

# City of Coral Gables

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



## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

7:00 PM

The board meets the first Wednesday of the very month.  
Coral Gables Youth Center, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, FL  
**Parks and Recreation Youth Advisory Board**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

**Meeting began at 7:07pm**

## **ROLL CALL**

### **a. Board Attendance and Excused Absences**

#### **Present:**

**Samantha Simpson**

**Alec Schneider**

**Kirk Menendez, Jr.- Chair**

**Natalie Gonzalez**

**Jorge G. Hernandez**

#### **Absent:**

**Gabriella Toyos (with notice)**

**Mihir Pabby**

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

### **a. Approval of June Meeting Minutes**

**A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE MEETING MINUTES WAS MADE BY JORGE HERNANDEZ, SECONDED BY SAMANTHA SIMPSON. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

Youth Center Supervisor Carlos Pichardo began his report by informing the Board of volunteer opportunities with our athletics and with our upcoming events. He shared with them his past experiences with volunteers and how rewarding it can be.

Carlos continued with his report with going over upcoming events which included the Youth Center's annual Haunted House on Saturday October 30th and a new event on Wednesday November 17th kicking off the new athletics season with a carnival.

Administrative Assistant Sarah Espino shared with the Board a presentation that was shown to the Commission in September on the Park's Master Plan and the Youth Center's Master plan. Both plans were approved and adopted by the Commission in the September meeting. The next step will include locating funding sources and implementation over the next 10 years. Staff shared with the Board the sentiment of the Parks Board, the Senior Board and the Commission of pursuing the demolition of the Youth Center and redesigning the lot space.

Board member Samantha Simpson wanted to know if the reconstruction of the Youth Center would be done in phases. Staff let the Board know that depending on the option the community and City administration chooses to fund, would dictate how construction would be phased. Program and activities would be located to other satellite locations.

A discussion was had about possible amenities that could be included in the redesign. Concessions, an indoor track, parking and an aquatic facility were highlighted.

Included in the presentation was the total cost predictions and where potential funding would be received from. The estimated total is \$160 Million for both Master Plans.

Board member Jorge Hernandez shared that he was in favor of the upgrades to the Youth Center and potentially reconstruction of the center, but he has a sentimental attachment to the Youth Center because he's been here since he was a small child.

Board member Samantha Simpson would like to see the Youth Center become a more modern building but keep the Coral Gables look about it.

Youth Center Supervisor Carlos Pichardo reminded the Board of our department's policies of gathering community input before proceeding with any decisions regarding the future look and function of the Center.

Continuing with the Supervisor's report, Administrative Assistant Sarah Espino shared the Park's E-Newsletter with Board highlighting upcoming events. The Pumpkin Patch, the Youth Center's Haunted House, and a new Pumpkin Float event at the Venetian Pool were highlighted. Movies Under the Gables Moonlight will begin again in November. Board member Alec Schneider suggested the Venetian Pool as a movie location.

Supervisor Carlos Pichardo also provide the Board with a recap of past events that have taken place which included the Pollinator Palooza that was held at the Youth Center.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **a. Open Discussion**

Board Member Natalie Gonzalez wanted to have the selection of a Vice-Chair added to the next agenda.

Board Member Jorge Hernandez requested that the Youth Advisory Board be involved in the discussion/planning process of the design of the Youth Center.

## **ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 3rd, 2021 at 7pm.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm

## **NOTE**