

# City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
[www.coralgables.com](http://www.coralgables.com)



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 10, 2020

8:15 AM

Virtual Meeting

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

**at 8:30am**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:**

**Carlos Hernandez**

**Kirk Menendez**

**Nancy Leslie**

**Charlie Rua**

**Felix Pardo**

**Wifredo Fernandez**

**Monica C. Segura**

**Absent:**

**Desmond Gonzalez**

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**This is an unofficial meeting.**

**Director Fred Couceyro began the board meeting by thanking the Board for participating and that we are trying our best to keep everyone safe and socially distanced. Fred also went over some of the difficulties we have come across with reworking our Holiday events due to COVID-19 and gave a brief overview of each event that is scheduled. Events included Hot Chocolate with Santa, Zoom Calls with Santa, Visits from Santa, Movies Under the Gables Moonlight, and a sensory friendly visit to Holiday Park for our Special Populations community. All event tickets will be available online at [playgables.com](http://playgables.com) for residents only**

**The Coral Gables Farmer's Market will take place but will need to be reworked to adhere to safety guidelines. However, there will be no Big Toy event this year.**

**Facilities that are opened include the Venetian Pool, the Youth Center Fitness Center, Golf and Tennis. Both Golf and Tennis have had a surplus of bookings even with COVID safety guidelines in place. Administrative Supervisor Mitch Zuriarrain also let the Board know that the contract with the City's golf cart company has been finalized and the deployment of the new fleet of carts at golf should be happening soon.**

**Fred also notified the board of other contracts that went to Commission and were rewarded. Contracts include the Fitness Center which will stay with the same vendor Fitness Inc., while the gymnastics contract was rewarded to Tumblebee's Gymnastics. They will begin service after the start of the New Year.**

**Board Chair Kirk Menendez asked about the rest of the Youth Center athletic programming and their statuses. Fred and Carolina let the board know that baseball and recreational soccer will return in the new year. However, due to COVID concerns, many of the other contracted programs and athletics will either not return or will be ran in-house by City staff until further notice. Winter programming is going to be geared towards campers and after-school participants. Staff will reevaluate for Spring programming.**

**Carlos Hernandez asked if volunteers could help coach our in-house athletic programs. Fred and Carolina responded that if any volunteer coach that wishes to help, adheres to our safety guidelines and clears the standard HR**

protocols of hiring, that we are more than accepting of volunteer positions.

The Adult Activity Center is still closed at this time but Zoom programming continues. The Center's staff plans on reaching out to all our AAC users for the holiday by sending out Holiday Greeting Cards to help us stay connected with them. And our City's fitness instructor Maria Fleites received the Part Time Employee of the Quarter Award for all that she has done with her classes and for the Center.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

We have two Community Meetings coming up for scheduled capital projects that includes the Granada Pro Shop renovation and the Pierce Park renovation. Carolina and Fred went over both presentations with the Board and encouraged them to share the meeting dates and website with anyone that is interested in providing feedback. The board had some questions about both presentations. Their feedback will be considered.

During a brief intermission, Monica Segura brought up to staff that the stucco of the columns at the Venetia Park have begun to delaminate. And she also asked if that park if dogs are allowed in this park. Mitch Zuriarrain let Monica and the Board know that those are preexisting columns and were not included in the scope of work for the construction of the new park. Parks and Public Works are working on repairing the stucco work currently. As far as our parks, all of our parks are pet friendly, but pets need to remain on leash unless stated otherwise. And at this time, we do not have a designated dog park within the City.

Kirk Menendez asked about the agenda Item of a joint meeting with the Landscape Beautification Board on the topic of Ponce Circle Park renovation design. Mitch shared with the Board that in a effort to save on resources, we will be combining boards to present the design plans for Ponce Circle Park for each board to vote in support or oppose the new design. Felix Pardo asked if the board could receive the park design prior to the meeting in order to review. Staff will reach out to the project manager to see if this is possible.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Monica Segura and the Board asked if there will be a way to have the next scheduled series of meetings outside. Fred and staff said they will bring it up to IT and the City's Clerk's office for approval and will keep the Board informed of any changes.

**ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

The next scheduled meeting will be January 14th, 2021 at 8:30am.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting came to a close at 9:59am

**NOTE**