

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
 Minutes of April 18, 2008 meeting  
 Coral Gables Youth Center  
 405 University Drive

MEMBERS	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	APPOINTED BY
Joan I. Valdes	P	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Darby Plummer	P	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk.
Robin Symons	E	E	R	P	E	P	P	P	A	A	P	E	Commissioner Anderson
Haydee Polo	P	P	R	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Marty Steinberger	-	-	R	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	P	E	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Martha Serola	E	E	R	E	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager David Brown
Manny Seage	P	P	R	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	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 8:04 a.m.
2. Approval of Board minutes from March 21, 2008 meeting – Darby Plummer - The minutes of the March 21, 2008 Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.
3. Approval of absentees from April 18, 2008 meeting – The Board excused Marty Steinberger and Robin Symons from the April 18, 2008 meeting.
4. Update on Board items to City Commission – Fred Couceyro
  - Fred Couceyro said we haven't had any formal Board items that have gone for discussion to the Commission, but he said there was discussion concerning two of the special events at Ponce Circle Park, one being the concerts that the Kiwanis

Club have the first Friday of the month in connection with *Art in the Park*, and the upcoming Globe Café *Cubalibre* event that occurs in the middle of May. There was concern about the sound level from the Mayor, and also Commissioner Cabrera who wanted a Code Enforcement Officer present at each of those events to help with any issues that might arise. Fred Couceyro said that the Kiwanis Club was very sensitive to the issues. Fred Couceyro said for the last three years he has been appointed by the City Manager to control the volume at *Cubalibre*.

Fred Couceyro said there was also a lengthy discussion about the Fourth of July event at the Biltmore. The City Manager discussed some issues concerning the Course that were not there prior to the renovation, so restricting access by people is going to require additional personnel. He also said the extra amount of money that it would cost to have additional personnel would be anywhere from \$55,000 to \$75,000 more for the event. Commissioner Cabrera asked for a breakdown of every special event and he wanted to know the cost of every special event. Fred Couceyro said there is nowhere else in the City that has the clearance to shoot the fireworks and to provide the site line for any amount of people to get there. The Board discussed finding corporate sponsors for the event. Fred Couceyro said he will discuss it with the City Manager. Fred Couceyro said he is looking for an alternate venue, perhaps at Ponce Circle Park where they would fire smaller shells. It would not be the size or magnitude of the event at the Biltmore.

Fred Couceyro said another item that might be of interest to the Board is that there is an item going before the Commission about closing down a street in South Gables and putting a guard gate in the Hammock Lakes area.

## 5. City Projects Update – Fred Couceyro

- Playground shades – Fred Couceyro said this item went before the Board of Architects last Friday. He said the Youth Center coverings with the triangle shade design passed the Board of Architects. The rectangular shade design to be used at Phillips Park and Sunrise Park, which is half the price, did not. Fred Couceyro said he then went and got all the applications and did everything he had to do to get a variance from the Board of Adjustment for the shade coverings at the Youth Center. Since the City is the applicant, he had to get Letters of Intent from the City Manager, owner's affidavits, etc. They have never had a variance request from the City before with the City being the applicant. Fred Couceyro said his strategy is to get a variance from Board of Adjustment on May 5<sup>th</sup> for the Youth Center triangle shade design, and move forward with that project. The options for the rectangular shade design are to go to the Commission and ask for them to supersede the Board of Architects, or do the triangle shade design which would

involve a lot of movement of funds in the GO Bond project. Fred Couceyro said hopefully we can move the square design along.

- Project List – Fred Couceyro handed out a Project Construction and Completion Process worksheet which the Board requested at the last meeting which explains in detail the various steps required in undertaking a Parks Department project from its conception through the various processes until its ultimate completion. He said that he worked with Ernesto Pino, Assistant Public Works Director, in developing this worksheet. The worksheet includes an itemization of all ongoing parks projects and which step they are on at the present time in the process for easy reference by Board. Darby Plummer asked for clarification of where permitting is in the process. He will have an answer for her at the next meeting. Fred Couceyro said some examples of progress made this month are:

Rotary Park – The project is out for bid.

Riviera Park – We finally have a full design. We had a neighborhood meeting and will now move forward with the bid process.

Salvadore Tennis Center – The contracts are in the Legal Department.

Biltmore Tennis Center – This project has not moved forward because Fred Couceyro wants the Salvadore Tennis Center up and running before starting any projects at the Biltmore Tennis Center.

Youth Center Re-Sod – This project will be done in-house. We have a maintenance agreement with the company that does the fields and does the golf course. This latest RFP, which has the prices in it for re-sodding the field at the Youth Center, should go to the Commission any day now for approval. We hope to have the field fully re-sodded by the end of the summer.

Land Acquisition - The Board asked for the status of the City purchasing the property located on 46<sup>th</sup> Street at Alhambra for a park. Fred Couceyro said that it is a great location for a park; however, the asking price is 1.25 million and the City has only \$800,000 in available GO bond funds.

## 6. Old Business

- Update on Programs

Egghunt – Fred Couceyro said Ponce Circle Park turned out to be a better venue for the event than Merrick Park. The Board said the kids had a great time, they loved the carnival games, and they said the staff was wonderful to the kids. Fred Couceyro said the pictures with the Bunny were a success.

Egghunt at Maggiore Park – Park of the Month for May – Fred Couceyro said they had about 30 people at the Egghunt. The Board said the grass looks nice.

## 7. New Business

Coaches – The Board indicated that they would like coaches who, instead of teaching multiple sports, are better qualified and better trained for a particular sport. Fred Couceyro said we have a lot more volunteer coaches than we used to. One of our budget cuts was to reduce the amount we pay coaches. With volunteer coaches you get some who are good and some who are not. The Board would like for staff to have clinics to better prepare the volunteer coaches to do their jobs. Fred Couceyro said we are suppose to be doing clinics and he will check to see that this is being done. The Board would like to see ground rules set that coaches are not to spend coaching time chatting on their cell phones. Fred Couceyro said we have a no cell phone rule and he will see that it is enforced.

8. Fred Couceyro announced that Jason Gilley, Youth Center Supervisor, has resigned and will be leaving the City at the end of next month.
9. Date and time of next meeting – The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 20, 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 May** is **Sunrise Park**, located at 25 Sunrise Avenue. Please visit the park before the next meeting.
10. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.