

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of March 21, 2008 meeting
Coral Gables Youth Center
405 University Drive

MEMBERS		A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	APPOINTED BY
Joan I. Valdes		C	P	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Darby Plummer		C	P	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk.
Robin Symons		C	E	E	R	P	E	P	P	P	A	A	P	Commissioner Anderson
Haydee Polo		C	P	P	R	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Marty Steinberger		-	-	-	R	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	P	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Martha Serola		C	E	E	R	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager David Brown
Manny Seage		C	P	P	R	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

A = Absent
C = Cancelled
E = Excused absence
P = Present
N = No quorum
R = Recessed
S = Sick

STAFF:

Fred Couceyro
Parks & Recreation Director

Judy Kries
Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

None

1. Darby Plummer called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.
2. Approval of Board minutes from February 15, 2008 meeting – Darby Plummer - The minutes of the February 15, 2008 Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.
3. Update on Board items to City Commission – Fred Couceyro
 - Fred Couceyro said changes have been made to the Graffiti Ordinance. He said graffiti is a problem in some of our parks.

- Fred Couceyro said the Commission approved the art cinema project on the first reading. He said a long time ago Cathy Swanson came to this Board to get the plaza named as part of the donation.

4. City Projects Update – Fred Couceyro

- Shade – Fred Couceyro said he received an update yesterday from the Public Works Director. He said the shade vendor and Public Works met with the City's Architect, Carlos Mindreau, to see what issues might hold it up with the Board of Architects. Mercy Mendoza and the shade vendor have a meeting with Martha Salazar-Blanco of Building and Zoning on March 31st to outline the next steps in the variance process because we know the shade coverings do not meet the City code as written.

The first coverings to be installed will be at the Youth Center, Phillips Park, and Sunrise Park. There has been a change at Sunrise Park. Originally, we planned to install the coverings over the two playground areas and there was initially a third covering planned to go over the swing area. We would like to get a variance to use this third covering in place of the pavilion, which we wanted but could not afford. This, in effect, will give us a mini pavilion.

- Sunrise Park, Park of the Month – Fred Couceyro said we are in the process of re-designing the new features in Sunrise Park with the park designer. He has been talking with the park designer about re-routing the power line instead of burying it, which will save a lot of money. The two playgrounds which need to be replaced are going to be a part of the project. The cost for the swing is coming out of the general operating budget, not out of the funds for the project. We are going to replace the basketball court and put up new baskets. There should be enough funds to improve the landscaping. Fred Couceyro said he wants to replace the black wrought iron with green wrought iron. We will keep the white wall and repaint it. If we do not repaint the wall, we will give it a good pressure cleaning. Joan Valdes asked if they could put in lower baskets for smaller kids. Fred Couceyro said it is not a supervised area and the kids would be slam dunking and hanging on them. It would not be feasible.

Darby Plummer asked Fred Couceyro to find out how long the project for burying the power line at Sunrise Park has been sitting on Public Work's Desk. Fred Couceyro said it was a part of the bond project. Darby Plummer said she would like to see what the process looks like within the City for obtaining approval on projects. She wants to see, for example, steps 1 through 65, so we know where we are in the process. She would like to be able to track Board projects. The Board said the more you drag projects out, the more they cost, and then the issue becomes the money originally secured for the project is no longer

enough. Fred Couceyro said he will make the request for the report from Public Works.

- Salvadore Tennis Center – The bids went out and went to the Commission. Two vendors were selected, one to do two projects and another vendor to do the third project. The Commission decided to waive the procurement code during the hearing and awarded all three bids to one company. The company that had their bid waived has a bid protest underway.
- Maggiore Park – Fred Couceyro said he got the park sodded and will have an Egg Hunt on it this weekend. The Board said the park looks nice.
- School Kiosk at Youth Center – We have a contract with Miami-Dade County Public Schools for an informational kiosk at the Youth Center. The kiosk has been installed and we had an inaugural event at the Youth Center on March 11th with the Superintendent of Schools in attendance.
- Staff Retreat – Fred Couceyro said staff did out annual staff retreat at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park in Sunrise for a day and a half. One of the items discussed was developing a new customer service training program. Jason Gilley has already commenced work on that program. We are also developing programs that deal with our history.
- Egg Hunt – Fred Couceyro said the Egg Hunt had to be moved this year from Merrick Park to Ponce Circle Park because the Farmer's Market is still going on at Merrick Park. The Egg Hunt will start tomorrow, March 22nd, simultaneously at 10:00 a.m. at 17 City parks with 100,000 prized eggs, followed by a Carnival of food, games, rides and crafts from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Ponce Circle Park. Anyone who finds a gold, silver or bronze egg can return it for a prize at the Carnival at Ponce Circle Park at 11:00 a.m.
- Geocaching Egg Hunt at Youth Center – Fred Couceyro said 30 minutes after the conclusion of the Egg Hunt at the Youth Center there will be a Geocaching Egg Hunt at the Youth Center, which is a hunt for prized eggs using a GPS. Participants who find the gold, silver or bronze eggs can exchange them for a prize at our Carnival at Ponce Circle Park.
- Movie Night at Venetian Pool – Fred Couceyro said we did Movie Night at Venetian Pool with the film *Surf's Up*. About 55 attended. We want to do it again, but it is a little expensive. Fred Couceyro said we can consider finding sponsors for the event. There were both positive and negative comments about the food. We are also considering having a Movie Night at the Youth Center which could be a huge event. The Board asked if Fred Couceyro could send an e-mail to

Board members telling them about upcoming events. Fred Couceyro said he would find a way to do it.

- Soccer Program – Fred Couceyro said he had an end of the season soccer coaches meeting that went well. The coaches were very complimentary of our new athletic staff person, Jonathan Nasser.
 - Basketball Program – Fred Couceyro said basketball season just finished with the playoff and the end of the year party. He said he was present for the playoffs.
 - Baseball Program – Fred Couceyro said baseball is going on now. He said we did not get a lot of people to sign up. We may have to change the season and squeeze in more time on the field for baseball.
5. Fred Couceyro said that the Assistant Youth Center Supervisor, Roxy Gonzalez, is leaving and has accepted a supervisory position with Seminole County Parks and Recreation.
 6. Date and time of next meeting –The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for **Friday, April 18, 2008**. The meeting will start at **8:00 a.m.** and will be held in the **Conference Room at the Youth Center**, located at 405 University Drive. The **Park of the Month for April** is **Maggiore Park**, located at 5028 Maggiore Street. Please visit the park before the next meeting.
 7. The meeting adjourned at 9:06 a.m.