

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Minutes of August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 Meeting**  
**War Memorial Youth Center**  
**405 University Drive,**  
**Coral Gables, Florida 33134**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>APPOINTED BY</b>
Alisa Weiner	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Valerie Gelnovatch	P	P	P	N	P	P	P	P	N	N	N	A	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Kirk Menendez	P	P	P	N	P	P	P	P	N	N	N	P	Comm. Patricia Keon
Robert Ruano	P	E	P	N	P	P	P	P	N	N	N	P	Comm. Vince Lago
Marty Steinberger	P	P	P	N	A	E	P	P	N	N	N	P	Comm. Frank C. Quesada
												V	City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Carlos Hernandez	B	B	P	N	P	P	P	P	N	N	N	P	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

A = Absent

B = Not on Board at Time of Meeting

C = Cancelled

E = Excused absence

P = Present

N = No quorum

R = Recessed

S = Sick

V = Vacant position

**STAFF:**

Cynthia Birdsill  
Acting Assistant City Manager, Operations

Fred Couceyro  
Parks and Recreation Director

Glen Kephart  
Public Works Director

Brooke Dannemiller  
Public Service Director

Julia Abrahan  
Civil Engineer

Naomi Levi  
Assistant to the City Manager

Tricia Spencer,  
Administrative Assistant

**GUESTS:**

Robert Parsley, III ASLA  
Landscape Architect Geomantics Designs, Inc.

Micha Adir  
Landscape Designer & Permit Specialist

1. Marty Steinberger called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.
2. **Approval of Board minutes of April 11, 2014 meeting** – A motion was made by Carlos Hernandez to approve the minutes of April 11, 2014. Motion to approve minutes was passed unanimously by the Board.
3. **Approval of Excused Absences** – There were no approval of absences.
4. **Update on Board Items to City Commission**

- At the July City Commission meeting The Parks and Recreation Department received a Proclamation declaring July 2014 as Parks and Recreation Month in Coral Gables.

5. **New Business**

a. **Jean Ward Sculpture Relocation – Cindy Birdsill**

Cindy Birdsill discussed with the Board moving one of the Jean Ward sculptures from the Coral Gables library and relocating it to Young Park. The relocation of this sculpture will be paid through the Art in Public Places fund which is a program where developers who do a commercial project over 3 million in value will have to put 1% of their project budget into public art and if it is a large enough project they have to go through a process and incorporate art into their project but the smaller projects tend to just pay into the City's funds so that our projects can be maintained such as the relocation of the Jean Ward Sculpture.

**A motion was made by Marty Steinberger recommending to the City Commission that we move one of the Jean Ward Sculptures from the Coral Gables library to Young Park. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.**

b. **Country Club Prado Landscape Project Presentation – Public Works**

Robert Parsley, III of Landscape Architect Geomatics Designs, Inc. presented to the Board the Country Club Prado Landscape Restoration and Renovation project in which the Landscape Architects will look at all the trees that need trimming, transplanted to other locations and need to be removed. All overgrown trees will be lightly pruned and cleaned, all volunteer trees or vines growing on tree trunks will be removed and all under nourished trees will be fertilized. Maps of all the existing trees in and around Country Club Prado were shown to the Board; the map also included a list of all the trees that are going to be transplanted, fertilized and removed. The Cabbage Palms and the Coconut Palms will all be transplanted; trees such as the Orchid tree, Queen Palms, and Mahogany to name a few will be removed.

**A motion was made by Carlos Hernandez recommending to the City Commission to move forward with the Country Club Prado Landscape Restoration and Renovation project. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.**

### **c. Soccer Town Phillip's Park Proposal – Soccer Town**

Adriana Lewis, a representative from Soccer Town presented a Phillip's Park proposal to the Board. Soccer Town was founded in 2009, currently serves over 2,000 clients weekly and recently opened a second location in the City of Pembroke Pines. The proposal is to transform Phillip's Park by converting the three fields into one 8 vs. 8 field, have a concession stand for sports drinks, beer/wine, snacks and sports gear, and a social area with views of the fields and direct access to the concession stand. Soccer Town will offer services such as hourly soccer field rentals until 11:00 p.m. for tournaments, corporate leagues, pick-up games, holiday celebrations, birthdays, and other events for children. Soccer Town will be responsible for the cost of all improvements to Phillip's Park; the City of Coral Gables will receive 2.5% of revenue in the first two years and 10% of net revenue thereafter. It will utilize existing bathrooms at Phillip's Park which will be maintained and cleaned by the City. The City will also maintain lighting; allow Soccer Town to serve beer and wine and the City will not organize adult soccer leagues.

Many of the Board members were concerned about the sale of alcohol in a kids' playground.

Fred Couceyro also had an issue with the sale of beer and wine because the City of Coral Gables does not allow alcohol in any of its parks.

Robert Ruano felt that the Phillip's Park proposal is pre-mature to come to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board because there are a lot of issues that need to be worked out between the City's staff and Soccer Town. Robert also said that the proposal violates the City's code with the sale of beer and wine. He also recommended that the staff of the Parks and Recreation Department and Public Works meet with Soccer Town first then come to the Board with something palpable.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board moved the Soccer Town Phillip's Park proposal back to the Parks and Recreation staff.

### **d. Merrick Park Plan – Cindy Birdsill**

There was a discussion on streetscape improvements along Biltmore Way and in front of City Hall. In the Neighborhood Renaissance Program there was money designated to a downtown civic plaza, however since the City never found the ideal property the Commission was asked to take the money from the civic plaza project to do a project on Biltmore Way and Merrick Park instead. The streetscape hasn't been designed as yet but it is very conceptual and may consist of some paving treatments that connects Le Jeune and goes along Biltmore Way with installation of stalls along City Hall so the Farmers Market vendors will have access. Merrick Park is a fun park during the holidays and it needs to also be open for picnicking and group activities.

### **e. FRDAP Grants – Fred Couceyro**

There was a brief discussion on FRDAP Grants that were awarded to the Parks and Recreation Department. Riviera Park, Salvadore Park and Jaycee Park were all remodeled with new park equipment using these grants. The maximum award is \$200,000, you need to have a match and it is based on a point system

## **6. Old Business**

### **a. Granada Golf Course Update**

Brooke Dannemiller said there is a public meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Granada Golf Course; the venue for this meeting has not been finalized as yet. AECOM is still working on a preliminary Master Plan to cover everything we have discussed. The Board will be advised of the venue for this meeting once it is determined.

Fred Couceyro said the concept they are looking at are the greens, redoing tee boxes, fairway repairs, rain shelters, the potential of a perimeter walkway, and the possibilities of car path extensions which will be included in the Master Plan.

### **b. Maggiore and Alhambra Park Update – Julia Abrahan**

Julia Abrahan said that revisions were made after the comments from the Board. Bike racks have been included and the Chinese concept is still being considered with some of the aspects. They are waiting on the final revisions to meet with the Board again and are in the process of scheduling a public meeting for Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The entrance to Maggiore Park which originally had two entrances on the plan was removed and now there is only one entrance to make it safer for kids.

## **7. Open Items**

Alisa Weiner said that October 8<sup>th</sup> is International Walk to School Day and was thinking that Parks and Recreation should receive a proclamation from the City acknowledging this day; many examples of proclamations can be seen at [www.walkbiketoschool.org](http://www.walkbiketoschool.org) On the E-news every week there is something about sustainability at the bottom of the page, we could add that walking and biking to school adds to a healthy lifestyle and helps reduce air pollution. Alisa suggested we could have a walk ability check list that we can link to with 6 questions: **1.** Did you have room to walk **2.** Was it easy to cross the street **3.** Did driver behave well **4.** Was it easy to follow safety rules **5.** Was your walk pleasant **6.** How does your neighborhood stack up

## **8. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting** will be held on **Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014** at 8:15 a.m. in the Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.