon to present the draft proposal to the Committee for review at their next meeting.

**6. Public Comments**

- A*
- a. Lia Martinez from local advocacy group ~~And~~ for Autism expressed concerns about the ongoing special needs summer camp. George Vega, from the Parks & recreation staff, advised that the concerns related to air conditioning are already been addressed with vendor contracted to run the program; an alternative location is being scouted for the remainder of the current camp. Additionally, concerns related to the misalignment of the camp schedule with school schedules will be explored by staff; next year's camp will run all summer. Ms. Martinez advised that the City benchmark against summer camps offered by the City of Hialeah.
- b. Board Chair Vinita Tandon also recommended to staff that future summer camp offerings service adults with special needs beyond the age of 18.

**7. Future Meeting Date**

Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

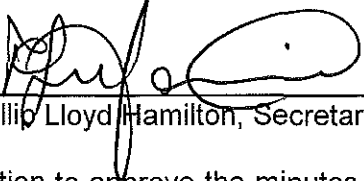
**8. Discussion of next meeting agenda items.**

- a. All discussion items from the June 15, 2017 meeting agenda item 5c on the next Board meeting agenda.

**9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourns at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Phillip Lloyd Hamilton, Secretary

Motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2017 Special Needs Advisory Board Meeting made by

Board Member J. van Balen and seconded by Board Member R. Sanabria.

Chair Vinita Tandon

Vice Chair Rosa Sanabria

yes

Secretary Phillip Lloyd Hamilton

yes

Board Member Corina Orozco

Board Member Jorge van Balen

yes

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 15 day of August 2017.



Vinita Tandon, Chair