

# City of Coral Gables

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



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 14, 2019

8:15 AM

The Board meets the second Thursday of every month.  
Coral Gables Youth Center, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, FL  
**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**@8:25 AM**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:**

**Carlos Hernandez  
Kirk Menendez  
Nancy Leslie  
Charlie Rua  
Felix Pardo  
Wifredo Fernandez  
Monica C. Segura**

**Absent:**

**Desmond Gonzalez**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**A motion to approve October's minutes was made by Felix Pardo and second by Nancy Leslie. Motion passed unanimously.**

**I. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Prior to the directors' report, Kirk Menendez wanted to congratulate the Youth Advisory board member and Carlos Hernandez's daughter, Amanda Hernandez for winning the Coral Gables City-wide essay contest. Amanda wrote about the feeling of living in Coral Gables. Carlos agreed to share the essay with board members and staff via email.

Nancy Leslie asked to pass a motion to congratulate Amanda Hernandez for winning the Coral Gables Essay Contest. This motion was second by Monica Segura. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

Kirk discussed with the Board the proclamation was given in honor of Lonnie Hayes at the last commission meeting. Kirk will send out footage from the proclamation to share with the board and staff via email.

A series of unfortunate events were also discussed. Kirk shared that a former Youth Center participant, Mitchell Zundiga, passed away in a car accident in Orlando. Fred notified the Board of the passing of a former soccer player and Youth Center participant. Nancy shared that daughter of former mayor Dorothy Thompson, passed away a few days prior. The funeral service will be at the Granada Presbyterian Church in the late evening around 5 PM.

Fred began his director's report with going over the list of October events that occurred. Events included Adventure Day for All and the Pumpkin Patch at Pittman Park. Both were well attended.

The Community Recreation department will be taking over the Movies on the Mile event that is in partnership with the Coral Gables Cinema. The Cinema received a grant and with the grant, we will be able to play Disney movies to the public outside of the theater walls. The first movie will be Beauty and the Beast the live action and will be played November 21st at 7 PM on the McBride Property in Miracle Mile. Movies will be held every third Thursday for 6 months.

The upcoming Holiday Tree Lighting event will debut our new concessions trailer that will be wrapped to mimic the traditional Coral Gables Trolley. With this acquisition, we hope to use the trailer at multiple Parks' events throughout the year. The Tree lighting will take place on Friday December 6th 2019.

Fred mentioned to the Board that the change in the JOB Parade schedule to December 15th will create a logistical complication because we will not be able to have Santa present during the Parade and at our Holiday Park taking pictures with the public.

We will also be introducing a resident only VIP Hot Chocolate with Santa experience. The event will be held Saturday December 21st at the Holiday Park in front of City Hall from 10 AM- 12 PM. There will only be 50 pre-sold tickets available for sale. The park will only be open for resident ticket holders. The ticket will include chocolate, coffee, pastry items and a picture with Santa. The flyer for the event will be shared with the Board via email.

Fred continued his director's report with highlighting current park projects that are underway. Fred also wanted to say thank you to the board members that had the opportunity to participate in our Master Plan Visioning Workshops that were held at the Youth Center. He briefly went over some of the feedback that transpired from the workshops.

The Ponce Circle Park renovation project will have its initial community input meeting on December 12th and will be held at the Youth Center at 7 PM. The City has retained the design firm company Urban Robot to lead the project. The budget at this time is \$3 million and will include incorporating the roadways and park into the project design. This project will also coincide with other private projects occurring in the same business area so this will take a lot of coordination between the City and private businesses.

There was a large meeting that was had between all departments involved in this project to make sure any specific needs were addressed prior to community input. The Historic Department has notified all departments that the shape of the park cannot be altered.

The Board still expresses major concerns of changing the traffic patterns and accessing the park safely with the redesign of Ponce Circle Park. Staff has told the board that traffic will be slowed in that area but that the Urban Robot design company is aware of these concerns of accessing the park safely and will address accessibility in the design.

Betsy Adams Park fencing, and remaining punch list items have been completed and the park has been reopened.

The five Neighborhood Parks projects should be substantially completed January 15th, 2020. Thirty days after that date, the parks will be turned over

to the Community Recreation department for openings. Ribbon cutting for all parks will occur at the end of February.

Jaycee Park redesign will include a rope climbing feature, shaded structures over the swing bays and a mister will also be added to the park. The Jaycee park designed was emailed to board members prior to the start of the meeting.

Other projects that will begin will be the Kerdyk fitness trail that will surround the William H. Kerdyk Jr. Park and will consist of a concrete walking trail with fitness equipment. Fred will keep the board up to date with information as we proceed.

Dog Waste Stations are still a popular discussion item amongst resident complaints.

Kirk inquired about the annual Daddy Daughter Dance. Staff will email the Board the flyer when available.

Assistant Director Carolina Vester notified the board of the repaired cross-walk signalization in front of the Coral Gables Youth Center.

Nancy Leslie asked Fred about the plans for the Lamar Louise Curry Park. Fred explained we are still in negotiations for a MOU between the City and the Garden Club for receiving a grant of \$175,000 with the stipulations that the park be substantially completed by the end of 2021. Carolina added that the Park will not be named in perpetuity for Ms. Curry; it will only retain the naming rights of the park for the lifetime of the park design.

Fred also let the Board know of the park project for the Blue Road open space which is off Blue Road and the Waterway. Fred asked for \$400,000 in funding for building a barrier and the park space. We were funded for the fiscal year of 2021. We will proceed with procuring a design team in the next few months with the City's CIP project team.

Felix Pardo was interested in the timeline of the Neighborhood Parks and the expected opening of the Parks. Fred explained the parcels of land were purchased in 2016, but design delays pushed the start of construction and using the same contractor for all five parks has also delayed individual parks opening. The completion of all parks will occur at the end of January 2020 and formal ribbon cuttings will occur in February. Felix wanted to say that although this is the government sector, our department has streamlined the process and thinks the turnover is still very good.

The Board inquired about the size of land that is needed to construct a dog park. Fred responded that at least half acre - 20, 000 square feet would be required for a suitable park.

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

**III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Nancy Leslie brought up the grant that was issued to the County for the development of the Underline park system beneath the Metrorail and if the City of Coral Gables will have any connection to the development? Fred and Carolina explained that the first dog park in the City will be in connection with the Underline park project. Also, the Nat Winokur Park beautification project might be returned to the City. The original Underline project had 5-6 different components that would go through the City of Coral Gables, one being a skate park. Other projects were suggested but have been pulled.

Monica Segura wanted to say thank you to the Community Recreation Department for the building of the new neighborhood parks.

Felix Pardo brought up his recent trip to Europe and suggested the City incorporate the same bollard traffic management system in the Ponce Circle Park area. Fred expressed that bollards were discussed in the Ponce Circle meeting and could be a possible way to mitigate traffic during special events. Staff explained that traffic is going to be a big discussion item for the December 12th Ponce Circle Design meeting at the Youth Center, and we encourage the Parks Board to come to voice their opinions on the park and what they would like to see in the design. This meeting is open to residents and business owners.

Felix Pardo also brought up the Visioning workshops and where can they be seen. All Masterplan information can be found at [WWW.Coralgables.com/parksmasterplan](http://WWW.Coralgables.com/parksmasterplan)

**IV. ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

Please have all agenda items sent to the secretary 7 days prior to meeting dates so agendas can be publish to the public.

Date and Time of the next meeting will be December 12th, 2019 @ 8:15am

**ADJOURNMENT**

**at 9:32 am**

**NOTE**