

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 14, 2025

8:00 AM

<https://coralgables.zoom.us/j/89943974263>

Youth Center - Conference Room

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

CALL TO ORDER

Began at 8:20 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Kirk Menendez
Michelle White
Richard Smit
Maite Halley
Jennifer Marques

Absent:

Erik Rodriguez

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JULY MINUTES MEETING WAS MADE BY KIRK MENENDEZ AND SECONDED BY RICHARD SMIT. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DIRECTORS REPORT

a. General Updates

Director Couceyro began his report by announcing the resignation of the Country Club Division Director. In addition, he disclosed that the position is open and they will be conducting interviews for qualified applicants. Following this, he outlined the current challenges the position faces with managing the three different business models of the athletic club, the venue, and the cafe. Until a replacement is found, Community Recreation Director Couceyro will serve as the Country Club Division Director.

The board was informed of the Director of Coaching's resignation. Further details were provided about the Youth Center's plan to collaborate with a contracted Head Soccer Professional to manage the program. Additionally, if necessary, the Youth Center staff will create an RFP, incorporating safeguards based on parental feedback to ensure city control over the program.

He proceeds with his briefing by updating the board on the positive feedback received about the recent improvements at the Granada Golf Course and the successful summer camps held at the Youth Center. He also informed the board members that the tennis camp attendance was impacted due to the closure of the Venetian Pool.

b. Special Events

Director Couceyro proceeded to update the board on the forthcoming events for the month of August through October, Senior Week from Monday August 18th- Friday August 22nd, the Western Roundup on Friday September 19th, A Saturday at the Cinema showing "A Hard Day's Night" - Saturday, September 27th, the Pumpkin Patch Saturday October 18th, the AAC Halloween Bash on Friday October 24th, A Saturday at the Cinema showing "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington"- Saturday, October 25th, and the Nightmare at 405 Haunted House Friday October 31st.

c. C.I.P Updates

Director Couceyro announced the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Dorothy Thomson Park on Saturday, September 13th at 10 a.m. He then went on to provide updates on Blue Road, the Underline Dog Park, and the re-opening of Venetian Pool.

Assistant Director Espino provided further details regarding the ongoing renovations at the Venetian Pool, indicating an expected re-opening date in early October.

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

a. Selection of Chair

BOARD MEMBER MAITE HALLEY MOTIONED TO NOMINATE JENNIFER MARQUES AND WAS SECONDED BY KIRK MENENDEZ. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Selection of Vice Chair

BOARD MEMBER JENNIFER MARQUES MOTIONED TO NOMINATE MAITE HALLEY AND WAS SECONDED BY KIRK MENENDEZ. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Salvador and Majorca Park litter

Board member Michelle White informed the board and staff about the significant litter issues at Salvador and Majorca Park, particularly concerning plastic and balloon pieces left behind by park users and birthday party rentals.

Director Couceyro elaborated on how the Park Rangers manage birthday party rentals, as well as the cleanup of dog waste stations and garbage left behind by park users.

The board members proposed banning birthday party rentals from bringing balloons due to the environmental harm caused by plastic pieces and the choking hazard they pose for children. Additionally, the board members suggested posting bilingual (spanish/english) signage and implementing a volunteer based cleanup program to encourage park users to maintain cleanliness.

Director Couceyro will direct staff to benchmark policies from other cities to evaluate their alignment with our current regulations on banned birthday party items at parks. Additionally, he will consider the implementation of more signage at the parks.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

Next meeting date Thursday, September 4th at 8:15 AM

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BOARD MEMBER MAITE HALLEY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AND WAS SECONDED BY RICHARD SMIT. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:30 A.M.

NOTE