

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
 Minutes of January 18, 2013 Meeting
 Coral Gables Youth Center
 405 University Drive

MEMBERS	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	APPOINTED BY
Robin Burr	E	P	P	N	R	R	P	P	P	P	N	R	Mayor Jim Cason
Valerie Gelnovatch	P	A	A	N	R	R	P	E	P	P	N	E	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Sandra Murado	E	E	P	N	R	R	E	P	E	A	N	P	Comm. Maria Anderson
Robert Ruano	P	P	P	N	R	R	P	P	P	P	N	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Marty Steinberger	P	E	P	N	R	R	P	P	P	E	N	P	Comm. Frank C. Quesada
Martha Serola	E	P	P	N	R	R	E	E	P	E	N	P	City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Manny Seage	P	P	P	N	R	R	P	P	P	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:

Jessica Keller,
 Community Services Director

Fred Couceyro,
 Parks & Recreation Director

Tricia Spencer,
 Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

1. Manny Seage called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.
2. **Approval of Board minutes of November 16, 2012 meeting** – A motion was made by Robin Burr to approve the minutes of November 16, 2012. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.
3. **Approval of Excused Absences** - Martha Serola made a motion to approve the excused absence of Valerie Gelnovatch who is out of town. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

4. **Upcoming Special Events – Staff**

Farmers Market started last Saturday; the event will be held every Saturday until March 23rd. This year we added 10 to 12 new vendors; every week a non-profit organization will have a community booth.

Beaux Art Festival begins tomorrow, January 19th at the University of Miami's Lowe Art Museum.

Giralda Under the Stars has begun and will take place the first Friday of each month until March.

The Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis will have their annual block party tomorrow, January 19th in front of the Hillstone restaurant in Coral Gables from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Jazz in the Gables has begun and it will take place every Wednesday until March 27th. The event will be held on the Plaza at the Coral Gables Museum.

Daddy & Daughter Dance will be held at a new venue this year, the University of Miami Newman Alumni Center on Friday, February 15, 2013 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Fritz and Franz Bierhausl will celebrate Bluesfest from January 24th to January 27th.

Bike Tour De Cure will be held on Sunday, February 10th, 2013 starting at Virginia Key Beach Park then riding through Coral Gables.

Tribute to the Military 5K Run will be held on Sunday, February 24th at 8:00 a.m. starting at the Merrick Park.

Artopia 2013 will be held at the Coral Gables Museum on Thursday, February 28th from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The Easter Egg Hunt will take place on March 30th and will feature the City's first-ever helicopter egg drop at the Youth Center

5. **New Business**

Manny Seage said two parents came up to him to inquire about getting a spray ground water park. Fred said that the water park project was being considered many years ago with the DYL Project in which they were asking for a land swap. However, the land swap never occurred due to the project not proceeding.

Robert Ruano expressed his concern that Fred B. Hartnett Ponce Circle Park is not being used enough. He also suggested an opportunity for a green space located at the very end of Giralda Avenue, pass the parking lot, close to Pittman Park; that whole place could be a wonderful passive park for the city by closing the roadway. Robert would also like to have a map of the city at the next meeting so he can show the Board members. Fred Couceyro said that he would present the map at the next meeting.

6. **Old Business**

Fred Couceyro said the Holiday Tree Lighting went well; there were no issues with repairs to the park structures. The Big Toy Extravaganza event went very well; there were no complaints. This event is going to be held annually.

Marty Steinberger inquired about the status of the swim lessons flyers being distributed to schools. Fred Couceyro replied that he will post the flyers closer to the end of the school year when summer camps begin.

Robert Ruano and the Board congratulated Fred Couceyro and his staff on winning an award for the “100 Best Communities for Young People”.

Marty Steinberger inquired about any updates about the Matheson Hammock Park project and the Artificial Turf report analysis from the University of Miami. Fred said there have not been any updates.

7. **Park of the Month** - The Park of the month for the next Board meeting is Fred B. Hartnett Ponce Circle Park.

8. **Open Items**

Robert Ruano announced that every Saturday during the Farmers Market, Bike Walk Coral Gables will be having a walk/bike to the mile starting at 9:00 a.m. People can choose to either walk to the mile to the Farmers Market or ride to the mile. Free parking is available at the Biltmore Hotel.

Robin Burr commented that the Venetian Aquatic Club would prefer to be at the Farmers Market on a weekly basis to promote swimming lessons instead of just one time.

Manny Seage recommended placing Artificial Turf on the agenda for next month’s Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. The Board requested that a copy of the Analysis of Natural and Synthetic Turf be sent to them electronically.

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

The next **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** meeting will be held on **Friday, February 22, 2013**. The meeting will start at **8:30 a.m.** and will be held at the Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center Located at 405 University Drive, Coral Gables.

10. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.