

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of April 11, 2014 Meeting
War Memorial Youth Center
405 University Drive,
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	APPOINTED BY
Robin Burr	P	R	R	P	P	P	P	N	P	P	P	E	Mayor Jim Cason
Valerie Gelnovatch	P	R	R	P	P	P	P	N	P	P	P	P	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Kirk Menendez	B	R	R	P	P	P	P	N	P	P	P	P	Comm. Patricia Keon
Robert Ruano	E	R	R	P	P	E	P	N	P	P	P	P	Comm. Vince Lago
Marty Steinberger	E	R	R	E	P	P	P	N	A	E	P	P	Comm. Frank C. Quesada
Martha Serola	E	R	R	E	E	E	E	N	P	P	P	P	City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Carlos Hernandez	B	B	B	B	B	B	P	N	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:

Fred Couceyro
Parks and Recreation Director

Jessica Keller
Community Services Director

Ernesto Pino
Public Works Director

Tricia Spencer,
Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

Don Slesnick
Coral Gables Resident

1. Robert Ruano called the meeting to order at 8:22 a.m.
2. **Approval of Board minutes of March 14, 2014 meeting** – A motion was made by Carlos Hernandez to approve the minutes of March 14, 2014. Motion to approve minutes was passed unanimously by the Board.

3. **Approval of Excused Absences** - A motion was made by Kirk Menendez to approve the excused absence of Robin Burr. Motion to approve the excused absence was passed unanimously by the Board.

4. **Upcoming Special Events**

- Eggstreme Egg Hunt and Helicopter Egg Drop will be held on Saturday, April 19th, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.; there will be five egg hunts at 5 City parks - Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center, Jaycee Park, Phillips Park, Salvadore Park and Sunrise Harbor Park.
- Tour of the Gables will be held on Saturday, May 17th, 2014 at 7:30 a.m. in Merrick Park.
- The Sundari Foundation will have its annual Ride for Lotus House on Sunday, May 4th, 2014 at 7:30 a.m. in front of Merrick Park.
- Fritz and Franz will be celebrating the 2014 FIFA World Cup from June 12th through July 13th, 2014 at the Plaza located on Merrick Way.

5. **Granada Golf Course Operations and Financial Status**

Fred Couceyro distributed copies of the Granada Golf Course Budget Revenue vs. Expenditures as of March 31st, 2014 to the Board. Fred said that the City's subsidy of the Granada Golf Course is \$174,754. Based on the numbers from the last three months there has been a decrease between 8 - 10% in greens fees revenue from last year. We have \$420k allocated for golf course improvements for general repairs and \$180k for shelters.

Carlos Hernandez recommended reaching out to local school as a way to offset the subsidy and increase revenue at the Granada Golf Course.

Robert Ruano invited former mayor Don Slesnick to speak at the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting because he expressed some concerns to him regarding the current condition of the Granada Golf Course and wants his perspective since he lives close to the greenway.

Former Mayor Don Slesnick gave a brief history of when his parents started playing golf on the Granada Golf Course; his mother still frequents play at the golf course. He stated that as we move forward there are two citizen groups that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should consider meeting with: 1) The Residents - Every citizen has an interest in all the parks and golf courses in Coral Gables 2) The Golfers - The people that play on the golf course. There is no supervision on the golf course; you see children under the age of 10 driving the golf carts, people walking their dogs on the golf course during play and picnics with children. Control of the course is an issue this Board might want to look at.

Fred Couceyro said that he met with the consultant on greens renovation which includes bunkers, shelters, t-boxes and fairways.

6. **Neighborhood Renaissance Project & Youth Center Field**

Ernesto Pino discussed the Park Projects on the NRP list and using Capital funds:

- 1) Development of two (2) Passive Parks located at 4650 Alhambra Circle and 5028 Maggiore Street - The consultant on this project is AECOM. Ernest met with consultants to review preliminary conceptual plans for both parks; follow up meeting to be scheduled prior to second community meeting.
- 2) Ponce Circle Park - Development of the existing open space that will include areas to gather, plazas, gardens and public events. The consultant on this project is AECOM. Received proposal outlining the anticipated scope of review and approval prior to submitting proposal for design fees.
- 3) Coral Bay Park Playground - Replacement of two (2) existing playground structures. Project substantially completed; final walk through was held on April 10th, 2014; additional work to basketball court is being priced to use the remaining funds on the project.
- 4) Senior/Multi-Purpose Center - Establishing a multi-purpose facility to offers seniors a place to get together and participate in a wide range of leisure programs. Negotiation contract with the Palace Coral Gables.
- 5) Downtown Civic Plaza and Garden - Creation of a public gathering place in the downtown area. There is no direction as of yet.
- 6) William H. Kerdyk/Biltmore Tennis Center - The facility's courts, lighting and grounds will be renovated. The consultant for this project is Stantec. Consultant is 90% complete with the construction documents and will subsequently submit for plans review through Building Department; preliminary approval from the BOA has been obtained.
- 7) Ingram Park Improvements - Improvements to existing park including landscaping, irrigation, fountain, trellis structures, perimeter wall, exercise equipment, walkways and lighting. The consultant on this project is AECOM. Project is substantially completed. Contractor currently working on punch list items. All work expected to be completed by the end of April 2014. Park opening to be scheduled.
- 8) Youth Center Field Resod and Irrigation - Resodding and installation of irrigation system to field. Need to prepare specifications for resodding operations; scope of work; work needs to be done between June 8th and August 10th.
- 9) Youth Center & Grounds Improvements - Chain link fence replacement; field lighting replacement, roof repairs, and exterior iron fence and concrete repairs. The consultant for this project is MCHarry. Met on site with consultant to review scope. Currently waiting for their proposal for design services.
- 10) Youth Center Lighting Improvements - The consultant on this project is AECOM. Replacement of field lighting and concrete poles repairs. Waiting for final evaluation from AECOM of Musco Lighting proposal.
- 11) Venetian Pool Improvements - The consultant on this project is MCHarry. Facility roof and window restoration and replacement, pool bottom restoration, walkway repairs, sand area rehabilitation and administration and concession area upgrades. Notice to Proceed and Purchase Order is being sent to consultant. Preliminary meeting to be scheduled to review scope and schedule.

Kirk Menendez made a motion to recommend to the City of Coral Gables Commission, that the City, in collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board re-evaluate the NRP Downtown Civic Plaza and Gardens project and the corresponding allocation of \$4 million for said project. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

7. Downtown Parks Outside of Parks and Recreation Control

Robert Ruano said that there are no bike racks at Pittman Park, Merrick Park, Ponce de Leon Park and Freedom Plaza. There are currently open green spaces in the downtown area not managed by Fred and therefore not programmed at its best to be utilized by the people of downtown. Robert would like to bring this discussion up again at the next meeting so that they can work together to bring more people out to the

parks. Robert said that the parking garages are not always full perhaps the City can look at right-of-ways and city properties to make changes to the downtown area.

Marty suggested that the empty roof tops of buildings in the downtown area can be used as open green spaces.

8. New Business

• Recycling Initiative

Jessica Keller launched the recycling initiative to the Youth Center which has now been expanded to all of administration and staff. She has set an arbitrary goal to recycle 25% of waste.

Many Board members had suggestions for recycling. Any ideas they may have were asked to be shared at the next meeting.

• Bike To Work Day

Fred Couceyro is on the Bike305 Initiative committee and commended Jessica Keller on planning a good outing with staff to participate in the Bike to Work Day on April 3rd. The bike ride departed at the Youth Center and ended at the South Miami Metrorail Station. It was a great event.

• Pierce Park

Fred Couceyro shared with the Board two designs for playground equipment at Pierce Park. The Board members preferred the playground design that was most transparent.

9. Old Business

• Director of Coaching Position (Status Update)

Fred Couceyro met with Christine Matteucci about the Director of Coaching position. The Employee Requisition is completed and was submitted to the Finance Department; funds have been allocated for that position; Fred is waiting on approval. Once the position is approved, it will be posted and the interview process will begin. If any of the Board members have recommendations please share with Fred and Christine.

10. Open Items

Kirk Menendez suggested inviting Miami Children's Theater to do a presentation informing the Board of what they do and what they provide to the community.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting** will be held on **Friday, May 16, 2014** at 8:15 a.m. in the Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.