

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
 Minutes of October 27, 2011 meeting
 Coral Gables Youth Center
 405 University Drive

MEMBERS	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	APPOINTED BY
Robin Burr	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	P	P	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Valerie Gelnovatch	P	P	P	P	E	A	A	P	N	P	A	A	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Sandra Murado	B	B	B	P	P	P	P	P	N	P	P	A	Comm. Maria Anderson
Robert Ruano	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	P	N	P	P	P	Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Marty Steinberger	A	P	P	E	P	A	P	P	N	P	P	A	Comm. Frank C. Quesada
Martha Serola	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	N	E	E	P	City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Manny Seage	E	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	N	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 & Recreation Director

GUESTS:

1. Manny Seage called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.
2. **Approval of Board minutes from September 23, 2011 meeting** – A motion was made by Robert Ruano to approve the minutes of September 23, 2011. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

3. **Approval of Excused Absences**

Sandra Murado, Marty Steinberger and Valerie Gelnovatch were absent from the meeting. The Board will approve their absences at the next meeting.

4. **Update on Board Items to City Commission - Staff**

There were no Board items to the City Commission. However, there was a discussion on the Biltmore Hotel. A decision was supposed to be made but both sides are still negotiating and were given a two week extension. There are some fundamental differences between the City Attorney and the Biltmore Hotel.

5. **City Projects Update - Staff**

Phillips Park – The new playground is done. We are waiting on the inspection and shipment of playground mulch so that we can re-open the park and start playing. We also re-asphalted the walking path.

Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center – Re-landscaping the Youth Center. We are going to use some plants from the 72nd Avenue location. Public Service is going to do the landscaping. Phase one is going to be landscaping around the building. It is going to be a long term plan.

6. **Discussion on Facility of the Month – Venetian Pool**

The Board members commented on how beautiful the Venetian Pool looked. Fred replied that he is working on replacing the trellis and is having a meeting with Public Works about this. Fred agreed with Robin on fixing the trellis around the building and improve the landscaping. Robin suggested using bromeliads for the landscape. Fred reiterated that he needs to pair beauty with functionality when choosing the kind of plants to use. Robert Ruano expressed his concern about replacing the cracked tiles because of leaks. Fred said they continue to fix the tiles but they tend to break. Robert inquired about the revenue the Venetian Pool makes besides daily admission. Fred said that the Venetian Pool brings in revenue from swim lessons taught by the Venetian Aquatic Club (VAC), facility rentals, film permits and camps. It is hard to do a lot of programs because of the water temperature. Fred is working on working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Miami-Dade County School Board for joint use of Coral Gables Senior High School facilities and City Parks and Recreation facilities. Under this memorandum, the City of Coral Gables Parks and Recreation Department will be allowed use of the Coral Gables Senior High School athletic fields, softball fields, and running track for recreation programming subject to availability and scheduling. In return, the City will allow use of the Granada Golf Course, Venetian Pool and William H. Kerdyk Biltmore Tennis Center and Salvadore Tennis Center for athletic team activities subject to availability and scheduling. One of the changes in expense this year was for the new chlorination system so because of that, the chemical cost went up. There was a continued discussion on ways to beautify the landscaping of the Venetian Pool for example, adding a structure such as benches to the little triangle outside the building. Fred said that he

is going to look into all possibilities. Robin Burr said that the French drains get clogged. The Venetian Pool was built with small French drains that get clogged with mulch. Public Works comes out and cleans the drains. Robin also said that the bathrooms look immaculate.

The next Park of the Month is Phillips Park.

7. **New Business**

a. Upcoming Special Events

The Parks and Recreation Halloween event is coming up on Monday, October 31, 2011 at the Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The 14th Annual Halloween on the Mile will take place from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for younger kids.

Sunset Elementary PTA will be having a Halloween event at Riviera Park. There will be parking enforcement working on traffic with cars trying to find parking and parents trying to pick up their kids from school. Sunset PTA is aware of the parking situation and they know that they will get ticketed if they park on the grass.

On November 3, 2011, at Fred B. Harnett Ponce Circle Park, there will be a Burgerliscious event from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Giralda Under The Stars is an event where the restaurants in Coral Gables have outdoor dining the first Friday of each month beginning on November 4th, 2011.

On October 29th, 2011 there will be an Alzheimer's Association walk, expected attendance is 2000 people.

Holiday Tree Lighting will be held on Friday, December 2nd, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. We will start building the holiday park in November. There will be more local performances, some different rides, vendors and the same stage. This year all of the trees on the mile will be lit. The BID has agreed to pay extra for more lighting.

Robert Ruano suggested having smaller bounce houses at holiday park because there is a long line to go into the large bounce houses. Fred will look into that idea to see if having smaller bounce houses makes a difference for the wait in lines.

Robin Burr asked if it would be possible to have scouts at the Holiday Tree Lighting. Fred said yes and that they can get a booth to hand out their literature.

8. **Old Business**

The Coral Gables Bike Day and Race event took place last weekend. Robert Ruano showed some pictures from the event. The event went very well and the people that

attended liked the concept.

Gables Hispanic Cultural Festival was well attended.

9. **Date and time of next meeting**

The next **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** meeting will be held on Friday, **November 18, 2011**. The meeting will start at **8:15 a.m.** and will be held at the **Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center** located at **405 University Drive, Coral Gables**.

10. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.