



To: Danielle Cohen

From: Craig E. Leen, City Attorney for the City of Coral Gables

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CL", is written over the printed name of the City Attorney.

RE: Legal Opinion Regarding Coral Gables Library Advisory Board – Fundraising And Increase In Monthly Meetings

Date: February 5, 2014

Thank you for the inquiry. I did not realize these questions were still pending for a response. I'm sorry about that. In answer to your first question, the board cannot perform a fundraising function "without the express authority and subject to conditions as imposed by the city commission." City Code, Sec. 2-62(i). Accordingly, if the board wishes to fundraise in a specific manner, I would suggest raising your plan directly with the City Commission, or raising the issue with the staff liaison to see if staff would recommend the plan to the City Commission.

In answer to your second question, it is my understanding that the library Advisory Board is required to meet every other month or upon the call of the Chairperson or Secretary of the Library Advisory Board. The Chairperson or Secretary could therefore lawfully call meetings more frequently than every other month if there is a need. The additional meetings would then need to be properly noticed in accordance with the Sunshine Law. Written notice should also be provided to the City Clerk at least one week in advance of the meeting under section 2-65. I would counsel the Board to confer with staff, however, to ensure there is a meeting place and sufficient resources to conduct more frequent meetings.

Hernandez, Cristina

From: Leen, Craig
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:53 PM
To: Hernandez, Cristina
Cc: Thornton, Bridgette; Figueroa, Yaneris
Subject: Fwd: Coral Gables Library Advisory Board Inquiries
Attachments: image001.jpg

Please place in opinion folder.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Leen, Craig" <cleen@coralgables.com>
Date: February 5, 2014 at 11:51:54 PM EST
To: "dc@cohenlawpa.com" <dc@cohenlawpa.com>
Cc: "Hernandez, Ayliin" <ahernandez@coralgables.com>
Subject: Re: Coral Gables Library Advisory Board Inquiries

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Please let me know if I could be of any further assistance.

Craig E. Leen
City Attorney

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 5, 2014, at 12:11 PM, "dc@cohenlawpa.com" <dc@cohenlawpa.com> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Leen,

I sent this email back in December but did not receive a response from you or anyone at your office. Would you kindly provide the guidance requested below. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best,
-DC

<image001.jpg>

From: dc@cohenlawpa.com
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2013 9:04 AM
To: 'cleen@coralgables.com'
Cc: 'Hernandez, Ayliin'
Subject: Coral Gables Library Advisory Board Inquiries

Good morning Mr. Leen,

My name is Danielle Cohen. I am the newest member of the Coral Gables Library Advisory Board. After my first meeting yesterday, the issue of funding for the Coral Gables branch library was an apparent important topic and concern. I suggested fundraising/solicitations to save the branch's annual subscriptions which are at immediate risk. However, there was concern regarding whether we are able to perform this function. Please advise whether a Coral Gables Advisory Board is able to either fundraise and/or solicit funds to save a function/service.

Separately, considering the current climate of the library system, the board suggested meeting once every month rather than once every two months. Please advise whether we are able to do this as well. If so, we would also like to increase the number of unexcused absences accordingly.

I certainly hope I have been clear in my inquiries. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best,
-DC

<image001.jpg>