

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

4:00 PM

<https://coralgables.zoom.us/j/82882960727>

Coral Gables Country Club

Coral Gables Golf and Country Club Advisory Board

CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present:13 Chair Albert Sanchez, Board members Isis Arenas, Frank Andollo, Yamilet Rodriguez, Peter Izaguirre, Don Slesnick III, Dept. Director Fred Couceyro, Assistant Director Sarah Espino, Division Director Lorena Sliva, Venue Manager Valerie Pinon, Athletic Club Manager Daren Gilman, Administrative Analyst Ann Caroline Del Valle, Resident Mauricio
Excused: 1 - Vice Chair Sherry Celesia

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES WAS MADE BY BOARD MEMBER YAMILET RODRIGUEZ, SECOND BY BOARD MEMBER ISIS ARENAS. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

• **Upcoming Events/ Programs**

Division Director Sliva reviewed both recent and upcoming events, including the Easter Brunch, Spring Break Kids Camp, the upcoming Pool Bash, and the May Members' Mixer. She also noted that the five-year plan was approved this past March, with associated fees set to take effect on October 1 of this year. She mentioned the new software launch, Salesforce, which would be replacing Constant contact beginning in the month of April.

Director Fred Couceyro then discussed his presentation to the Commission regarding the outsourcing of Golf course maintenance and outlined what that change in service would involve. A discussion followed concerning the combination of Golf and Country Club memberships, pending Commission approval.

Athletic Club

- **Gym Membership Count** - Athletic Club Manager Gilman confirmed that, as of that afternoon, total membership stood at 1,789, with the new membership cap set at 1,825.
- **Maintenance** - Athletic Club Manager Gilman reported that two machines are currently awaiting parts and that repairs to the leather on all machines have been completed. He also introduced a new personal trainer, Alejandra, who has afternoon availability.

The Board discussed revenue generated from personal training services, as well as the competitive rates offered at other facilities, such as LifeTime. Upcoming Athletic Club programs include Parents' Night Out, AquaFit in April, and the Memorial Day BBQ scheduled for Memorial Day.

Venue

- **Monthly Report** - Venue Manager Valerie Pinon updated the Board on recent and upcoming events, including 13 private events, the Planners Networking Event, and the Easter Brunch held this past Sunday. She also highlighted an upcoming Fashion and Florals fundraising event, as well as an Italian-themed event that will be supported by marketing efforts from Marketing Specialist Angie. Promotional materials for the Italian event will be released soon, including a discount offer for Country Club members.

Le Parc Cafe - Cafe hours will be extending from Thursday through Friday to 9:00 P.M.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Board member Frank Andollo** inquired whether members would still have access to swimming during maintenance week. He suggested that Director Sliva explore potential partnerships with external facilities, such as LifeTime, to provide lane availability for Country Club members. Director Sliva agreed to look into these options.

OLD BUSINESS

- Gym Retention Report - Athletic Club Manager mentioned 84% retention rate of memberships.
- Birdie's Membership Discount - Division Director Sliva mentioned speaking with Rita, the owner of Birdie's who is open to a member discount if an amendment to the current city contract is processed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- CPR Classes at the Country Club – Division Director Sliva noted that CPR classes are currently held at the Youth Center on the first Monday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with a \$20 certification fee. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of offering these classes at the Country Club. Athletic Club Manager Daren Gilman will gauge member interest and, if sufficient participation is identified, coordinate with the Fire Department to host classes onsite. Director Sliva indicated that a minimum of approximately 5–10 participants would likely be required.
- Alleyway Near Gym Entrance – The alleyway adjacent to the gym entrance was discussed. Director Couceyro stated he would bring the matter to Public Works, noting that the intent is to designate it as a one-way.
- Merchandise Store Update – Chair Sanchez requested an update on the merchandise store. Athletic Club Manager Daren Gilman reported that he is currently sourcing items for the storefront.
- Spinning Room Ventilation Concerns – A member of the public, Mauricio, shared images highlighting recent air conditioning issues in the spinning classroom. He suggested installing two fans to improve air circulation during classes.
- Towel Availability – Board Member Andollo requested that staff more consistently monitor and restock towels, noting that he has frequently had to ask for one upon entering the gym.
- Gym Phone Lines – Board Member Rodriguez shared that some members have reported calls to the gym going unanswered, with no option to leave a voicemail. Athletic Club Manager Gilman stated he will look into the issue and address both concerns.

ITEMS FOR THE SECRETARY

Next Meeting Date is April 22, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT