

# City of Coral Gables



## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

4:00 PM

<https://coralgables.zoom.us/j/82882960727>

Coral Gables Country Club

**Coral Gables Golf and Country Club Advisory Board**

**CALLED TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 4:04 P.M.

**ROLL CALL**

Present:14 Chair Albert Sanchez, Vice Chair Sherry Celesias, Board members Isis Arenas, Frank Andollo, Yamilet Rodriguez, Peter Izaguirre, Don Slesnick III Assistant Director Sarah Espino, Division Director Lorena Sliva, Venue Manager Valerie Pinon, Athletic Club Manager Daren Gilman, Administrative Analyst Ann Caroline Del Valle, Resident Mauricio Franco, Resident Omar Gallardo

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH MEETING MINUTES WAS MADE BY BOARD MEMBER ISIS ARENAS, SECOND BY BOARD MEMBER YAMILET RODRIGUEZ. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

• **Upcoming Events/ Programs**

Division Director Sliva reviewed both recent and upcoming events, including Sip & Shop on May 7th from 5-8:00 P.M. on Miracle Mile; there would be a discount of 10% provided to Country Club Members. She also noted that Birdie Bistro's owner, Rita would be offering a 10-15% discount to Country Club Members; Assistant Director Sarah Espino went into further detail that Rita rents out the Bistro and does not have a city contract in place the way Le Parc Cafe does. She mentioned it was up to Rita to provide the discount and if that would change in the future, she had that option to do so. Our upcoming Member Mixer was mentioned and it will be held in the Grand Ballroom on May 26th with a Casino Night theme.

**a. Athletic Club**

- **Gym Membership Count** - Athletic Club Manager Gilman reported that, as of that afternoon, total membership stood at 1,774. He noted ongoing communication with the Golf Pro Shop, where approximately 15–20 current Golf members have expressed interest in upgrading to Country Club memberships.
- **Maintenance** - Board Member Andollo raised concerns about inconsistent towel restocking. Daren Gilman stated he will follow up with staff to ensure adequate inventory is maintained. The Board also discussed improving communication around pool closures, suggesting an online pool status link or text notifications for members.

Chair Sanchez noted that the left sink in the men's restroom remains out of order, and Daren confirmed that a work order has been submitted. Additionally, there was discussion about a new credit card swipe system downstairs; Daren advised that an IT service ticket has been opened to address the issue.

The group discussed the current membership cap of 1,825, including the reasons it has been adjusted several times in recent years. Daren shared that Yobel Gonzalez recently substituted a 7:00 p.m. class and received positive feedback, suggesting there may be value in having Yobel continue instructing that time slot.

Attention then turned to the upcoming annual Open House in May, along with the status of the free additional month promotion, which is currently on hold due to nearing the membership cap. This pause also reflects the potential influx of Golf members transitioning to Country Club memberships, which could accelerate reaching capacity.

- **Cycle class room ventilation** - Athletic Club Manager Gilman confirmed that two fans have been purchased for the cycle room to help improve ventilation, addressing concerns raised last month. He also reported that Weathertrol has been monitoring the room over the past week and is actively working to resolve the ongoing air conditioning issue.

**b. Venue**

- **Monthly Report** - Venue Manager Valerie Pinon provided an update on recent and upcoming events. She highlighted a well-attended planners' luncheon held in the Atrium the previous evening. She also noted that the City hosted an AI seminar earlier today in the Grand Ballroom, attended by City and Country Club staff.

Looking ahead, she announced the upcoming Italian Food Festival on April 29 in the Grand Ballroom and shared a membership discount code for those interested in attending.

c. Le Parc Cafe - Extended hours to 9:00 PM. from Thursday to Friday are still in effect. Division Director Sliva mentioned she is working with the cafe for a potential catering menu to provide to clients for their events at the Club.

#### GENERAL COMMUNITY RECREATION UPDATES

Assistant Director Espino provided general updates to the board including the Literacy Festival coming up and mentioned how the City is currently in Budget season. She mentioned two upcoming Capital projects including the front entrance of Le Parc Cafe being redesigned and will go to bid as well as the installation of the windows of the Cafe. Board Member Don Slesnick III mentioned a 10th Hokers Lunch that used to take place years ago and suggested Staff look into creating some type of weekend lunch event for new Golf Members.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Chair Sanchez inquired whether the membership cap remains at 1,825; both Daren Gilman and Sarah Espino confirmed that it does. The Board discussed how new Golf memberships factor into that cap. During public comment, Mauricio Franco asked how he could add Golf to his existing membership, and Daren Gilman explained that members can upgrade by paying the difference from their current Athletic Club membership.
- Board Member Andollo suggested limiting the Open House “one month free” promotion to Golf members only. Staff responded that, given the membership cap is nearly reached, all promotional options will be carefully evaluated.
- Gym Instructors - Chair Sanchez inquired about the current situation involving gym instructor Jack Larsen. Staff noted that Larsen is one of the Athletic Club’s most popular instructors. It was explained that he has reached the \$25,000 compensation limit with the City outside of a formal contract. Manager Daren Gilman and Assistant Director Sarah Espino outlined the City’s procurement process, including the requirement for instructors to apply through a competitive pool. The application period opened in January, and all instructors were provided with guidance and application links. However, several instructors-including Jack Larsen-have not yet completed the process. The Board discussed the need for a more hands-on approach to assist instructors with navigating and completing the online application process.
- Board member Andollo mention with wifi signal at the pool/ Le Parc Cafe has not been that strong; Lorena Sliva advised he would look into the matter.
- It was noted that Jack Larsen’s class was canceled last Monday without prior notice to members. Daren Gilman stated that he had instructed staff the day before to notify participants and will follow up to ensure proper communication procedures are followed moving forward.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Board Member Andollo asked whether guest passes would still be offered once the membership cap is reached. Daren Gilman responded that he does not anticipate any issues with continuing guest passes but will confirm.
- Assistant Director Espino reported that the alleyway is currently being surveyed and will follow up with Director Hermes in Public Works.
- Vice Chair Sherry requested an update on member surveys. The Board discussed using Constant Contact and Polco as primary survey platforms. Assistant Director Espino provided an overview of a general department-wide survey, while Chair Sanchez inquired about reusing a previously tailored survey specific to the Club.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **ITEMS FOR THE SECRETARY**

**Next Meeting Date is May 27, 2026.**

Next Meeting Date is May 27, 2026.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 5:12 P.M. WAS MADE BY VICE CHAIR SHERRY CELESIAS, SECOND BY BOARD MEMBER PETER IZAGUIRRE. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**