

City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.coralgables.com

Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Friday, August 21, 2015

8:15 AM

The Board meets the thrid Friday of
every month.

Coral Gables Youth Center, 405
University Drive, Coral Gables, FL 33134

CALL TO ORDER

@ 8:21am

ROLL CALL

All board memembers present except new board member Nancy Leslie.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Carlos Hernandez Motioned to approve the minutes at 8:27AM, this was seconded by Kirk Menendez.

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of July 17, 2015, Meeting
War Memorial Youth Center
405 University Drive,
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY
Alisa Weiner	P	P	B	B	C	P	P	B	P	P	P	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Valerie Gelnovatch			P	P	P	P	C	P	E	E	P	P	Vice Mayor
William Kerdyk, Jr.													
Kirk Menendez	P	A	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Patricia Keon
Robert Ruano	P	P	P	P	C	E	E	P	P	E	P	A	Comm. Vince Lago
Marty Steinberger	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	Comm. Frank C. Quesada
	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	City Manager Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark

Carlos Hernandez P P P P C P P P P P P 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 and Recreation Director

GUESTS:

**Mitchell Zuriarrain,
Administrative Assistant**

- 1.Kirk Menendez called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.
- 2.Approval of Board minutes of April 17, 2015 meeting – A motion was made by Alisa Weiner to approve the minutes of June 19, 2015 with no changes made. Motion to approve was seconded by Carlos Hernandez and was passed unanimously by the Board.
- 3.Approval of Excused Absences – Robert Ruano & Val Gelnovatch motioned by Carlos Hernandez and seconded by Alisa Weiner.

4.Update on Board Items

a.Budget

Fred explained the changes and approvals of the Budget, opening with the staffing differences from last year's budget. Fred explained that the major change will be the desire for a Community Recreation director which will oversee both the Senior Services section and Parks & Recreation section. Fred continued with an update on the Adult Activities Center explaining how a large sum of money was allocated to make sure this project is done towards the middle of 2016. He continued with going over the capital projects scheduled for 2016, the Youth Center will have a massive overall including the irrigation and turf repairs to the field, the roof and the iron work/concrete which surrounds the campus. Also the outdoor and indoor playgrounds will be re done, along with the patio concrete and gymnastics area. Fred explained there will be an outside project manager who will help coordinate programming and the work being done. Fred also gave the good news that funds were allotted in the new budget for the rental of athletic fields outside of the City so that programs will continue.

4.Status of Athletic Fields

Fred Couceyro updated the Board on the status of the Youth Center athletic field, explaining the issue of possible salt water intrusion. The City's irrigation specialists have diverted the water so that the field is receiving

fresh water instead of any possible salt water contaminated water, while Public Works looks into any possible contamination. Kirk Menendez inquired about the type of grass and type of base soil which will be used in the field overhaul next summer, Fred acknowledged and explained it will be looked into and changed. Kirk Menendez suggested Peacock Park and Carlos Hernandez suggested Down right park as alternate parks for soccer practice.

5.Granada Golf Update

Fred updated the board on the status of the renovation; explain that Granada did not seem to be affected by the salt water intrusion. The renovation schedule is going according to planned, grassing of the Tees will begin at the end of July, the irrigation schedule and fertilization has been going smoothly. Contracted consults have moved a few of the Tees and holes around to make the course more challenging and better overall. Progress of the course can be seen via the City's website pictures and updated schedules are posted. Fred continued with telling the board he will be beginning interviews for the Superintendent position and after that position is hired the City will be hiring an irrigation specialist.

A.Kerdyk Tennis Center Update

Project begins August 17th, phase one begins with renovation of all of the courts and lighting at the tennis center. Fred has also begun talks with an architect to renovate the Kerdyk tennis center building and better structuring the building to have more functionality.

B.4th of July Celebration Debrief

Fred broke down the event highlighting the event details, touching on the success of the event and how the fireworks show was extended from last year. And how it seemed many people did not want to leave after the show was over, Fred noted that was in large part due to the event being held on a Saturday versus a weekday. Alisa Weiner brought up her concern of Bike parking, Fred explained that bike parking was available but next year the

City will do several press releases highlighting the bike option and alternative transportation methods.

C. Renamed Parks

Fred explained, Riviera Park will be renamed to William H. Kerdyk Jr. and Family Park hopefully on September 12th this project is pending the production of the new signage, marker and plaque. Also Alhambra Park has been renamed to Betsy Adams and Garden Club Park, also the San Amaro triangle has been renamed to Cepero triangle. Fred explained that something similar that was done to Carlos S. Kakouris Park.

6. New Business

A. Placement of Barbara Bein Plaque

Kirk Menedez requested that the location of the plaque could be moved so that it can be better viewed by the patrons of the Youth center. Fred Couceyro made note and assured Kirk it would be moved during the Youth Center maintenance week. The sign will be relocated to the wall space separating the indoor playground and the gymnastics room.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Friday, August 21, 2015 at 8:15 a.m. at the Granada Golf Course in the Pro Shop.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES

No absences were excused at this time.

DIRECTORS REPORT

- Fred updated the board on some of the challenges that faced the Youth Center this summer. Beginning first with explaining events that transpired around a preschool aged child being left inside of a van during a field trip for 8 to 10 minutes. The child was okay no bodily harm was inflicted on the child, Fred continued with explaining that all the employees involved in the incident have met disciplinary action. Fred explained that this incident sparked several investigations both internal and external; also it prompted the City to overhaul all of safety policy and procedures.
- Fred touched base on the new Leisure Guide, which is going to be all encompassing and offer a wider variety of information regarding the City functions and activities. Allowing for information from commissioners as well as a public safety section, Alisa Weiner made the remark that prior to the guide being printed that we double check the dates on the Venetian Pool adult swim lessons. Kirk Menendez asked if the information will be as easy to navigate and if not is it possible to have the information posted on the website. Fred made the suggestion to allow for this guide to be released and it can be adjusted as we move forward. Carlos Hernandez made the suggestion that with every excerpt on a program make sure the proper URL is printed below to allow for easy online access to additional information. Sandy Dimitris brought up the suggestion of having a way to notify parents more rapidly through email or text regarding events and situations going on at Community recreation facilities. Fred explained a new program called Constant Contact which once it is operational will allow for info to be sent to parents instantaneously.
- Robert Ruano asked Fred how the Parks & Recreation master plan overhaul project was going. Fred explained that it is now in the procurement phase, but the City is currently exploring the option of rolling the Youth Center mater plan into the Parks & Recreation master plan instead of having two different plans being worked on by two separate firms. Robert expressed the need for a member of the advisory board to be on the RFP selection committee, allowing for the board to have a large say in the master plan process. Fred explained that this will be explored more after it has gone through the procurement process but there will be a large amount of advisory board input.

SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE

- Fred updated the board regarding the UPS 5k taking place on Saturday September 12th 2015 and The Miami Children's 5k which will be taking place on September 19th 2015. Alisa Weiner asked if there will be massive street closures due to the races, Fred responded with explaining the road will be closed at Biltmore way from Le Jeune to Hernando. The rest of the race will be conducted using a rolling road block, which is where police stop traffic beginning with the first runner and ending with the last walker. Fred explained that he is actively looking into alternate 5k courses.

NEW BUSINESS

Youth Center memberships

- Kirk Menendez made the suggestion of creating two variations of the youth sports membership for the Youth center. So kids who may not have access to their Jr. High/ High school gymnasiums and fitness centers after school or on the weekends can use the facilities at the Youth Center at a discounted rate. The first membership package is what he called "Sports Plus" which would allow kids who currently play a sport at the Youth Center to have access to the indoor basketball courts giving them the option to stay and play after games. Offering a more of a community experience giving them a less time certain segmented experience. He continued with explaining his "Sports Premium" package which would be geared towards the teenage crowd and would allow teenagers the option of using the fitness gym on the days they are not playing sports for the Youth Center. Fred explained there are already existing memberships for teens which are discounted and allow them access to a majority of the Youth Center activities and programs. Kirk explained that he specifically wants to target those kids who are already engaged in sports either by increasing the total cost of the sports programs. Felix Pardo brought up the point that community has been transformed and partly lost, in order to regain some of that community segregating the costs should be limited and allowing more flexibility within the facility will benefit the patrons. Carlos Hernandez argued that proper use of the Youth Center courtyard area is needed, overall it is a comfortable space which offers both safety and unity. In closing Robert Ruano mentioned that looking at unifying both the Youth Center fitness membership and having access to the Venetian Pool for swimming will definitely be beneficial for membership.

Athletic Sponsorships

Carlos Hernandez brought up the topic of sponsorships for many of the Youth Center sports teams. Fred explained that in the past the City has passed on large donations in the past because of not wanting logos to appear all throughout the City facilities. Kirk Menendez brought up the point that there exists a rich history of corporations and individuals desiring to donate funds to Parks & recreation programs and facilities. Kirk also reminded the board that the War Memorial Association is a not for profit organization and can accept donations. Fred closed with saying sponsorships are something that have to be looked into more and more, putting particular stipulations on what exactly is being requested to be done when the City accepts a donation.

<http://walkbiketoschool.org/> as a resource for Parks & Recreation Youth Advisory Board

Alisa Weiner brought up the topic of an upcoming event "Walk to School Day", she feels that this should be presented to the Youth Advisory Board. Fred is going to check with Jessica Keller from Public Works who is the City liaison for events of this sort.

Adult Activities exercise classes

Alisa brought up the topic of the adult activity excercise classes filling up very quickly, she is unsure why there is a notice at the library. Fred explained one of the stipulations of using the library space for senior activities during the summer is that the programming is required to be open to the public. Alisa was under the assumption that their are certain spots always available for library patrons, fred explained that this is incorrect the classes are on a first come first serve basis.

Venetian Pool

Alisa explained to the board that the use of online services for the Venetian Pool swim lessons would greatly increase the number of participants in the programs during the summer. Fred explained that next summer the City will have a system in place to accept online regisstrations in an effort to streamline the pprocess. Alisa was under the impression that if a patron has participated in an activity in the past they are already in the system and can register, Fred corrected her in saying yes but the information has to be current and up to date which may require some patrons to visit the office regardless. Robert Ruano brought up the oppurtunity of installing cabanas at the pool to make the pool more lucrative for families. Fred agreed and will look into it, he continued with the issues updating the board on the pool bottom painting. He will have a better idea and be able to update the board during Septemebr's meeting. Alisa informed the board that she has flyers for the Saturday Adult swim lessons which run from 10:30am-11:00am, she explained that the flyer was incorrect because it says patrons have to register at the front desk when in fact they can register at the Youth Center and or online. Alisa alerted Fred about the lack of food after the cafe closes, because there are no options for food after the cafe closes.

OLD BUSINESS

Update- Youth Center Atheletic fields

Fred updated the board on the filed informing them that the Youth Center field was re sprigged in late July. The rain has helped and there is growth, Fred is hoping that the field will be open after labor day weekend. Fred explained the salt water intrusion into the well casued the issue and the lack of growth, causing the contractor to have to re sprigg several times until finally they removed the salt and changed the water source. Fred explained that in the upcoming years budget, funds are set aside for a compete overhaul of the field including irrigation and well. Carlos Hernandez requested that Riviera park and phillips park be prepared for practice.

Park Renaming

Alisa Weiner wanted the board to understand exactly why the park was able to be renamed without coming before the board form a legal stand point.

ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting at Coral Gables Youth Center, September 18th @ 8:15am

Meeting adjourned @ 9:45am

NOTE