



MEMORANDUM  
Harvey Ruvin  
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CRC  
Agenda Item No. 6(B)

TO: Honorable Chairman Javier D. Souto  
and Members, Cultural Affairs and  
Recreation Committee

DATE: March 11, 2013

FROM: Christopher Agrippa  
Division Chief, Clerk of the Board Division

SUBJECT: Approval of Commission  
Committee Minutes

The Clerk of the Board's office is submitting the following Clerk's Summary of Minutes for approval by the Cultural Affairs and Recreation Committee:

February 11, 2013

CA/as  
Attachment



Stephen P. Clark  
Government Center  
111 N.W. 1st Street  
Miami, FL 33128

## CLERK'S SUMMARY OF Meeting Minutes

### Cultural Affairs & Recreation Committee

Javier D. Souto (10) Chair; Barbara J. Jordan (1) Vice Chair; Commissioners Jean Monestime (2) and Xavier L. Suarez (7)

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Monday, February 11, 2013

9:30 AM

COMMISSION CHAMBERS

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**Members Present:** Sen. Javier D. Souto, Xavier L. Suarez.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Members Late:** None.

**Members Excused:** Barbara J. Jordan, Jean Monestime.

**Members Absent County Business:** None.

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**1 MINUTES PREPARED BY:**

**Report:** *Alicia Stephenson, Commission Reporter*  
*(305) 375-1475*

**1A INVOCATION AS PROVIDED IN RULE 5.05**  
**(G)**

**1B ROLL CALL**

**Report:** *The following members of staff were present: Senior Advisor Lisa Martinez; Assistant County Attorneys Monica Rizo and Daniel Frastai; and Deputy Clerks Cindy White and Alicia Stephenson.*

*Deputy Clerk White called the roll at the request of Chairman Souto, and noted Commissioners Jordan and Monestime (two of the four Committee members) submitted memorandums stating they would be absent from today's (2/11) Committee. Chairman Souto called the meeting to order at 9:58 am and asked Assistant County Attorney Monica Rizo how the members present (Chairman Souto and Commissioner Suarez) could proceed.*

*Assistant County Attorney Rizo noted today's (2/11) agenda included several items that required action. She said since the Committee did not have a quorum, the members present could consider some of the items or have them carried over to the next Committee meeting.*

*Chairman Souto asked that the items requiring action be carried over to the next meeting. He noted he would hear reports from members of the audience regarding Agenda Item 7E.*

**1C PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****1D SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS (SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 9:00 AM)****1E DISCUSSION ITEMS****1F PUBLIC HEARINGS****2 COUNTY COMMISSION**

**3 DEPARTMENTS**

**4 COUNTY MAYOR**

**5 COUNTY ATTORNEY**

**6 CLERK OF THE BOARD**

6A

**130183 Report**

APPROVAL OF CLERK'S MEETING MINUTES FOR THE  
JANUARY 14, 2013 RECREATION AND CULTURAL  
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING (Clerk of the Board)

*Carried over Due to Lack of a  
Quorum*

**7 REPORTS**

7A

**130095 Report**

ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING  
ARTS CENTER OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MONTHLY  
STATUS REPORT (Mayor)

*Carried over Due to Lack of a  
Quorum*

7B

**130097 Report**

SOUTH MIAMI-DADE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER  
STATUS REPORT (Mayor)

*Carried over Due to Lack of a  
Quorum*

7C

**130118 Report**

SUNSET REVIEW OF COUNTY BOARDS FOR 2013 -  
PARKS AND RECREATION CITIZENS ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE (PRCAC)

*Carried over Due to Lack of a  
Quorum*

7D

**130119 Report**

SUNSET REVIEW OF COUNTY BOARDS FOR 2013 -  
MIAMI-DADE ZOOLOGICAL PARK AND GARDENS  
OVERSIGHT BOARD

*Carried over Due to Lack of a  
Quorum*

7E

**130232 Report****Sen. Javier D. Souto**

ORAL REPORT REGARDING THE 6TH ANNUAL MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE HORSE AND CATTLE SHOW

*Carried over Due to Lack of a Quorum*

- 1) MR. KELVIN MORENO
- 2) MR. RUBEN ABELLA
- 3) SOUTH FLORIDA AUTISM CHARTER SCHOOL, INC.

**Report:** *Discussion took place regarding the foregoing proposed report; however, due to lack of a quorum, the report was carried over to the March 11, 2013 Committee meeting to be considered for action.*

*Chairman Souto noted the first day of the 6th Annual Miami International Agriculture, Horse and Cattle Show (MIAHCS) would be April 12, 2013, and he expected that preparations were on schedule. He said more than 60,000 people attended the show, which brought economic development to the County; sustained a school for autistic children; and provided a recreational outing for the family free of charge, excluding the cost of food and drinks.*

*The Chairman noted the show was connected to the world through the Internet and was visited by Mayor Carlos Gimenez, members of congress, and Florida's Commissioner of Agriculture. He commented that the MIAHCS had increased in respectability worldwide, bringing tourists from 18 states in the country and over 20 Latin American, Central and South American, and Caribbean countries. He indicated that this tourism impacted local businesses, which provided employment for County residents; and the show was exponentially increasing animal transport through the Port of Miami and Miami International Airport to other states and countries.*

*Chairman Souto remarked that the County produced \$3 billion per year in agricultural products. He said the County also had an important horse industry, which involved major shows centered on Tropical Park. Chairman Souto added that the approximately \$8.2 million expansion of Tropical Park's Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center was in its second phase.*

*He said the show was created by a prior parks and*

recreation committee of the County Commission, and he wanted to ensure that it remained successful.

In response to Commissioner Suarez' request for more information regarding benefits to the school for autistic children, Chairman Souto said that proceeds of the show would go to the school. He added that it had been shown that working with animals was therapeutic for autistic children, and he believed some of the children could acquire high-paying positions caring for animals as a result.

Commissioner Suarez noted revival of the Miami Marine Stadium had been stalled since 1992. He asked Mr. Jack Kardys, Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces (PROS) Department Director, to expedite the revival of operations at the Miami Marine Stadium located in his Commission District (DIST. 7) and to expedite the use of \$3 million in General Obligation Bond monies that were allocated for the stadium by County Commission approval. He asked the Director to start by determining the status of the plan and the monies. Commissioner Suarez also asked the Director to determine whether Stadium operations could include a program for autistic children to therapeutically work with dolphins and to establish whether for-profit and non-profit funding could be used for the program.

Mr. Kardys said the show provided an enjoyable way for people to learn about their food sources, the agricultural and equestrian industries, and potential careers. He noted the goal of the MIAHCS was to further economic development and the transport of agricultural items as Chairman Souto noted. He added genetic material as another item of transport. Mr. Kardys said the show celebrated the County's agricultural technology and productivity.

Mr. Kardys noted two covered showrooms were being added to the Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center, for a total of three; and the center would be the most outstanding in the State. He indicated the "2013 Confederation of Paso Fino (CONFEPASO) Mundial Paso Fino Horse Show" would be held at the center in October. Mr. Kardys noted the show involved entertainment, food and beverages, an auction, an agricultural trade show, and more.

Chairman Souto later remarked that autism was

an issue in the County and needed to be addressed. He noted that children who interacted with animals at the MIAHCS found it hard to part with them. The Chairman suggested that the County create schools to teach autistic children how to interact with and care for animals.

Commissioner Suarez said he believed that the Intelligence Quotient (IQ) was extremely high in 10% of children with Asperger's Syndrome, a type of autism; and that several autistic children had high IQ's. Therefore, those children could provide insights that non-autistic people missed.

Mr. Robert Cambo appeared before the Committee as Vice Chairman and Co-founder of South Florida Autism Charter Schools, Inc. (SFACS), a non-profit school. He said many of the school's students had been rejected by public and private schools; and many previously stayed home, requiring that one of their parents forgo working. Mr. Cambo said the school currently served 141 children; there was no tuition; students between the ages of 5 and 22 could attend; and the teacher to student ratio was 3:1, which allowed the children to learn many life skills. He noted Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) leased McArthur North Senior High School to SFACS, and co-managed the school. Mr. Cambo said M-DCPS sent teachers of special needs children to the school to learn how to instruct autistic children.

Mr. Cambo noted that SFACS was founded in 2008 and was asked in 2010 to participate in the MIAHCS. Since then, he said, SFACS had been handling all food and beverage sales; trade show vendors; parking; and ushering of seniors to and from the parking lots. He noted they had also been working with the Miami-Dade Police Department to ensure the park was secure. Mr. Cambo remarked that SFACS had participated in the MIAHCS for the past four years; and in that time the show had raised over \$350,000 to \$400,000 for the school, which helped to jumpstart school operations and expand the school's programs. He thanked members of the County Commission, particularly Commissioner Souto, and PROS for letting SFACS participate in the show.

Mr. Cambo noted he was investigating vocational programs for his autistic son who was involved in equestrian therapy but nearing the end of his time at SFACS. He said he liked Commissioner Suarez' idea regarding dolphin therapy at Marine

*Stadium. Mr. Cambo said the University of Miami/Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (UM-NSU CARD) was tracking 5,000 autistic families in the County, and SFACS was serving a small fraction of them. He noted that therefore, many opportunities existed to provide services to the autistic community.*

*Chairman Souto acknowledged Mayor Carlos Gimenez for his support of the MIAHCS and the SFACS. He noted volunteers were always needed and welcome. Chairman Souto noted he wanted to have frequent meetings with Mr. Cambo, Mr. Kardys, legal advisors, and others involved in the MIAHCS before it opened. He invited everyone in the County to the show.*

*Mr. Kelvin Moreno, Cattle Show Manager for the MIAHCS, appeared before the Committee. He indicated the biggest affirmation of the MIAHCS-SFACS joint effort was the story of Temple Grandin, PhD., a highly intelligent autistic woman who became a professor of Animal Sciences at Colorado State University and was currently teaching cattle science and cattle handling techniques, and who had designed the most highly used cattle working systems in the world.*

*Mr. Moreno reported that last week, MIAHCS representatives visited Tampa, Florida to attend both the Florida State Fair and the Cattle Industry Convention and National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Trade Show. He said the NCBA show was the largest cattle industry event in the U.S. Mr. Moreno noted that at both events, representatives spread awareness of the large international cattle industry presence in Miami-Dade County. He advised that some of the champions from the state fair would attend the 2013 MIAHCS, and their pictures were part of the 2013 MIAHCS report distributed to Committee members today (2/11).*

*Mr. Moreno said the cattle show was sanctioned this year by the Florida Cattlemen's Association, the American Brahman Breeder's Association (ABBA), and the International Brangus Breeder's Association (IBBA); and this year the ABBA was providing a special sanction for the Red Brahman Show. Mr. Moreno advised that industry-related public relations efforts were well underway, with ads already in Desarrollo Agropecuario, which covered most of Central and South America; the Florida Cattlemen's magazine; the Brahman*

*Journal; Florida Agriculture magazine; the ABBA's membership directory; and the IBBA's journal. Mr. Moreno advised that the judge of the cattle show would be Neil Burcham from New Mexico State University, and Mr. Burcham had judged several national and international events.*

*Mr. Moreno noted that 131 cattle head entries from Texas, Mississippi, and Florida were confirmed and 147 were pending. He remarked that the show's organizers were well on their way to reaching their goal of 200 head.*

*In response to Chairman Souto's inquiry regarding whether organizing for the show was going well and whether Mr. Moreno had any concerns about it, Mr. Moreno noted the numbers showed that arrangements were going well; and after a show in Houston, Texas next month, the number of entered animals would be well over 250, with a window for cancellation of 50 head. He noted he also expected cattle from Louisiana and Tennessee. Mr. Moreno said short-haired breeds had been the focus of the MIAHCS for the past few years, and they would be present at the show. He advised that many of this year's breeders had presented since the show began and were excited to return; however, he anticipated new blood from some of the states he named.*

*Chairman Souto noted he was trying to promote Tropical Park as having the highest attendance of all parks; being well located between the Palmetto Expressway and the Florida Turnpike; providing excellent accessibility and visibility; and being in a safe location.*

*The Chairman asked the PROS Director to conduct a thorough inspection of Tropical Park before the MIAHCS began on April 12th, to ensure the grounds and facilities were clean and in proper working condition. He asked that dead trees be removed and replaced with new ones, adequate signage indicating direction and location be situated throughout the park, and all restrooms and water fountains be fully operational. He had noted earlier that he wanted the show's organizers to be on top of all issues concerning the show, especially since operations would be more complicated due to the construction on the equestrian center at the park. Chairman Souto noted people had endured dangers and risks, and invested a lot of time and effort in order to create and develop the MIAHCS. He said this made it important to ensure the show*

went well.

Chairman Souto asked the PROS Department Director to work with Mr. Moreno to accomplish the following at Tropical Park in the future:

- Equip the Mary Abreu Community Center to accommodate, for a fee, conventions, auctions, and other large gatherings of agricultural industry members, particularly horse and cattle industry members;
- Include dairy cattle industry members in the park's activities and in future conventions, etc; and
- Make the Community Center known to the world as the centerpiece of the Park.

The Chairman noted the Center was 20 minutes away from Miami International Airport without traffic, making it a convenient location for the industry conventions, etc. He said Tropical Park would become richer and more famous as a result of the conventions, etc.; and the money gained could be used to improve the Park and maybe to improve other parks. Chairman Souto noted Tropical Park was comparable to at least two tremendous parks, one in Fort Worth, Texas and one in Guatemala.

In response to his invitation for comments or concerns, Senior Advisor Lisa Martinez noted everyone involved with staging the MIAHCS had fulfilled their obligations and the full planning team would report at the next Committee meeting; therefore she believed everyone was right on track.

Ms. Rizo said that all items on today's (2/11) agenda, including the foregoing proposed report, would be carried over to the next Committee meeting agenda, as discussed earlier.

## 8 ADJOURNMENT

**Report:** Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Souto adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.