

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 8, 2022

8:00 AM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89943974263>

Youth Center, Conference Room

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Chairperson Monica Segura
Vice Chairperson Carlos Rua
Board Member Nicolas Cabrera
Board Member Ellen C. Chasens
Board Member Laura Hernandez
Board Member Bruce Lecure
Board Member Jennifer A. Marques
Board Member Ruben Rodriguez

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting began at 8:10am

ROLL CALL

a. Roll Call and Excusal of Absences

A MOTION TO EXCUSE THE ABSENCE OF BRUCE LECURE AND RUBEN RODRIGUEZ WAS MADE BY LAURA HERNANDEZ AND SECOND BY JENNIFER MARQUES. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Present: 6 - Chairperson Segura, Vice Chairperson Rua, Board Member Chasens, Board Member Hernandez, Board Member Marques and Board Member Cabrera

Excused: 2 - Board Member Rodriguez and Board Member Lecure

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Approval of October Minutes

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES WAS MADE BY JENNIFER MARQUES AND SECOND BY LAURA HERNANDEZ. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. General updates

Director Couceyro began his general updates report with sharing with the Board that all the Community Recreation full time staff just had their annual meeting which highlighted the year's accomplishments, staffing and team building, budget review, and general department housekeeping items.

He continued his report with notifying the Board of Country Club updates which included the increase of venue rentals, the city obtaining a beer and wine alcohol license, and Le Parc café migrating to a new restaurant payment software. The pool is still waiting on inspection to reopen.

The Country Club Divisional Director Candy Kakouris has resigned, and Administrative Supervisor Mitch Zuriarrain will be promoted to the soon vacant position beginning in January.

Fred continued his report with highlighting the purchase of the new Christmas tree in front of city hall that was debuted during the Annual Tree Lighting event. The tree was made in America and purchased in North Carolina so if maintenance is needed, it will be easier to service. The tree will be stored at the 72nd Ave building within the city's Public Works facility. The old tree will be auctioned off.

Fred shared some of his feedback on our annual tree lighting event with the Board and hopes to increase the reserved seating for next year. Board Chair Monica Segura congratulated staff on the success of the event and commended the staff for being wonderful and hard working. She then shared with staff that she received questions from residents about whether the date of the tree lighting could be pushed up to accommodate the Thanksgiving break schedule. Fred shared his past experiences with opening the park earlier and the extra salary budget that is needed to staff over a holiday weekend. He did note that our park schedule has been adjusted to accommodate the school's winter break schedule and this year will close on January 8th.

Board Chair Monica Segura also shared with the Board that a resident approached her about the Holiday Park being too dark and if she could mention this item to staff to add additional lighting by Santa's house. Staff will look into adding additional lighting for this season however staff plan on bringing up the concern of lighting the whole park during our next meeting for the re-design and contract renewal. If the lighting and wear-and-tear of the park at the end of this season is extensive, then we will negotiate a redesign sooner and go out for a new contract prior to the 10-year mark but will cost a substantial amount more.

b. Special Events

Director Couceyro quickly went over some of our upcoming events that included Hot Chocolate with Santa on the 10th and 17th along with the Jr. Orange Bowl Parade on Sunday December 11th. The Jr. Orange Bowl Tennis Tournament is being hosted at both tennis facilities and begins December 11th. Fred also shared with the Board a new event sponsored by the city's elected officials for a World Cup Final Watch Party that is free and being hosted at the Youth Center.

Fred highlighted a holiday book reading of the Night Before Christmas with Chamber of Commerce's Mark Trowbridge at the Coral Gables Golf and Country Club set for December 21st.

The Evolve Theater at the Youth Center will be performing Little Mermaid December 8-10th.

Fred and Assistant Director Carolina Vester shared with the Board that the County will be having their community meeting about the Underline Project that will be held at the Coral Gables Museum at 10am on Saturday December 10th, 2022. The meeting is to discuss phase three of the project however it will not talk about the dog park that is also being installed.

c. CIP Updates

Administrative Assistant Sarah Espino shared the new Playgables.com splash page with the Board and let them know of some of the updates to the site. She also let the Board know that the older splash page was not allowing for certain features of the page to work properly, so with the implementation of the new page we hope these issues have been resolved. Staff did ask if there are any issues with the webpage, to please share them with us so we can improve the ease of using the webpage for all customers.

Administrative Supervisor Mitch Zuriarrain continued with CIP updates with going over the progress of the following projects:

The Salvadore Dog run is currently in the bidding process and was designed internally by city staff.

The Catalonia Dog space has been open and is successful. The grass however within the park has died with all the extra usage. Board member Nick Cabrera asked about the parking situation at Catalonia since the park is receiving more use. Staff responded that parking is an issue and a way to resolve would be for any surrounding residents to plant city approved ground coverage in the swale areas. Director Couceyro did note that we have not received any calls or complaints about the usage of the park anymore. Park users seem to be content about the shared space.

Maggoire Park will have the shade and misters added after the holiday season.

Ponce Circle Park will begin receiving roadway improvements beginning this summer; no improvements in phase one of this project will affect the interior of the park.

Venetian pool pumps have gone through pressure testing. Pool bottom resurfacing is being discussed due to the application process and its \$350,000 price tag. There is still repair work that needs to happen to the vessel of the pool but is a much larger project. The city is trying to decide if they hold off on the paint application until the repair work has been completed. Carolina also shared that the City will try again with state legislation to try to receive funding to help aid in the repairs of the historic facility. However, the City will not be able to apply for any historical grants due to the City having been awarded other grants that still have not begun construction.

Venetian Pool café project has been awarded a contractor and we hope to begin construction in the new year.

The Gondola building on the Biltmore golf course has been awarded some funding from a historical grant however the project is still being determined with how to proceed. The Historic department is trying to see if the location and use of the building is indeed historic. They are considering moving the structure to a new location to better be utilized and appreciated.

Pierce Park is almost complete, and we hope to have a ribbon cutting in mid to late January.

Cooper and Moore Park is still in the design phase.

Merrick Park sidewalks should be installed in January.

Granada Pro Shop is under construction and impact glass windows have been installed. Some construction delays occurred due to the design plan of the adjoining Granada diner.

Le Parc Café front of house equipment is being replaced and is expected to cost almost \$100,000 which will include an Italian made gelato display unit due to temperature controls needed. Equipment should be received and installed in 10-12 weeks.

The wood floors in the Country Club fitness center have been ordered and should be delivered this week; Install should begin Monday.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Conceptual Design of Pro Shop Diner

Director Couceyro presented the conceptual design plan for the Granada Diner. This was shown via Zoom for virtual participants. The Community Meeting for the design of the diner will be held December 8th at the AAC at 6:00pm.

Through Commission direction, the plan for the diner space is to have the city finance the redesign of the space and put a concessionaire agreement in place with Rita Tenneson to run the diner for a revenue split. She will still need to meet the requirements of the contract such as insurance to be eligible. The City and Commission wanted to do well by the history of Burger Bobs and waived the Bid process to allow the chance for Rita to have the first opportunity to run the city financed restaurant.

During the presentation, Director Couceyro showed before pictures of the diner space as Burger Bobs and then showed the exterior and interior design plans. The conceptual design includes open countertops, stainless steel back splashes, removal of the drop ceiling for higher ceilings and floors with wood and tile finishes. The design will also allow for a small office space, an ADA bathroom, and an open cooking kitchen with fry top. The blueprint of the back kitchen was also shown. Equipment will be purchased with the input of the restaurant staff.

Furniture pieces have not been selected. The City will work with the new tenant to select all tables and chairs. This design has already been presented to Rita for her input.

Board member Nick Cabrera asked if the diner would have outdoor dining. Fred stated due to the limited space and golf cart storage, there will be some seating under the overhang, but it will not exceed the store front and beyond the overhang.

Board Chair Monica Segura inquired about the menu pricing that is expected at the diner. Director Couceyro stated that due to the economy and pricing on food, diner goers can still expect to pay more than what they paid at Burger Bobs. The fees however will be set by Rita and then submitted to the city for approval based on the bottom line of overhead costs. The same style concessionaire agreement is in place with Le Parc café. Menu prices have been reported to be high however the food quality has been above average. If the quality of food decreases, then the City will look to have Le Parc reevaluate.

Project costs are estimated at \$610,000 and the estimated construction timeline is Winter 2023.

A MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE CONCEPT OF THE DESIGN WAS MADE BY NICK CABRERA AND SECONDED BY ELLEN CHASENS. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Park Rental Process

Board Chair Monica Segura brought forward the Park Pavilion Rental permit process and shared that someone spoke with her about her issues with renting a park pavilion. A notary was expected to be on site and was not when she came in to return her paperwork. Director Couceyro apologized however an appointment should be made to guarantee someone is available during business hours to notarize any documents. Moving forward, staff will look to add language to the permit packet and on to the website to avoid this confusion again.

Fred also shared that we have a new Park Ambassador that transferred to Parks from the Youth Center so we hope her knowledge will help with directing patrons through the rental process with servicing the parks.

Another issue Monica brought forward was root coverage on the north side of Salvadore park that has been lifted up and has become a tripping hazard. Staff will look into this and asked that in the future to email us with pictures so we can forward any information to the appropriate persons to correct the issue.

Board Chair Monica Segura asked if pavilion rental rule signage can be added to pavilions in our parks to aid in renters not having to ask park goers to leave the rental space. With lack of a designated staff person for each park, Director Couceyro will look into how other counties display signage to see what the most effective language is during these rental times.

Board member Jennifer Marques inquired about the capacities of the pavilion rental spaces and if they can be increased. Assistant Director Carolina Vester shared that these limits on capacities are due to limited parking and being in residential areas. It was requested by the community to limit pavilion usage.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Board Member Nick Cabrera asked who oversees the holiday tree on Giralda to report that the tree is not working properly. Director Couceyro shared that it used to be the BID however since they dissolved Economic Development is now in charge of the tree.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

The next meeting is scheduled January 12th, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 9:24am

NOTE