

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
 Minutes of November 16, 2012 Meeting
 Coral Gables Youth Center
 405 University Drive

MEMBERS	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	APPOINTED BY
Robin Burr	N	P	E	P	P	N	R	R	P	P	P	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Valerie Gelnovatch	N	A	P	A	A	N	R	R	P	E	P	P	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Sandra Murado	N	P	E	E	P	N	R	R	E	P	E	A	Comm. Maria Anderson
Robert Ruano	N	P	P	P	P	N	R	R	P	P	P	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Marty Steinberger	N	P	P	E	P	N	R	R	P	P	P	E	Comm. Frank C. Quesada
Martha Serola	N	P	E	P	P	N	R	R	E	E	P	E	City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Manny Seage	N	P	P	P	P	N	R	R	P	P	P	P	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

A = Absent
 B = Not on Board at Time of Meeting
 C = Cancelled
 E = Excused absence
 P = Present
 N = No quorum
 R = Recessed
 S = Sick
 V = Vacant position

STAFF:

Jessica Keller,
 Community Services Director

Fred Couceyro,
 Parks & Recreation Director

Tricia Spencer,
 Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

1. Manny Seage called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.
2. **Approval of Board minutes of October 26, 2012 meeting** – A motion was made by Robin Burr to approve the minutes of October 26, 2012. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.
3. **Approval of Excused Absences** - Robin Burr made a motion to approve the excused absences of Marty Steinberger and Martha Serola. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

4. **Update on Board Items to City Commission – Staff**

There were no Board items to the City Commission. However, there was a presentation of a proclamation to Fred Couceyro, declaring November 17th, 2012 as Playful City USA Day in Coral Gables.

5. **Upcoming Special Events – Staff**

November 17th is World Wide Day of Play in Coral Gables;

The International World of Art Ecology Festival will be held on November 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Coral Gables Museum.

The Senior Holiday party will be held on Monday, December 10th at 11:15 a.m. in the Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center Theater.

Giralda Under the Stars has begun and will take place the first Friday of each month until March 2013.

Preparations for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting have begun; the event will be held on Friday, December 7th, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Merrick Park.

There will be a brand new event coming to the City of Coral Gables called the Big Toy Extravaganza on January 5th, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in front of City Hall. The event will showcase police vehicles, bucket trucks, fire trucks, cranes, loaders, double decker buses, etc.

Farmers Market starts on January 12th, 2013; the event will be held every Saturday until March 23rd, 2013.

The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis will have their annual block party on January 19th, 2013 in front of the Hillstone restaurant in Coral Gables from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Daddy & Daughter Dance will be held at a new venue next year at the University of Miami's Alumni Center; date TBA.

The St. Patrick's Day Committee will have their St. Patrick's Day festival on March 9th, 2013 from noon to 6:00 p.m.

Satchmo Blues Bar & Grill will celebrate Bluesfest from January 24 to January 27, 2013.

The Easter Egg Hunt will take place on March 30th, 2013; more information about this event will be forthcoming.

6. **Open Items**

Manny Seage commented about the existing conditions of the golf cart paths at the Granada Golf Course. Fred Couceyro said that he is aware and put in a request to fix the golf cart paths. Manny also said that there are no park rangers out on the golf courses. Fred said that there are cost issues with park rangers and worker's compensation laws that prevent the Biltmore Hotel from hiring volunteer park rangers. We have a starter then the Interim Superintendent drives around and acts an enforcer.

Robert Ruano inquired about the Alexander Palms being planted around Coral Gables; Robert said that people hit these palms knocking them down and that people consider these palms to be invasive. Jessica Keller explained that trees with smaller trunk diameters are selected because they will break away if hit by a car. This is particularly important where there is less than 4' from face of curb to tree. He also asked about the tree and plant selection process. Fred Couceyro said that the City has an Arborist and a Landscape Beautification Board that helps with this process.

7. **Date and time of next meeting**

The next **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** meeting will be held on **Friday, December 21, 2012**. The meeting will start at **8:30 a.m.** and will be held at **Merrick Park** located at **400 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables**.

8. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.