



# City of Doral Special Needs Advisory Board Minutes

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Thursday, February 8, 2018  
Doral Police Substation  
Event Hall  
3719 NW 97<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Doral, Florida 33178

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Tandon at 6:04 p.m.

**2. Roll Call of Board Members**

Phillip Lloyd Hamilton, Secretary	Present
Corina Orozco, Board Member	Present
Rosa Sanabria, Vice Chair	Present
Vinita Tandon, Chair	Present
Vacant Seat	

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Public Comments**

No members of the public addressed the board.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the January 24, 2018 board meeting were approved unanimously with no corrections.

**6. Discussion Items**

**a. Divine Savior Social Program Presentation**

Scott Sievert, high school English teacher from Divine Savior Academy, shared information about the first planned social event on March 11, 2018 at Divine Savior. This "New Friends Event" will take place from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The school hopes to repeat the event on the second Sunday of each month. The experience will include snacks, games, sports, crafts, and other activities with their high school students. Parents are welcome to stay or drop their children off. Divine Savior will look at hosting larger more structured events, such as dances, in the future. School

staff stressed the event is open to visitors of all ages with and without special needs. School staff anticipates about 20 guests with special needs and 20 Diving Savior students will participate in the first visit. Parents will fill out a registration form which asks for key information regarding the participants' primary disabilities, particular needs of each child, allergies, age, authorized individuals to pick-up children, etc. Board Chair Tandon suggested the registration form also ask about behavioral issues, that only children over a certain age should be left unattended, and that a parent feedback session be held at same time to give parents an opportunity to engage and help structure the experience. Mr. Sievert also shared that Divine Savior anticipates their new academic program for students with special needs will not begin in the 2018-19 school year. Doral Parks staff will look into posting the New Friends Event flyer at all active city parks.

**b. Programming for Special Needs at Doral Legacy Park**

Parks staff is still working on identifying a date in March to begin the special needs social hours. Parks staff is short staffed, so they have and will continue to lean on parents to assist with classes/activities, such as the existing Feel the Beat dance program.

**c. Mail Chimp Survey – Parent Education Workshop Date & Topic**

Following a second distribution of the survey, there respondent total rose from nine to 24. Results are now split between Fridays and Saturdays, as well as between evenings and afternoons for the preferred schedule of parent workshops. Staff agreed to alternate between those four dynamics for first few months and will be sure to ask for advance registration to ensure a minimum of 10 participants at each workshop. As a benchmark the city's existing seminars for seniors typically yield 15-20 participants.

**d. Wallet ID Card Project**

Due to recent incidents around the country, police have not been able to identify persons with special needs who are found unaccompanied. Wallet identification cards will provide police with vital information about Doral residents with special needs who possess one. The board asked staff to email and/or mail out the project's internet link to the city's special needs listserv. Board Chair Tandon will gather more info to share w/ board and staff. George Vega advised that the Doral Police Department may have been working on a similar service; he will inquire and update the board.

**e. Adult Day Training Center**

City staff and Board members agreed to review recent special needs survey results to see if the demand/need for Adult Day Training services can be determined. Staff will work on other ways to identify citizens with possible interest/need.

**f. Hiring Special Needs Training for City Departments**

No further updates were available from staff regarding this initiative since the last board meeting. FIU Embrace and/or Keiser University might be of assistance once the city is ready to further develop this initiative.

**g. Special Needs Job Profile**

The board agreed to table discussion on this item until there is a better sense of the need/desire from citizens for additional employment opportunities.

**h. Meeting with School Board Member Susie Castillo**

Chair Tandon encouraged those present to attend the public meeting being held by school board member Susie Castillo at Jonah Smith Elementary School on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Board Secretary Hamilton agreed to draft a memo to the City Council to invite Ms. Castillo for a formal meeting w/ the Special Needs Advisory Board; will route through staff after board review and approval.

**7. New Business**

Board Vice Chair Sanabria proposed the idea of the city hosting car washes to raise money for special needs initiatives like the Special Olympics teams. Staff advised that costs such as water usage might make such activities prohibitive. Board Secretary Hamilton suggested local privately owned car wash companies might be a better option for job skills training. The board agreed that it needed a better sense as to the need/demand for such activities and opportunities before moving forward.

**8. Future Meeting Date**

The next meeting date was scheduled for March 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

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

- a. Wallet ID card project
- b. Survey data programming or service needs

**10. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

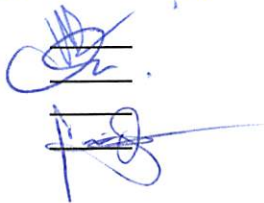
Respectfully submitted,

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Phillip Lloyd Hamilton, Secretary

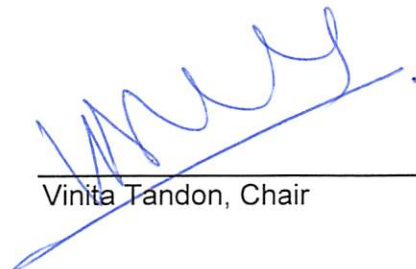
Motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2018 Special Needs Advisory Board Meeting made by Board Member \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by Board Member \_\_\_\_\_.

*\* Approved by consensus.*

Chair Vinita Tandon  
Vice Chair Rosa Sanabria  
Secretary Phillip Lloyd Hamilton  
Board Member Corina Orozco  
Vacant Seat



APPROVED and ADOPTED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2018.

  
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Vinita Tandon, Chair