

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of May 14, 2009 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	N	P	P	P	P	P		Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Darby Plummer	R	P	P	P	P	N	P	P	P	P	P		Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Robin Symons	R	P	P	P	E	N	E	E	P	E	E		Comm. Maria Anderson
Haydee Polo	R	P	P	A	P	N	P	P	P	P	P		Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Marty Steinberger	R	P	P	P	E	N	P	P	E	E	P		Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Martha Serola	R	P	P	P	P	N	P	P	P	P	P		City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Manny Seage	R	P	P	A	P	N	P	E	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
Association

Tricia Spencer
Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

Josie Ramirez
President of Riviera Neighborhood

Joyce Newman
Director of Riviera Neighborhood Association

Stephen Hodge
Riviera neighborhood resident

1. Darby Plummer called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.
2. Approval of Board minutes from April 17, 2009 meeting – Darby Plummer - The minutes of the April 17, 2009 Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.
3. Appearance by Josie Ramirez, Joyce Newman and Stephen Hodge

J. Ramirez said that the Riviera Neighborhood Association consists of about 800 single family households from Granada to Red Road and from Sunset to US1, the Riviera Day School is on the Southeast corner of Coral Gables. The Riviera Neighborhood Association is galvanized against the Riviera Day School using Riviera Park because they said that it is a private profit organization using public land.

S. Hodge said that he is a past member of the Riviera Neighborhood Association, but he is at this meeting as a resident and a pet owner. He said that two things are going to happen if the Riviera Day School is allowed to use the park. 1) It will not longer be a passive park 2) If a child steps in dog poop, P. Cohen will complain and dog owners will not be able to take their dogs to the park.

J. Newman said that there are two elements that are of concern to the Riviera Neighborhood Association if the Riviera Day School is allowed to use the park. 1) Public Safety 2) Green space. She continued to say that the Riviera Neighborhood Association paid for a charrette at the park and the park also has a high density use.

Fred said that in terms of the agreement, the liability falls within the user and we have additional insurance requirement that protects the City very well. He also said that the reason we are going through this process of hearing both sides is because according to City Ordinances, the park can be rented. The intent of having the Riviera Day School use the park is for a 3 month pilot program to see what happens because we do not know what the future holds.

D. Plummer said that the philosophy of the Board is to fully support the maintenance of the park and to accommodate children and elders who use the parks.

Dr. Seage said that the decision to allow the Riviera Day School to use the park should be made by the Parks & Recreation Director.

Updates on Board items to City Commission – Fred Couceyro

There were no updates on Board items.

4. City Projects Update – Fred Couceyro

- Sunrise Park – The overhead utility line, FPL is going to divert it around. A new playground is being installed and the wooden playground is being removed. The basketball court is being widened. The gates on both sides are being fixed. The wall stucco is being repaired. They are going to restripe and ADA parking area. A root barrier is being placed around the tree south of the basketball court and a new fountain is being put in.
- Riviera Park – The bid went out.

5. Old Business – Darby Plummer

No old business was discussed.

6. Discussion on Park of the Month – Darby Plummer

No discussion on park of the month

7. New Business – Darby Plummer

Fred said that the City of Coral Gables is in a \$9.2 million deficit because revenue estimates are down. There are a lot of cuts and the City has a hiring freeze. The budget for this upcoming fiscal year needed to be presented to the City Manager showing 4 different cuts ranging from 0%, 3%, 5% and 10%.

8. Date and time of next meeting – The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, **June 26th, 2009**. 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.

9. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.