

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of April 16, 2010 meeting
Coral Gables Youth Center
405 University Drive

MEMBERS	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	APPOINTED BY
Joan I. Valdes	R	P	P	P	P	R	P	P	N	P			Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Valerie Gelnovatch	V	V	V	P	E	R	P	E	N	P			Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Emilio Monte	R	P	P	P	P	R	P	P	N	P			Comm. Maria Anderson
Jorge Guarch	R	P	P	E	P	R	P	P	N	E			Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Marty Steinberger	R	P	P	E	P	R	P	P	N	P			Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Martha Serola	R	E	E	P	P	R	P	P	N	P			City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Manny Seage	R	P	P	E	P	R	P	P	N	E			Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

A = Absent
C = Cancelled
E = Excused absence
P = Present
N = No quorum
R = Recessed
S = Sick
V = Vacant position

STAFF:

Fred Couceyro
Parks & Recreation Director

Norma-Milena Gavarrete
Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

- Joan Valdes called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.
- Approval of Board minutes from February 19, 2010 meeting – Joan Valdes – A motion was made by Joan Valdes to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2010. Motion was passed unanimously.
- Update on Board items to City Commission – The donation of Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center Summer Camp Scholarships to the Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center

Association for its annual scholarship program was approved to award 10 full scholarships during the summer months at the Coral Gables Parks & Recreation Summer Camp Programs.

Discussion was had regarding the charter school and the University Baptist Church. Fred Couceyro reported that the church staff had notified him that the church wanted to continue the senior activity center, and has planned to continue to do so. Discussion was also centered on the remarks at the City Commission Meeting regarding the school. Mr. Couceyro reiterated that he had not been contacted by any school officials regarding the use of the Youth Center facility. Val Gelnovatch did inform the board about the Biltmore Neighborhood Association. Mr. Couceyro explained to the board the discussion at the City Commission meeting regarding the state statutes, and the City policies. Several member of the board were concerned with the rise in traffic, parking and activity for the neighborhood.

3. City Projects Update

Riviera Park – The park is almost completed. Landscaping is in its final stages of completion.

Sunrise Park – The construction is complete; people have been using the park and there have been positive reports about the park.

Salvador Park – Still under construction. The playgrounds have arrived, and are in the process of installation.

Biltmore Tennis Center – Construction is underway for bleacher and storage unit. Lighting will be next project.

Rotary Park – The park is completed. Park has been heavily used.

Emilio Monte asked Fred Couceyro about the Miami-Dade County Great Park Summit. Mr. Couceyro reported that he had attended the Summit. He informed the board about the County's Master Plan and the long-term initiatives for the County.

4. New Business

Land Acquisition – Mr. Couceyro presented the proposal to purchase the property at 4650 Alhambra Circle for use as park land. The City of Coral Gables Parks & Recreation Department was awarded \$220,050 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks Grant Program. The City also had the \$924,000 funds remaining from the Miami-Dade County Government Obligation Bond for land acquisition. Mr. Couceyro included the appraisals in the presentation. Motion to recommend approve to purchase the property was made by Marty Steinberger, and seconded by Val Gelnovatch. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approved by a vote of 4-1. Emilio Monte was the lone dissenting vote. He stated that he was concerned that the City would be spending money for maintenance, and would be losing the property tax revenue.

5. Date and time of next meeting – The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting is

Friday, May 21, 2010. The meeting will start at **8:00 a.m.** and will be held at Coral Gables Youth Center located at 405 University Drive, Coral Gables. The **Park of the Month for May** is **Sunrise Harbor Park** located at 25 Sunrise Avenue. Please visit Sunrise Harbor before the next meeting.

6. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.