

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: **Dona Lubin, Assistant City Manager**

DATE: January 6, 2009

FROM: Fred Couceyro, Director
Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: DYL Project

On August 22, 2008, The Representatives for the DYL project came before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to present the project. The main topics of discussion for the Board were the land swap proposed by DYL and the use of the land for a City park.

The Parks and Recreation Department and the Board did not feel it was their place to approve of the land swap. It was felt that the determination of whether the land swap was an equal value swap or whether it was a fair deal for the City was beyond their consideration.

The Department and the Board did feel that a park would be welcome at that location. However, the park as designated in the presentation was not an amenable type of park. The main points to stress for any park in this location are the following:

- The proper delineation of the park area: the park can not be constructed to appear as an extension of the building and /or a plaza for the building. It must have separation from the building in the form of natural and constructed barriers and a definite break in either topography or elevation in order for the public to easily identify the area as a City park.
- Signage: This requirement would be to ensure that the park only has signage for the park name and the designation as a City park open to the public, and does not have any signage pertaining to the adjoining building project.
- Park features: This park location and setting would be an ideal place for a park with an urban water feature. This feature would not be a passive fountain, but an active feature that has water for children to interact with. The design of the water feature should be similar in type to water features in urban parks such as Charleston, South Carolina and Patrick Park Plaza in Phoenix. These would be water features that have an artistic aesthetic and also serve as wonderful interactive play activity for children. If this is something that is not possible, then the next possible options would be to have a pet-friendly park or to have a green natural area with natural play components such as climbing boulders.











