

# City of Coral Gables

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



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 11, 2021

8:30 AM

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**

**This is an unofficial meeting. Meeting began at 8:38am.**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:**

**Carlos Hernandez**

**Kirk Menendez**

**Nancy Leslie**

**Charlie Rua**

**Felix Pardo**

**Monica C. Segura**

**Absent:**

**Desmond Gonzalez**

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Prior to the start of the Director's report, a brief discussion was had on items that need to be added or re-added to the upcoming agenda for motions of approval if the board is to have quorum.

Department director Fred Couceyro began his report with reviewing the current programs that are taking place and noted the start of the new gymnastics' contractor, Tumblebees. Programming for gymnastics will be limited due to COVID restrictions but staff is eager to have gymnastics begin. Other youth programs that are having COVID difficulties is youth basketball as they cannot set a game schedule due to having to cohort groups.

Fred then shared with the board our department's event calendar highlighting the Coral Gables Farmer's Market that takes place on Saturdays and our annual Daddy Daughter Dinner. Fred explained to the board the modifications to both events due to COVID restrictions but received positive feedback from those changes that will most likely be incorporated again next year. Upcoming City events include the Valentine's Day adult event at the Venetian Pool, Movies Under the Gables Moonlight and our Visits from the Easter Bunny event in April. Because of the nature of the annual Egg Hunt at the Youth Center, staff does not feel this will be a feasible option anymore due to COVID so Visits from the Easter Bunny will continue again the day before Easter.

Other tentative events that are in the planning process include the Summer Literacy Event for school aged children and a bicycle safety event. Fred went over the purpose of the Summer Literacy Festive with emphasis on children continuing to read while on break from schooling and the difficulties we are having with scheduling with the MDCPS calendar. The bicycling event will be hybrid event that will be like the event hosted by Bike Walk Coral Gables and will be hosted at the Youth Center some time in March. Bike tours will be offered to showcase different views of the city and to educate bike safety.

A discussion was had about the change from large scale events to more intimate resident only style events that seem to be a huge success among the City's residents. Kirk Menendez and Monica Segura gave praise to the Community Recreation department.

Following the events update, Fred notified the board of all the current or

upcoming capital improvement projects that are taking place. Jaycee Park playground replacement has begun, and the park will remain open except for a few days to install new trees to the space. The Salvadore Park playground renovation has just gone out to bid and will be hiring a contractor soon.

A meeting with the Miami-Dade County Underline Project took place and the project consultants asked for the City of Coral Gables to help add any additional design elements to the proposed stretch of space under the Metrorail. The City Manager asked for Fred and Carolina to brainstorm possible recreational design ideas to incorporate in the overall design.

Carlos Hernandez suggested that the widening of bike and walking paths be considered to alleviate existing congestion and any future congestion of new design elements. Fred will pass along the feedback and responded based on proposed plans, the County seems to be widening the paths already. Carolina shared the visioning board that was submitted to the City Manager with the Parks Board while Fred briefly reviewed the proposed design elements they suggested.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Granada Golf Rain Shelters Presentation**

Following the Underline Project review, staff shared the Conceptual design Granada Rain Shelters design with the board for comments. Design elements that need to be met in the design include the following: all rain shelters need to be ADA accessible and have golf carts be able to drive through, meet building code, and provide adequate shelter from lightning. Rain shelters will also include seating elements, water fountains for four of the six, and oolite stone to match the proposed design for the Proshop.

During the presentation, Charlie Rue wanted to make staff aware that the proposed bench sizes could be inviting for vagrants utilizing the shelters for sleeping. Fred appreciated the feedback and will let the architects know to add dividers if the length exceeds 4 feet.

Fred shared that the project is budgeted for \$600,000 and if the designed is approved, the expected constructed date will occur in the Spring of 2022.

Felix Pardo inquired about the proposed track/walking course around the course. Fred explained the deigned plans have been shelved for the time being and can not be certain when the discussion will be brought back up. Felix brought up this item due to Police now ticketing jay walkers and runners that have been using the outer limits of the course. A discussion occurred about previous incidents that have happened around the course and what components of the course and users of the course contribute to those incidents.

In closing with the Rain Shelters presentation, Fred shared that the design has received some negative feedback from residents that have emailed but once the design is explained, they seem to understand the design better. Felix Pardo suggested that a better 3-D rendering be presented during the presentation that includes an eye level perspective to gauge the scale of the shelter.

### **b. Youth Center Gold Star Memorial**

Our Community Recreation department was approached by Vice Mayor Lago and the Commission to suggest a location at the War Memorial Youth Center for a Gold Star Memorial in honor of a fallen soldier that resided in Coral

Gables. Fred showed the board a presentation of possible locations around the center that could work to show case such a large monument. Felix Pardo wanted to express that the current War Memorial located in the courtyard rotunda should not be moved and shared with staff the importance the location has for those seeking a moment of remembrance and contemplation. Kirk Menendez and Nancy is in agreeance of Felix's sentiments. The board is in agreeance of the proposed location of the monument to be located near the baseball field facing Riviera.

Kirk has requested that the final location be shared with the War Memorial Association.

Prior to leaving the meeting, Carlos Hernandez made a point to remind the board that with upcoming elections, any items the board wishes to vote on prior to re-appointments should be made at the upcoming March meeting. All present board members agreed and will make the effort to be present for the next meeting.

Carlos Hernandez also asked on the status of the Director of Coaching for soccer. Fred shared with the board that the position is no longer frozen and once all paperwork has been filed, it will be open for interviews.

#### **ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11th, 2021 at 8:30am. Location is to be determined but will be a Zoom hybrid meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

#### **NOTE**