

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
Minutes of September 18, 2009 meeting  
Coral Gables Youth Center  
405 University Drive

MEMBERS	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	APPOINTED BY
Joan I. Valdes	R	P	P										Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
													Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Emilio Monte	R	P	P										Comm. Maria Anderson
Jorge Guarch	R	P	P										Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Marty Steinberger	R	P	P										Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Martha Serola	R	E	E										City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Manny Seage	R	P	P										Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

A = Absent  
C = Cancelled  
E = Excused absence  
P = Present  
N = No quorum  
R = Recessed  
S = Sick

**STAFF:**

Fred Couceyro  
Parks & Recreation Director

Tricia Spencer  
Recording Secretary

**GUESTS:**

Ana Avelo, FDOT  
Tere Garcia, FDOT  
Emily Sheckels, FDOT  
Shea Hansen, FDOT  
Claudio Diaferia, FDOT  
Evelio Chavez, FDOT

Maria Nardi,  
Miami-Dade County Parks & Recreation

1. Joan Valdes called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.
2. Appearance by Miami-Dade County Parks & Recreation Department– Maria Nardi.

Mari Nardi is the Chief of Planning for Miami-Dade County Parks & Recreation Department. She came to the meeting today to discuss a developmental plan for R. Hardy Matheson Park. In an effort to protect the archeological site and the preservations, they have decided to

decided to develop two components of the park, access and parking and the walkway. The neighbors want to minimize parking, reducing the parking spots from 30 to 10. There will be gates preventing cars from entering certain areas. There will be No Parking signs placed around the park. It will be a challenge to upkeep and maintain evasives from entering the South Florida Tropical Hardwood Hammock Preserve. The site has great cross sections of habitat. The park will be open from dusk till dawn.

Dr. Manuel Seage wanted to know how long the walkway to park is. M. Nardi said that it is about a mile.

Jorge Guarch wanted to know what it meant by evasives entering the preserve. M. Nardi said that potato vines are one example of an evasive that is taking over the landscape. M. Nardi also continued to say that as part of the Open Space Master Plan, they have contacted different individuals to form the South Florida Park Coalition; Fred has also been a key player as a charter to building sustainable parks.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board support the Miami-Dade County Parks developmental plan of R. Hardy Matheson Park.

3. Appearance by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – Ana Avelo, Tere Garcia, Emily Sheckels, Shea Hansen, Claudio Diaferia and Evelio Chavez.

The Florida Department of Transportation, District 6 is proposing milling and resurfacing, drainage enhancements to State Road 959/SW 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue from SW 24<sup>th</sup> Street to SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street with connectivity to the existing sidewalks to meet ADA requirements, and decorative lighting. The intersection enhancements at SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street and SW 24<sup>th</sup> Street (Coral Way) will improve traffic conditions and will allow the flow of traffic to be much quicker. The construction of sidewalks in areas where there are none will provide connection to existing sidewalks. The drainage enhancements will be done by a French Drain System.

E. Chavez said that the project will be done in two phases. Phase 1 will be from SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street to SW 24<sup>th</sup> Street (Coral Way). Phase 2 will be from SW 24<sup>th</sup> Street (Coral Way) to SW 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Tere Garcia said that there will be no improvement to the Historical Development aspect, just the sidewalk. She also met with Mayor Don Slesnick and other individuals, making them aware of the project; they also received a resolution granting them the approval to have this project done.

F. Couceyro asked if there was anything else that would need to be removed while this project is being done.

E. Chavez said that the utility pole will need to be relocated until the project was done.

Dr. M. Seage asked what the time frame for this project was.

T. Garcia said that the project will be for 18 months and should be completed by March 2011.

E. Chavez said that the project will be done in segments.

T. Garcia said that it will be great if the FDOT is supported by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to have this project done.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board support the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) project to enhance State Road 959/SW 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Red Road) from SW 24<sup>th</sup> Street (Coral Way) to SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

4. Approval of Board minutes from August 14, 2009 meeting – Joan Valdes - The minutes of the August 14, 2009 Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

5. Update on Board Items to City Commission – Staff

F. Couceyro said that the City had its first budget meeting. 40 residents spoke and were displeased with the budget and the proposed mileage rate of 5.99%. A workshop is scheduled for Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>; more cuts are going to be made. If the City Manager comes back to him saying that he needs to cut more, some personnel will have to be laid off. The level of services the Youth Center offers has already been reduced; staff has already been cut and the department is making do with less.

6. City Projects Update

Rotary Park - The park is almost completed.

Riviera Park – Construction is moving along; irrigation and lighting is being done.

Sunrise Park - The bid was done; there will be a meeting about this soon.

Biltmore Tennis Center – A building storage system is being done; it is going to the City Commission for award.

Venetian Pool – The bids came in; based on bid, we are going to fix the concrete, expansion joints fix the drainage of the pool and install a no skid surface. Historical Preserve does not want us to touch the color of the pool.

There will be some dates for ribbon cutting coming up soon. Ribbon cutting for Rotary Park and Riviera will be soon.

Dr. M. Seage said that they need to do something about the Salvador signs.

J. Valdes asked F. Couceyro to e-mail the board the dates for the ribbon cutting.

F. Couceyro said that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board still needs to select a Youth Advisory Board member.

7. Discussion on Park of the Month

There was no discussion on park of the month.

8. New Business

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board unanimously voted for J. Valdes as chair person of the board and Dr. M. Seage as vice chair person.

9. Date and time of next meeting – The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, **October 23, 2009**. The meeting will start at **8:00 a.m.** and will be held in the **Conference Room at the Youth Center**, located at 405 University Drive.

10. The meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.