

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Minutes of April 17, 2015, Meeting**  
**War Memorial Youth Center**  
**405 University Drive,**  
**Coral Gables, Florida 33134**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>APPOINTED BY</b>
Alisa Weiner	P	P	B	B	B	B	B	B	P	P	P	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Valerie Gelnovatch	P	P	P	P	N	N	N	E	P	P	P	P	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Kirk Menendez	P	A	P	P	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Patricia Keon
Robert Ruano	P	P	P	P	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	A	Comm. Vince Lago
Marty Steinberger	P	P	P	P	N	N	N	P	P	E	A	P	Comm. Frank C. Quesada
	V	V						V	V	V	V	V	City Manager Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Carlos Hernandez	P	P	P	P	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	P	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

A = Absent  
B = Not on Board at Time of Meeting  
C = Cancelled  
E = Excused absence  
P = Present  
N = No quorum  
R = Recessed  
S = Sick  
V = Vacant position

**STAFF:**

**GUESTS:**

Fred Couceyro  
Parks and Recreation Director  
Mitchell Zuriarrain,  
Administrative Assistant

1. **Robert Ruano called the meeting to order at 8:31 p.m.**
2. **Approval of Board minutes of February 20, 2015 meeting – A motion was made by Kirk Menendez to approve the minutes of March 20, 2015 with no changes made. Motion to approve was seconded by Marty Steinberger and was passed unanimously by the Board.**
3. **Approval of Excused Absences – Valerie Gelnovatch**
4. **Addition to the Agenda: Alisa Weiner suggested that swimming scholarships be added to the New Business section.**
5. **Update on Board Items to City Commission**

Fred Couceyro brought up the item regarding the Venetian Aquatic Club scholarship along with the War memorial association scholarship. The City will be awarding ten scholarships to each organization for the summer.

Fred Couceyro continued with speaking on giving the Center for Independent Living space at the Youth Center. The Center for Independent living is an organization which helps people with Down syndrome and other mental disorders after they turn eighteen years of age and are transitioning into adulthood. Fred desires to allow partial use of the S.H.I.N.E. office which is used for Medicare education, the Center for Independent Living will be allowed a few days of the week.

## **6. Upcoming Special Events**

Fred Couceyro reviewed the Easter Egg Hunt that is conducted throughout the City, Fred expressed that it has become very successful to the point where there are too many participants. The Carlos Hernandez expressed the idea that maybe as a way to generate revenue based off non-resident participates it would be good to charge admission into the event. Robert Ruano also made the suggestion that revenue should be donated to a hospital or not for profit organization. Fred expressed concerns about the logistics of charging for an event of that scale. Scaling down the event would be something to look into for future egg hunts.

Fred Couceyro discussed briefly the War Memorial award ceremony, it will be more of sit down event.

## **7. New Business**

### **a. Granada Golf Renovation Schedule**

Fred Couceyro updated the board with the date of May 18<sup>th</sup> as the possible day of closing of the golf course. The contractor will be appearing before the City commission April 28<sup>th</sup>, shortly after May 18<sup>th</sup> the contractor will begin work. Construction will begin with trenching for the cart paths and irrigation; all of the grass will be die off making it necessary for the greens and fairways to be re sprigged. The re-opening of the golf course will take about 90 days and the course should re-open in October. Fred explained possible staffing options which will be going to budget; he also explained an increase in staffing will be needed to maintain the condition of the greens. Robert Ruano expressed the need for a system to check who and how many people are using both the Granada golf and Biltmore, Fred expressed that there is a movement for all of Parks & Rec. to change all software to be better intergraded.

### **b. Youth Advisory Board**

Fred Couceyro had a preliminary meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>, the meeting had a good turnout. Fred proceeded with discussing the responsibilities of the board and information was given out in regards to the way government works.

### **c. Venetian Pool**

Alisa Weiner began the discussion on how great the Venetian Pool is looking post renovation, also how the Venetian Pool is beginning to become profitable. Fred Couceyro spoke about how busy the pool has become and how we have to begin capping the bath load of the pool. Carlos Hernandez expressed the need for extended hours for residents which will allow for them to use the pool for work. Kirk Menendez added to the suggested after hours swimming for residents which will be private for just residents. Fred ended the conversation with promising he would do research and look into the matter.

## **8. Old Business**

### **a. Park Naming - Kerdyk Park**

Fred explained that the commission had named Riviera Park after Kerdyk through a resolution. Fred explained that he obtained a legal opinion from the City Attorney on the matter for the board, which stated “pursuant to section 2-201E18 of the City code no further action is needed by the city commission and staff may proceed in going forward with the park renaming”. The board stressed how displeased they were with the procedure of how parks are named, the commission bypassing the advisory board to make a decision on the park name was wrong. Robert Ruano expressed how he did not like that the park was being named after Kerdyk despite him still having the ability to run for office and still being an active member of the community. The board expressed the necessity for every case to go through the same procedures when a group desires a park re-naming.

### **b. Miracle Mile Streetscape**

Robert Ruano sent information to Fred regarding the streetscape which was then forwarded to the board. Fred Couceyro explained that two store fronts down from miracle mile the streets have been widen to be shown as an example of what the project will look like.

### **c. Annual Report**

Robert Ruano desired that this topic be pushed to next meeting.

### **d. Youth Center Field Lights**

Carlos Hernandez requested more information on a time frame for the project to be completed. Fred Couceyro answered with the field being closed for the month of April and should reopen during the month of May, the lights have been replaced and certain poles have been taken down and recycled. Once the new poles have been put back in place, activity on the turf will be able to take place, afterwards the re sprigging process will be taking place. Carlos Hernandez expressed his concerns about the soccer tryouts and where they will be taking place, Fred expressed he would look into the matter. Carlos Hernandez also expressed concerns about the lighting at Phillips park, Fred mentioned he would look into what exactly is needed to bring the lighting up to par.

**9. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting will be held on **Friday, May 15, 2015 at 8:15 a.m.** at the **Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center** in the **Conference Room**.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.