

City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way
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CORAL GABLES
THE CITY BEAUTIFUL

Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 15, 2016

8:15 AM

SPECIAL MEETING

The Board meets the third Friday of every month.
Coral Gables Youth Center, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, FL
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

CALL TO ORDER

@ 8:33AM

ROLL CALL

Present at the meeting:

**Carlos Hernandez
Robert Ruano
Felix Pardo
Charlie Rua
Alisa Weiner**

Special City Staff Guest:

Economic Development Assistant Director: Leonard Roberts

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion properties that will be considered for Passive Park purposes are as follows:

- 939 Majorca Avenue
- 807 Catalonia Avenue
- 6540 Marlin Drive
- 1047 Venetia Ave
- 545 San Antonio
- Property located at the corner of Sarto Avenue & Salzedo Street

Fred Couceyro the Parks & recreation director opened the meeting with discussing the strategic location of each park and how they were chosen based on surveying specific sections of the area. Fred acknowledged Leonard Roberts and explained economic sustainability has taken the lead in sourcing these properties. Felix Pardo voiced his concerns that the City is overpaying for the properties in discussion based solely on the appraisal, he also continued with saying that maybe the funds should be used to fix amenities throughout the City and or purchase a much larger plot of land to develop for park use. Felix Pardo continued with saying despite that he agrees with locations and thinks the properties are in very nice locations. Leonard Roberts informed the board on the objectives of the National renaissance Project and the overall goal of attaining additional parks. Carlos Hernandez asked what was the strategic intent of these small parks, he explained that he believes the NRP funds can be used to activate or aide in better ways than purchasing land which may or may not be used. Fred explained that the strategic intent is based on creating a safe open accessible green space which is a five minute walk from every home in the City. Felix Pardo warned that he does not want precedence that residents will begin selling their property to the City at inflated values. Fred explained that not all the NRP funds are being used for property acquisition; some of the funds will be directed to supplementing already existing project like the exterior amenities for the Youth Center as well as replacing trash cans as well as the benches and tables throughout the parks and open spaces. Robert Ruano explained to the board that he felt the central business district as well as the north gables ponce area should be priorities. Futhermore he feels there is no passive parks or green space in the downtown areas. Robert Ruano asked that prior to the City purchasing and

or looking to buy property the City should come to the Parks board in the early stages of this process to allow for the board to advise the City.

@ 9:32am Felix Pardo motioned:

To approve conceptually the sites in the immediate areas that have been discussed today, and that a criteria should be developed and then recommended for use by the City Manager's office in establishing correct levels of service and requirements.

This was seconded by Charlie Rua.

This motion was withdrawn by Felix Pardo.

Robert Ruano motioned that the board reconvene next week after feedback from the neighborhoods has been documented. This was seconded by Felix Pardo. The board voted in favor unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

@ 10:01AM

NOTE