

City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.coralgables.com



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 12, 2019

8:15 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

at 8:25

ROLL CALL

Present:

Carlos Hernandez

Kirk Menendez

Nancy Leslie

Charlie Rua

Desmond Gonzalez

Felix Pardo

Wifredo Fernandez

Monica C. Segura

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion to approve November's minutes was made by Monica Segura and second by Nancy Leslie. Motion passed unanimously.

II. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Fred Couceyro began the meeting with notifying board members of current staff absences and position vacancies. Currently Assistant Director Carolina Vester, Aquatics Supervisor Jose Vilar, and Assistant Supervisor of the AAC Manny Guerrero are all on parental leave for the birth of their children. With the promotion of Assistant Supervisor of the Youth Center Yanessa Rodriguez, the Recreation Specialist position is now vacant and accepting applications. Part time vacancies include Guest Service Representatives at our tennis centers, Park Ranger positions and our Park Ambassador position.

Fred gave short job descriptions of each position and asked the Board to please share and refer any interested candidates to apply to our website at CoralGables.com.

Felix Pardo asked if retired employees are eligible to apply for any of these positions. Fred notified the board that yes, the position is open to anyone. All applicants will still need to meet the criteria for each position.

Fred continued the meeting to discuss the recent event that occurred off Lejeune and Miracle Mile with the Jewelry store robbery. It was confirmed the morning of the event that the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting would continue as scheduled. Due to late media coverage on continuing event, attendance numbers were lower until later in the evening. A large visible increase in attendance occurred an hour before Santa was to arrive to the event.

The Holiday Park has now officially begun and will remain open until January 5th 2020 and Santa pictures will continue until December 23rd 2019. Fred gave a brief description of the new concessions trolley and how pleased the staff is with the addition. Storage for the trailer is yet to be determined. The Holiday Park layout with exceptions with a few areas, will be ADA compliant. The Disability Affairs board walked the park with staff and noted that this year is the most ADA accessible the park has ever been.

At the completion of Holiday Park, Merrick Park will receive minor design alterations to increase access to picnic tables to meet ADA requirements.

Other upcoming events include the Jr. Orange Bowl parade on Sunday December 15th at 5pm. City of Coral Gables will have a designated float in the parade that will have our Parks staff and our CLUB PLAY participants.

Fred notified the board that the Jr. Orange Bowl Committee has had staffing issues and administrative vacancies, a partial reason to operation delays the City has been encountering.

Movies on the Mile is scheduled for Thursday December 19th with the showing of Home Alone 2 from 7-9 pm. We have a partnership with the Coral Gables Art Cinema and will continue the series every third Thursday in the Fall.

The Big Toy event will be Saturday January 11th 2020, the CG Farmer's Markets will begin Saturday January 18th 2020 and the newly adopted CG Bike Day event will be Sunday, March 15th 2020. All events will take place in front of City Hall. The Bike day will have a route from Segovia to Lejeune.

After sharing his expectations for the upcoming events, Fred continued to pending Capital projects. Our Neighborhood Parks project is still underway, and we should have substantial completion of all five parks by January 13th, 2020. Items that might cause delay include the pending submittal of structural drawings of the playground in Majorca park and a large Dade County pine tree in the Sarto Green area has been damage and will need replacing by the contractor.

Felix Pardo asked Fred if the Parks Department manages the art installation pieces on Segovia. Fred informed the board that all art installations are managed by the Historic Department. Felix commented that the art pieces have now become faded and looks unkept. Fred said he will ask and see what kind of information he can share with the board.

The Ponce Circle Park initial community input meeting is scheduled for 7pm December 12th. This will include scope of the contract for the designer and show possible features for users to select to include. But there will be no park design presented.

Fred met with the designer for the southern half of the green space in Salvador Park. Ideas discussed included two ride tracks one on the west side and one on the east side with artificial surfacing in the middle. This is allowing to keep some green space for children to run around. Because of the shade, it's very hard to maintain healthy grass and will cause re-sodding each season. Once a design has been submitted, Fred will present it at a community meeting for resident input.

We are moving forward with the design of Margorie Park and the playground

redesign of Jaycee Park.

The Capital Improvements department has hired two new project managers. This will help pending Parks projects to get started.

Monica Segura asked if Sarto Park has any delay because of resident interference, will this delay the opening of the other four parks? Fred let the board know that no, the other parks will not be delayed. It will just affect the Sarto Park opening.

Fred notified the board that at the last commission meeting, the creation of an ordinance banning fertilizer was discussed for any residential and park space usage. At this time, commission will allow for parks and golf course maintenance best practices to continue which will not cause issues in maintenance operations. This item will be brought up again at the next commission meeting.

Fred concluded his director's report with asking the board for any budgetary suggestions. The city's budget planning cycle begins in February for the start of each fiscal year in October. If the board sees a need to fund or budget a certain item, then to please email administration.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Carlos Hernandez notified Fred and the board that while running, he captured with his phone a man with his car parked on the greens at Granada golf course. The man was using his car's head lights to play at night. Carlos says that Parks department needs to create a buffer in order to not allow cars on to the golf greens anymore. He suggests that this be an item to request funding for next budget. In the meantime, Fred will inquire to see how much it would cost for additional security or have additional neighborhood service aides patrol the course more often.

Carlos inquired about whether educational flyers could be passed out to resident homes along the golf course with information on how to report improper use of the course to the Neighborhood Aids, Police or the Parks Department. This will be an inexpensive way to promote rule enforcement. Fred believes that this is something that we would be able to implement.

Kirk Menendez asked what the appropriate way to report improper use or trespassing of park spaces as of right now. Fred's response to the board is to call the non police number.

Monica inquired about more information on the Hot Chocolate with Santa event on December 21st. Fred gave the board a breakdown of what to expect for the event and who can participate.

A brief discussion of what will be done with the old Public Safety property and how to incorporate the vacancy into the redesign of Ponce Circle Park was had.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

Date and time for the next meeting will be January 9th, 2020 at 8:15 am

ADJOURNMENT

at 9:32 am.

NOTE