

# City of Coral Gables

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



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 8, 2021

8:00 AM

The Board meets the second Thursday of every month.

### Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

## **CALL TO ORDER**

**at 8:12am**

## **ROLL CALL**

**A motion to excuse Laura Hernandez's absence was made by Charlie Rua and second by Monica Segura. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Joan Valdes-Virtual**

**Present:** 5 - Vice Chairperson Rua, Chairperson Segura, Board Member Rodriguez, Board Member Marques and Board Member Chasens

**Absent:** 1 - Board Member Valdes

**Excused:** 1 - Board Member Hernandez

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

### **a. Approval of Minutes from May and June**

**A motion to approve the May minutes was made by Charlie Rua and was second by Ellen Chasens. Motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion to approve the June minutes was made by Jennifer Marques and was second by Ellen Chasens. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Fred Couceyro began his report with briefly going over all current Capital projects that are taking place. Those projects include Salvador Playground Expansion and the Kerdyk Fitness Trail that should be finishing in the next month. Fred then went over the list of pending projects that are slotted to begin soon. Those projects include replacement of the existing playground at Salvadore Park and the conceptual designs of Maggiore and Blue Road Park.

The Granada Golf Course renovations have also been in conversation and recently went to a community meeting. The Pro Shop project has been given the Go-Ahead to begin construction in December. The Rain Shelters design have still not been approved so we will meet again with the City Manager to see how to proceed. And the lease with Burger Bob's will reach its end now in August 2021. The City has begun it's bid process to issue a new lease with new terms for the restaurant space that will require the tenant to renovate the space. Burger Bob's will have the opportunity to big on the lease. The Community Recreation department will not manage the lease; it will be managed by a separate department.

Fred also briefly discussed the Coral Gables Country Club and the City looking to lock in an RFP to manage the space and amenities. Board members suggested the City look into managing the space as a satellite location if the Youth Center begins any kind of construction or to fulfill our resident's need for adult programming and the need for a lap pool.

**A MOTION REQUESTING THAT THE CITY LOOK INTO OPERATING AND MANAGING THE CORAL GABLES COUNTRY CLUB THIS MOTION WAS SECOND BY RUBEN RODRIGUEZ. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Lamar Louise Curry Park will be located at the green space in front of the Venetian Pool and is set for construction soon.

The Community Recreation department has been helping in the design of the new parking garage set to be created behind the Miracle Theater with hopes of the creation of a rooftop park. Certain design elements were presented to the design contractors, but nothing has been finalized.

Some phased funding has been granted for Phillips Park to begin renovations. Pierce Park is now in the permitting phase and funding for

**Cooper Park has also been granted.**

**In the upcoming months, our department will begin with a series of pollinator garden sessions that will offer educational tools to residents and children on how to identify and grow flowering plants that encourage pollination. We hope to kick off the initiative at the Youth Center in September.**

**Park and Golf Superintendent employee Troy Hall has received Employee of the Month.**

**Programming has continued with the new Director of Coaching for Soccer and our soccer summer camp.**

**Board member Ruben Rodriguez asked what's the best way to stay informed about what's going on with our parks and facilities. Carolina and Fred shared with the Board avenues of how we share information with the public. Parks Projects are listed online on our Community Recreation website, and we have an ENEWS email letter that goes out to over 17,000 residents with information on our parks and programs. And Carolina also suggested if the Board would like a condensed version of our annual meeting and meeting minutes, we can share that with the board as well.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Prior to starting old business items, quick introductions were made for those missing from last month's meeting and the Board briefly reviewed Robert's Rules of Order and how to correspond amongst each other.

### **a. Update on Youth Center Master Plan- Alternate Option**

During our July meeting, the Youth Center Master Plan was shared with the Board again and today staff provided the alternative option of the facility's vision to completely demolish and redesign the Youth Center footprint. Carolina explained to the Board all the components that would be included with this 90,000 sq.ft redesign and that this redesign would not include the undeveloped lot across from the center. This option was provided with the price tag of approximately \$38 million. This project would not begin even if approved and funded for at least 5 years. The funding analysis that was provided in the presentation included funding options of: intergovernmental revenues and grants, park impact fees, Parks and Recreation reinvestment and acquisition bonds totaling close to \$140 million to fund all aspects of the Master Plans.

The Board discussed with staff the possible options and funding options.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY JENNIFER MARQUES TO GENERALLY APPROVE THE YOUTH CENTER MASTER PLAN AS PRESENTED AND THAT THE BOARD IS MORE IN FAVOR OF ALTERNATIVE D AS LONG AS THE OPTION REMAINS FINANCIALLY FEASIBLE, AND THE DECISION HAS THE SUPPORTIVE BACKING OF THE COMMUNITY ALONG WITH THE WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION. THIS MOTION IS SECOND BY CHARLIE RUA. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **b. Board Member at Large Vacancy**

The Board has yet to appoint someone as the Board Member at Large at this time. If any of the Board members have a recommendation to the Parks Advisory Board, to please share their contact information with staff. We will circulate any applications with Board and share with the City Clerk's office.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Draft Version of the Parks Master Plan**

The Board requested hard copies of the Master plan be created for the board to review. Staff will have colored copies printed upon individual request.

**A MOTION TO DEFER THE PARK'S MASTER PLAN AGENDA ITEM TO THE AUGUST ADVISORY BOARD MEETING WAS MADE BY JENNIFER MARQUES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RUBEN RODRIGUEZ. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **a. Cleanliness of our Parks**

The Board Chair Monica Segura brought up the discussion on how often our parks are cleaned. Monica relayed to staff that there has been trash and dirty play structures that need cleaned in several of the parks she frequents. Carolina gave a brief breakdown of the scheduling, staffing and maintenance requirements to service our 62 park assets. These parks are maintained by a combination of our Park's crews, Landscape Services Division, and contracted labor. At this time most of our parks are serviced at least once every two weeks. During the rainy season, attempts are made for once a week. However, staffing and the current pandemic causes delays. Our play structures receive a quarterly pressure cleaning 3-4 times a year. She will address any trash issues with the Park's Superintendent to notify our Park ambassadors.

The Board suggested the City offers volunteer opportunities to help with maintenance needs and to team up with organizations to encourage volunteer projects. Carolina believes we might be able to tie volunteer opportunities with our Little Library Stewardship program to increase resident ownership to our park's cleanliness and maintenance.

**ELLEN CHASENS MADE A MOTION TO REQUEST FOR MORE FREQUENT MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS AT OUR PARKS AND ADJOINING AREAS ON A MORE FREQUENT BASIS. THIS MOTION WAS SECOND BY JENNIFER MARQUES. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION WAS HAD. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ellen Chasens brought up a discussion about the water coolers and the recycling receptacles at the tennis centers. The water coolers are not able to be locked so tennis users take off the lid to fill their water containers. The request is to return the recycling to the facility and to provide water coolers that can be locked. Carolina will bring up this issue with the Tennis Supervisor to find a resolution.

### **ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 12th, 2021 at 8:00am.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:51am

**NOTE**