

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
 Minutes of June 20, 2008 meeting  
 Coral Gables Youth Center  
 405 University Drive

MEMBERS	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	APPOINTED BY
Joan I. Valdes	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Darby Plummer	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Robin Symons	R	P	E	P	P	P	A	A	P	E	E	E	Commissioner Maria Anderson
Haydee Polo	R	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Marty Steinberger	R	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	P	E	P	P	Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Martha Serola	R	E	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager David Brown
Manny Seage	R	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	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. Haydee Polo called the meeting to order at 8:19 a.m.
2. Approval of Board minutes from May 20, 2008 meeting – Haydee Polo - The minutes of the May 20, 2008 Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.
3. Approval of absentees from June 20, 2008 meeting – The Board excused Darby Plummer and Robin Symons from the June 20, 2008 meeting and Martha Serola participated by phone.
4. Update on Board items to City Commission – Fred Couceyro
  - Fred Couceyro said we are not going to do anything for Fourth of July this year. He said the City Commission did not like his smaller events. The City Manager said to start looking at the event for next year. Fred Couceyro said one

recommendation being considered is to shoot the fireworks from the Biltmore Hotel but to only allow the public to view it from the Terrace at the Biltmore, which would accommodate approximately 2,000 people, and to allow other people to view it from the Youth Center. He will have to make sure that people will be able to see the fireworks from the Youth Center. The Board also suggested viewing the fireworks from the field at Coral Gables High School or from Ponce de Leon Middle School. Fred Couceyro said another option would be to use Matheson Hammock, but traffic would be an issue.

- Fred Couceyro said the RFP went out for operation of the Coral Gables Country Club. He said the RFP is very open ended. He said the scope of services not only includes operation of the club, but it has other items that a vendor can bid on or not, such as the tennis courts and the golf course.
- Fred Couceyro said the Greens Grade maintenance contract, which is up for renewal, is going to the City Commission for approval on June 26, 2008. Greens Grade is the maintenance company that maintains the Granada Golf Course and the parks. He said they have started the re-sodding process at the Youth Center.

## 5. City Projects Update – Fred Couceyro

- Shade – Fred Couceyro said after much discussion about the two square shade coverings, the City Manager said we need to go back to the Board of Architects before we go to the City Commission. Fred Couceyro said he would notify Commissioner Cabrera. He said we need new surveys and plans. Mercy Mendoza in Public Works has already started the paperwork. Assistant City Manager Dona Lubin will go with Fred Couceyro to explain the issues when they meet with the Board of Architects. On Youth Center shade, we have the approval for the variance from the Board of Adjustment. The shade vendor is now waiting for the building permit from Building and Zoning. Once he gets the building permit, he is ready to go. Fred Couceyro is hoping to have the shade vendor do the installation during Maintenance Week.
- Youth Center Basketball Lighting – Fred Couceyro said he spoke with the electrical contractor and he is ready to install the lights during Maintenance Week. It will be a two week process, and Maintenance Week will be the first week of work.
- Salvadore Tennis Center – Fred Couceyro said they met with the contractor yesterday. The construction date is June 30, 2008. We are in the process of getting a timeline for construction to put on the City's website or to post it at the Tennis Center so people know the schedule. We are going to try to keep certain areas of the facility open while construction is going on.

- Summer Camp Enrollment – During the first week of Summer Camp overall enrollment was up, but at the Youth Center enrollment was down a little, but revenue was up which meant we probably had more non-residents or residents who are non members signing up because we made more money per enrollment. For week two our enrollment was down and our revenue was up, but our enrollment was down in our government controlled camps, but it was up in a couple of our contracted ones. For example, Gymnastics is sold out. Because of that our revenue is right up to par. The big problem this year is enrollment in our Teen Camp, 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Fred Couceyro said that this is the age where parents can let their kids stay at home. Enrollment has gone from 60 to 36. In our Kindergarten to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade we have gone from 60 to 70 in all of them. We are sold out. Our Pre-School, which we could not fill up last summer, has sold out for the whole summer. The need for camp is there and our camp is popular. Basketball this week is back up. The first week it was down by 20. When we looked at ages, it's just the older kids that are not here. Fred Couceyro said he had a lot of parents asking about the Counselor in Training Program, which we only allow juniors and seniors to do, but he said he had a lot of 13 and 14 year olds wanting to do it. Tennis Camp is up and the Life Guard Camp at the Pool is sold out.
- Riviera Park – Fred Couceyro said we went out for a \$200,000 state grant. The state only approved a certain amount of money for that program, so every project got 67 percent of what they asked for, which was \$137,000. This means the City cannot do the Gazebo.
- Budget – Fred Couceyro said he is meeting with the City Manager today on the budget. He said the City is at least 2 million short on their budget projections. We were trying to use our baseline projections from last year, but that will not happen. We will go into the meeting today with our 5 percent and 10 percent cut projections and see what happens.
- Rotary Park – Fred Couceyro said there is an issue with the zoning. He said when the properties were bought, the zoning was never changed to parks. The re-zoning is a four month process, so he is talking with the Building Department to see if we can build as they re-zone.
- Ponce Circle Park – Next to Ponce Circle is a development called Old Spanish Village, and some construction is already in progress. There is a 1.2 million impact fee that the developer had to pay and that impact fee goes to that park, so what we want to do is to have a complete public process in terms of input. We should have neighborhood meetings and ask them what they want there. There will be 220 residences in the Village. We will start a public information process. There will be a committee from the community to steer the process along. Any funding above the 1.2 million will not be provided by City funds.

- DYL Development – Fred Couceyro said there is a mixed use project at 4601 South LeJeune Road called DYL Development. They want to take a City parking lot in that area from the City and, in return, they are offering to build us a park as part of their village. They wanted to build this park in the form of a plaza, but Fred Couceyro did not like that idea. What he envisions is a park with an urban water feature, with timed fountains, similar to an existing park in Charleston, S. C.

6. Discussion on Park of the Month – Ruth Bryan Owen Waterway Park – Haydee Polo said she is seeing good use of the park. There are always people in the park. She saw a family having a picnic there and suggested getting more picnic tables. Fred Couceyro said he has more tables on order.
7. New Business
  - Skate Park – Haydee Polo brought up the subject of building a skate park because of the current popularity of the sport. Fred Couceyro said it's a matter of priorities and cost, and cost would be a major issue.
  - Doggie Parks - Marty Steinberger inquired about Dog Friendly Parks. Fred Couceyro gave a brief description of the City's four Dog Friendly Parks.
8. Date and time of next meeting – The Board meeting scheduled for July 18, 2008 was cancelled as the Board elected to recess for the month of July. The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting scheduled for **Friday, August 15, 2008** has been moved to **Friday, August 22, 2008** due to the Youth Center being closed for Maintenance Week. 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 August** is **Venetian Pool** located at 2701 DeSoto Boulevard. Please visit Venetian Pool before the next meeting.
9. The meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m.