

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 14, 2023

8:00 AM

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

Youth Center - Conference Room

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

CALL TO ORDER

A MOTION TO CALL TO ORDER AT 8:05 A.M. WAS MADE BY MAITE HALEY AND SECOND BY ELLEN CHASENS. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

ROLL CALL

a. Roll Call and Excusal of Absences

Present: 7 - Chair Carlos Hernandez, Board member Aaron Aizenstat, Board member Ellen Chasens, Board member Jennifer Marquez, Board Member Antonio Gonzalez, Board member Maite Halley, and Board member Yamilet Rodriguez.

Excused: 1 - Board member Erik Rodriguez.

A MOTION TO EXCUSE THE ABSENCE OF ERIK RODRIGUEZ WAS MADE BY MAITE HALEY AND SECOND BY ELLEN CHASENS. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Approval of November Meeting Minutes

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES WAS MADE BY MAITE HALEY AND SECOND BY ANTONIO GONZALEZ. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. General Updates

Director Couceyro began the report by informing the board of substantial Holiday Park updates. He said they deal with a vendor that builds, puts up, and removes the park. We had a multi-year contract, and they've gone to extend the contract for this year. Adding a few new set pieces. There will be a vintage vehicle for photos. Director Couceyro continued to share details about the City of Coral Gables Holiday Tree Lighting event that happened this past Friday, as well as the Holiday Park opening.

Director Couceyro proceeded to apprise the board members of the impending departure of Katherine Anderson. In the process of interviewing and selecting candidates for the Adult Activity Center Supervisor position, Norma Gavarrete, who is currently serving as our Special Projects Coordinator, was ultimately selected for the role. The second candidate for the Youth Center Assistant Supervisor position was also chosen.

b. Special Events

Director Couceyro proceeded to update the board on the forthcoming events for the month of December, including Hot Chocolate with Santa on Saturday, Dec 16 and Sunday, Dec 17 at 10a.m., the Junior Orange Bowl Parade 2023 on Sunday, Dec 10th at 5p.m. and Festival of Lights at Ponce Circle Park took place this past Sunday, December 10th. He mentioned that the commission voted to add another menorah near City Hall. Rev up the Holiday Spirit with friends, family, and Santa - Sunday, Dec. 17 at 9 a.m. and The Coral Gables Farmers Market - Saturday, Jan 13 - Mar 30 at 8 a.m.

Board member Jennifer Marquez inquired whether the event's entrance and exit had been modified. Director Couceyro informed the board members regarding the alteration of the event's access and exit in consideration of safety concerns for our guest.

c. CIP Updates

The board members were provided with information by Director Couceyro on the nature and history of the Toledo and Alava & Blue Road neighborhood park initiative. They have already visited the community on multiple occasions, he stated. He mentioned that they have been looking at these properties for quite some time. Particularly appealing to us was the fact that, in our master plans for service levels, we aim to ensure that all residents have access to neighborhood park spaces within ten minutes' walking distance. It should also be accessible to the public, eliminating the need for them to traverse main roadways.

Director Couceyro said the Granada Pro Shop is open. The Granada dining component was discussed during the Tuesday commission meeting. They've been told to continue. The commission has instructed our public works department to provide a timetable and calendar. For progress updates, we will post these

documents on our park projects webpage. There will be an RFP. Rita was picked beforehand, and discussions are going well for her. She had previously checked certain components, and equipment and modifications needed unusual placement.

Chair Carlos Hernandez requested Director Couceyro to introduce Rita to the board. Rita worked at Burger Bob's, according to Director Couceyro. She was Burger Bob's second pick. Burger Bob's closed, and she was likely its operator. Because Bob was nearly, she did most of the labor. Once the restaurant closed, we had to renovate the pro shop, thinking the Granada diner would be next. Following public feedback that she should keep running that location.

Director Couceyro continued the report by informing the board of substantial Country Club Café updates. He mentioned to mention about the prior operator's departure. "The initial agreement with the previous operators had a one-year contract and the ability to renegotiate, but unfortunately in the past meetings they couldn't come to an agreement, leaving the city with a three-day notice to switch gears and make an enormous transition," he continued. The Le Parc café is operational under another vendor.

The Venetian Pool concession stand was described by Director Couceyro. A new kitchen is also being built there. The procedure is underway. Already constructed and begun. The pool bottom will be done by the contractor. We'll paint and fix the pool bottom to appear good.

Director Couceyro informed the board of important community meeting information, presumably in January. He is waiting for project schematics, final plans, and projects to show the community our two parks between Nellie B. Moore and Cooper Park. We'll design there. We're creating two parks there. Phillips Park's final design elements are still awaited. We showed an idea in the commission, however we need the final design and details to highlight the neighborhood. That massive project has been discussed for commission several times.

NEW BUSINESS

Board members will deliberate on the Vice-Chair at the meeting next month, so the selection will not occur in today's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Park naming presentation

Directors Couceyro provided the board members with an overview of the history and presentation surrounding park naming for the following park projects. Like Toledo and Alava, Blue Road and Sunrise Harbor Park. He recommended that board members review and provide feedback on forthcoming park naming initiatives, among other matters. This item will be considered for return at the board meeting next month.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

Next meeting date January 11, 2023 at 8 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:09 A.M. WAS MADE BY JENNIFER MARQUEZ AND WAS SECONDED BY ELLEN CHASENS. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NOTE