

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of March 20, 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	P	P	N	P	P	P				Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Darby Plummer		R	P	P	P	P	N	P	P	P				Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Robin Symons		R	P	P	P	E	N	E	E	P				Commissioner Maria Anderson
Haydee Polo		R	P	P	A	P	N	P	P	P				Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Marty Steinberger		R	P	P	P	E	N	P	P	E				Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Martha Serola		R	P	P	P	P	N	P	P	P				City Manager David Brown
Manny Seage		R	P	P	A	P	N	P	E	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:

1. Darby Plummer called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.
2. Approval of Board minutes from February 20, 2009 meeting – Darby Plummer - The minutes of the February 20, 2009 Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.
3. Updates on Board items to City Commission – Fred Couceyro

- GOB Land Acquisition – Fred said that Commissioner Kerdyk felt that the properties for sale in the City of Coral Gables are too good to pass up. Fred said that he found

properties with mls under \$750,000. Fred then displayed a map showing what areas he was interested in. Some of the spaces in the cities could be used as a park. Fred said that Consola Ave is one of his favorites because it has a cul-de-sac which makes it safer for children, the lot is also 10,500 sq. ft. The 6 properties he is looking into range from \$450,000 to \$500,000.

Manny Seage asked if there is a deadline for this money to be used. Fred replied that there is no set time limit for this money to be used and he also concluded that a lot of the houses on the market for sale have historical issues and the City will not be able to tear them down.

Darby Plummer asked if the board wanted the money to be invested in small parks or big usable parks.

Fred said that we have a lot of small parks that gets a lot of usage. For example, San Sebastian park is a little park that gets a lot of use.

Fred has put in an application with Playful City USA to name our city as one of the most playful city USA community. He said that he needs to form a Play Committee which need to consist of at least one member from the Parks & Recreation Board, members of the Youth Advisory Board and someone from business. Joan Valdes volunteered to be on this committee.

4. City Projects Update – Fred Couceyro

- Rotary Park - Fred said that the bid went to Commission.
- Salvadore Park – Fred said that they are repairing the courts on the eastern side, most of the lights are up and so is the fence. The watering system is still an issue and they are going to put back the old pump because it has more PSI. The bathrooms on the playgrounds are also going to be fixed by changing the floor walls and the entrance but not the fundamental structure. The swing is currently down and is going to be replaced soon.
- Venetian Pool – Fred said that they are working on the landscaping and cleanups but does not want to completely beautify the place because in the next few months the pool will be closed again to do the second part of the project. Fred is going to do a signage in our Fall Leisure Guide and on our website to inform the public that the pool is going to be closed again.
- Sunrise Park – Fred said that the bid is still in process.
- Riviera Park – Fred said that the bid came back and is going to Procurement. The

winning bidder with the gazebo is still out there and they would be able to use a little bit of the GOB money for this.

5. Old Business – Darby Plummer

- Carnaval on the Mile – Haydee Polo said that there was a lot of trash at the Carnaval on the Mile event. There was trash everywhere and only 3 trash cans. Haydee also mentioned that there was a man only cleaning the tables but not cleaning around the table.

Fred said that the Carnaval on the Mile has been very good about cleaning up the trash over the years and they do charge them if it is not properly cleaned up. Fred said that he will address the complaint but that they don't manage the event. He too attended the event and thought that it was very nice.

- Granada Golf Course – Manny Seage said that there are a lot of paint buckets with sand at the Granada Golf Course.

Fred said that he will look into it. A brake line broke in one of the golf carts and leaked out onto 4 of the greens causing it to get burnt. Fred said that they have been having a lot of problems with the golf carts and hope to get new carts soon.

6. Discussion on Park of the Month – Darby Plummer

- Salvadore Park – This was discussed already under city projects update.

7. New Business – Darby Plummer

No new business was discussed.

8. Date and time of next meeting – The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, **April 17th, 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.

9. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.