

**City of Coral Gables
Meeting Minutes**

405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.coralgables.com

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Friday, February 26, 2016

8:15 AM

The Board meets the third Friday of
every month.

Coral Gables Youth Center, 405
University Drive, Coral Gables, FL 33134

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Kirk Menendez at 8:23am.

ROLL CALL

All board members were present except Felix Pardo who's absence was excused in advance.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Alisa Weiner moved to approve the minutes this was seconded by Nancy Leslie, this motion was voted in favor unanimously by the board.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

-Fred Couceyro began his report by discussing on going Community Recreation projects. He explained that the master plan process was moved back to its initial stages, after attempting to move forward with a contractor this contractor assessed the master plan process would cost the City eighty percent more than is currently budgeted. This has caused the City to go back out for a bid for the master plan, changing the request from a "request for qualifications" to a "request for a proposal". Robert Ruano requested that the initial master plan company should not be allowed to bid on this particular RFQ again. After it was made clear by Fred that the company was told prior to bidding what the budget was, but then the company came back with a quote that was almost 100% the entire budget for the project.

-Fred discussed the William H. Kerdyk Tennis Center soft opening explaining how programming has been completely moved over and City staff has begun planning a grand opening ceremony for the courts. Fred also explained all of the aspects of phase two of the renovation, explaining that the City commission voted on the renovation option for the tennis center's building. He continued with explaining the differences between the renovation and the complete demolition and overhaul of the building.

-Fred explained that the City will be moving now to purchase land throughout the City as part of the neighborhood renaissance program. He continued with explaining the purpose of purchasing these lands will be to activate certain neighborhoods, Robert Ruano questioned the City's choice of buying properties in residential areas and explained he felt the Central Downtown District of Coral Gables really needed more green space. Fred explained the City is working with several property owners to use open spaces for park use. Carlos Hernandez asked if the tops of parking garages could be used as green space in the downtown area, Fred explained prior to building up he would like to explore the use of open lots. Fred explained that there will be an overhaul of all the fitness equipment around the Youth Center as well as the equipment at William H. Kerdyk Jr. and Family Park. He also included that at Kerdyk Park there will be a vitacourse walkway installed in place of the current mulch trail.

-Fred discussed the initiatives being directed towards beginning with activating the park more with City sanctioned athletic events as well as more of a police presences, moving forward Fred hopes to have the basketball court re done to all for a "cops & kids" basketball program. Carlos Hernandez explained that he feels the lights need to be replaced; Fred answered explaining that the bulb supplier no longer makes those bulbs and Public Works is currently working on alternatives.

NEW BUSINESS

Soccer: Paris Saint-Germain Academy Florida and FC Miami City

Fred explained to the board what the program was and its desired objectives, he also stated the City has not made a decision on this matter as of yet and it was his desire to bring it before the board and obtain feedback. Carlos Hernandez began by explaining this group at one point had been called by another name, referencing the "Champions league". He continued with that they use to tell patrons that they were the soccer club of Coral Gables, so he telephoned the club to obtain more information. Carlos Hernandez also explained that he is very concerned that if a group like this were to move in the soccer program in Coral Gables will lose its identity. Kirk Menendez also agreed with Carlos Hernandez and added that the Youth Center has a long history and tradition of generations of residents having their children involved in the programs at the Youth Center; it would be shame to dilute that tradition in the place for a large franchised group which has no roots connection with the City. Carlos Hernandez addressed the club's interest in conducting a spring break camp rather than allowing an outside program to come in and conduct the spring break camp which currently does not exist. Carlos has suggested to maybe utilize the coaches and framework that is already being used; Kirk Menendez urged that City staff look to Jay Flipese and the current coaching staff in order to create a Spring Break camp. Alisa Weiner informed the board of her meeting with the representative from Paris Saint-Germain Academy Florida, explaining a majority of the history of the Club as well as the fact that both CEO and the CFO of the group are Coral Gables residents. She also explained that the Clubs representatives were worried about the spring break camp and not having enough time to promote the program and instead the group wanted to focus more on a summer camp soccer program. Carlos Hernandez highlighted the current success of the Youth Center teams as well as the coaches and Jay Flipese who is the City's soccer program representative.

Robert Ruano motioned at 9:28am for City staff not to move forward with the soccer camp in any form, this was then seconded by Carlos Hernandez and voted on unanimously in favor by the board.

Dog Park

Sandy Dimitris asked City staff if there was any scheduled plans for a dog park in the City, staff replied explaining there are several areas which can be

used as dog parks. The area which currently looks the most promising for a dog park is the current Nat Winokur which will go in hand with the underline metro rail park. Robert Ruano brought up the idea of a portable dog park that could be shifted and used at multiple City events specifically the Coral Gables Farmer's Market. Carlos Hernandez suggested that the City maybe convert some of the open space parks into dog parks to service their neighborhood, Fred explained that many of those lots are too small to create a functioning off-leash dog park

Programs for children/adults with autism at the youth center

Sandy Dimitris asked if there were any existing programs for adults with disabilities, although there are several special needs oriented programs directed towards children. Fred explained that the Center for independent living which is an outside non for profit organization that helps adults with disabilities gain a certain level of independence. Fred also explained that as soon as a special needs coordinator is hired that person can then Aide City staff in designing, creating and implementing a variety of special needs centric programs.

Climbing wall in place of the ball pit and slide at the youth center

Fred explained that after speaking with contractors and designers because of the limited space and a safety hazard the rock wall will not be possible.

OLD BUSINESS

-Memebrrship Program for Youth Center youth who participate in sports

Tabled for discussion at the next meeting

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

Date & Time of next meeting:

APRIL 1ST, 2016 @ 8:15AM

LOCATION: WILLIAM H. KERDYK SR., BILTMORE TENNIS CENTER

ADJOURNMENT

@ 10:04 AM

NOTE