



City of Doral Special Needs Advisory Board Special Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 23, 2023
6:00 p.m.
Doral Government Center
3rd Floor Training Room
8401 NW 53rd Terrace
Doral, FL 33166

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Board Members

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Vinita Tandon, Chair | Present |
| Elizabeth Dager, Vice Chair | Present |
| Caridad Bouza Merida, Secretary | Present |
| Nayipzi Gutierrez, Board Member | Present |
| Jorge Van Balen, Board Member | Present |
| Angelica Pinto, Alternate Member | Present |

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Comments

5. Approval of Minutes

a. April 25, 2023

By consensus, the minutes were approved.

6. Discussion Items

a. Special Needs Registry

Chair Tandon introduced the Police Department individuals in charge of the Special Needs Registry to speak on it. A member of the attendees inquired if she qualified for a special need as she is currently homeless. They discussed how the registry works and how the officers are being trained to respond to registered individuals. It is important to register with the city to ensure that if and when the police are dispatched, they know that the individual does have a

disability, and they should apply the training that they received to address the issues at hand. The officers presented the QR code for the families to register.

b. Summer Camps

Nerea Recalde, Parks and Recreation, gave a review of those summer camps which will be available for the special needs community. Parks and Recreation reached out to 5 providers, 2 were not available. Of the 3 proposals (Kids at music ages 7-up) – this is being recommended in the June Council meeting for approval. June 14, 2023. Summer camp is to start July 10th, 2023. The city is unable to sponsor more than one camp this year for special needs as there is limited space this year. Children under the age of 7 there is still no available camp.

Discussion ensued regarding who will be responsible for acquiring space for camps for next year? Mayor Fraga was present and expressed how due to the heat there is limited indoor space for camps. The issue is that the sports camps need an indoor space to cool off. Mayor Fraga is going to reach out to the school district to see if we can use some school spaces for the city to host some more summer camps.

Parents wanted to speak with the school board. Mayor Fraga will ask Mr. Espino from the school board. Parents want more support in the classrooms because they are having a difficult time finding appropriate placements.

Mayor Fraga mentioned a proposed project regarding a civic center to see if the City could build something for the special needs community.

A parent asked about the spaces where there is no outdoor if it could be a good start for the city to open a division or office where special needs and seniors can have people working for the city to start helping the community. The community has grown in number and age as in the Special Olympics. It could be a start if the city could provide a division where a parent can go to get the information needed.

Mayor Fraga stated that the City opened an office for information. This is just for the community to ask for information. There would be technology for the community to use. There will be different services at the office, like mobile healthcare, legal services, etc. There is a calendar giving the dates when all services are available monthly. The mayor is working on the budget to get this started.

The representative from Divine Savior would like to meet with the other schools to replicate what they and other private schools have done. He suggests meeting with all other schools to work on increasing the spaces for children with special needs. He would like to work with other schools.

Chair Tandon asked about the selection for the summer camp. Nerea stated that the information would be on all social media and the parents would register with the city.

One parent wanted to know what would be offered and the age groups. Nerea stated that it would be divided into age groups. There would be arts & crafts, safe cooking, outdoor activities, Zumba, movies, and bowling. A parent asked if the therapist could go to the camp with the

camp participants. Nerea stated she would inquire. Nerea stated that the program will evaluate the camp participants and determine what type of support they would need.

A parent asked about asking large corporations to sponsor programs for city programs. Mayor Fraga stated that the city is looking for centralizing sponsorship for each program that the city is planning.

7. Discussion of Next Meeting Agenda Items

8. Next Meeting: August 29, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



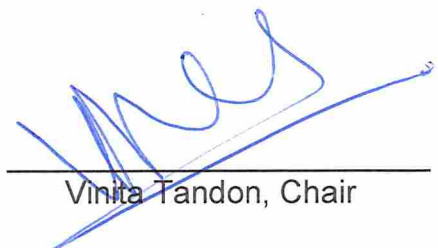
Caridad Bouza Merida, Secretary

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2023 Special Needs Advisory Board Meeting made by ~~Board Member~~ Consensus and seconded by ~~Board Member~~

Vinita Tandon, Chair
Elizabeth Dager, Vice Chair
Caridad Bouza Merida, Secretary
Nayipzi Gutierrez, Board Member
Jorge Van Balen, Board Member



APPROVED and ADOPTED this 29 day of August 2023.



Vinita Tandon, Chair