

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of January 31, 2014 Meeting
William H. Kerdyk Biltmore Tennis Center
405 University Drive

MEMBERS	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	APPOINTED BY
Robin Burr	P	P	P	P	R	R	P	P	P	P	N	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Valerie Gelnovatch	E	A	A	P	R	R	P	P	P	P	N	P	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Kirk Menendez	B	B	B	B	R	R	P	P	P	P	N	P	Comm. Patricia Keon
Robert Ruano	P	P	P	E	R	R	P	P	E	P	N	P	Comm. Vince Lago
Marty Steinberger	P	P	P	E	R	R	E	P	P	P	N	A	Comm. Frank C. Quesada
Martha Serola	P	P	P	E	R	R	E	E	E	E	N	P	City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Carlos Hernandez	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	P	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:

Fred Couceyro,
Parks & Recreation Director

Tricia Spencer,
Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

1. Robert Ruano called the meeting to order at 8:23 a.m.
2. **Approval of Board minutes of November 22, 2013 meeting** – A motion was made by Carlos Hernandez to approve the minutes of November 22, 2013. Motion to approve minutes was passed unanimously by the Board.
3. **Approval of Excused Absences** - There were no approval of absences.
4. **Upcoming Special Events**

- St. Patrick's Day Festival will be held on Saturday, March 8th, 2014 from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. at Fred B. Hartnett Ponce Circle Park
- Frtiz and Franz will be having its second annual St. Patrick's Day Weekend event from Friday, March 14th to Sunday, March 17th, 2014 from 12:00 noon to midnight at the Plaza located at 60 Merrick Way.
- Bike305 will be having a Bike and BBQ on Sunday, March 16th, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.; the event will begin in front of the Coral Gables Museum and end at Matheson Hammock Park
- Daddy & Daughter Dance will be held on Friday, February 7th, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the University of Miami Newman Alumni Center; the theme this year is Arabian Nights.
- Carnaval on the Mile will be held on Friday, February 28th, 2014 from 7:00 p.m. to midnight and on Saturday, March 1st and Sunday March 2nd, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to midnight on Miracle Mile from Douglas to Lejeune.

5. New Business

• **Renovation of Fred B. Hartnett Ponce Circle Park**

A resolution was accepted by Procurement to authorize contract negotiations with AECOM as the design consultant for the renovation of Fred B. Hartnett Ponce Circle Park as part of the Coral Gables Neighborhood Renaissance Program.

• **Senior/Multi-Purpose Center**

A resolution was passed authorizing the City Manager to enter into negotiations with The Palace Coral Gables regarding purchase of the ground floor square footage at the Parking Garage located at 83 Andalusia Avenue.

• **Renovation of William H. Kerdyk/Biltmore Tennis Center**

Fred Couceyro did a walk through with the architect last week about renovations at the William H. Kerdyk Biltmore Tennis Center. There will be two tennis courts on either side of the walkway, a removable fence, portable seating for viewing tennis finals, a covered entrance, the wall will be reduced and moved, there will also be resurfacing of the courts and extra lighting.

6. Old Business

• **Venetian Pool**

Fred Couceyro discussed the night events that used to take place at the Venetian Pool and the problems it caused to neighboring residents that lived across the street. Fred said that the amount of problems they encountered due to the noise compared to the little amount of revenue the pool was receiving was not worth the problems. Today, without the events with amplified music, revenue at the pool is still high.

Robin Burr suggested having a restaurant at the Venetian Pool.

Valerie Gelnovatch suggested having movie nights with food trucks at the Venetian Pool

Fred Couceyro appreciated the Board members input however a lot of those suggestions were already done and did not work out.

7. **Open Items**

There was a discussion about the Scope of Services for the contracted out soccer program. Kirk Menendez inquired if the Scope of Services was ready and if any of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members would be able to sit in on the selection process.

Fred Couceyro said that at the next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting he will have more information about this to share with the Board.

Carlos Hernandez suggested using Phillips Park to practice soccer as we continually close the Youth Center field for maintenance. Carlos also suggested turfing Phillips Park and leaving natural grass at the Youth Center; it will meet the needs of both sides that are in favor and not in favor of turf.

Fred Couceyro said that it is cheaper to turf Phillips Park but it is still expensive.

Carlos Hernandez said that he is in favor of people using the Youth Center field but not abuse it. A concerned parent sent him a picture of 20 to 25 men playing soccer on a Sunday on the Youth Center field with a goal set up. Carlos wanted to know what we can do to protect the field; Carlos suggested not only barricading the field but roping it off as well.

Fred Couceyro said that he is already working on that with the Youth Center Supervisor, Christine Matteucci by using the barricade approach and by also having the Golf/Parks Superintendent John Hamilton come out to the Youth Center field on Sundays; due to lack of Park Ranger staff, it is more difficult to police the field on weekends. Fred agreed that Carlos' suggestion will help.

Miami-Dade Great Park Summit 2014 will be held on Friday, April 4th, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

8. **Date and time of next meeting**

The next **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** meeting will be held on **Friday, February 21, 2014**. The meeting will start at **8:15 a.m.** and will be held at the **Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center** located at 405 University Drive, Coral Gables.

9. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.