

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of September 19, 2014 Meeting
War Memorial Youth Center
405 University Drive,
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	APPOINTED BY
Alisa Weiner	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	P	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Valerie Gelnovatch	P	P	N	P	P	P	P	N	N	N	E	P	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Kirk Menendez	P	P	N	P	P	P	P	N	N	N	P	P	Comm. Patricia Keon
Robert Ruano	E	P	N	P	P	P	P	N	N	N	P	P	Comm. Vince Lago
Marty Steinberger	P	P	N	A	E	P	P	N	N	N	P	P	Comm. Frank C. Quesada
											V	V	City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Carlos Hernandez	B	P	N	P	P	P	P	N	N	N	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 and Recreation Director

Brooke Dannemiller
Public Works Director

Alejandro Gonzalez-Pagan
Public Works

Tricia Spencer,
Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

Gustavo Santana
AECOM

1. Robert Ruano called the meeting to order at 8:28 a.m.
2. **Approval of Board minutes of August 22, 2014 meeting** – A motion was made by Alisa Weiner to approve the minutes of August 22, 2014 as amended with the addition of a comment that was made by Alisa Weiner under open items. Motion to approve minutes was passed unanimously by the Board.

3. **Approval of Excused Absences** – **Kirk Menendez made a motion to approve the excused absence of Val Gelnovatch at last month’s meeting. Motion to approve minutes was passed unanimously by the Board.**

4. **Upcoming Special Events**

- Miami Children’s Hospital 5K Run will take place at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 20th, 2014 in front of City Hall.
- La Colecta will take place on September 26th and September 27th from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. through the streets of Miami-Dade and Coral Gables to raise funds and awareness on poverty.
- Visitor Information Center / Miami Attractions Month Kick-Off at the Coral Gables Museum will be held on Thursday, October 2nd, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Fritz and Franz Oktoberfest will begin on Thursday, October 2nd until Sunday, October 11th, 2014.

5. **Renovation of the Granada Golf Course – Alejandro Gonzalez, Public Works**

Alejandro Gonzalez-Pagan presented the proposed renovation of the Granada Golf Course plans to the Board which includes renovation to the tees, greens, bunkers, fairways, golf cart paths, and rain shelters. In addition to the golf course renovations, the City is developing an overall Master Plan that may evaluate alternatives for further improving the quality, aesthetics, and safety of the Granada Golf Course such as alternatives to improve pedestrian safety by improving the sidewalks and running path, landscape up-lighting on the large banyan trees, installing drinking fountains and improving the landscape in underutilized areas along the edge of the golf course. A Community Meeting to discuss this project will be held on Thursday, October 9th, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Coral Gables Country Club.

Carlos Hernandez said using a rubberized material for the pedestrian path is a great idea however he had some concerns that cars from the overflow of the County Club will be parking on this material and will destroy it. Carlos also said that planting Coconut Palm trees is better to use because the roots from other trees will break the concrete thereby causing a hazard to joggers and pedestrians.

Alisa Weiner mentioned Audubom Park in New Orleans that has a shared use path with a golf course and there is a sign that says “Enter at your own risk” because you can get hit with a golf ball. Alisa suggested having a signage like that at the Granada Golf course.

Robert Ruano was concerned about how it will affect the bats with the up-lighting of the golf course.

Kirk Menendez made a motion to approve the creation of a pedestrian walkway around the perimeter of the Granada Golf course and made a recommendation on the type of material used to be rubberized wherever possible and to avoid concrete at all costs. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

Valerie Gelnovatch made a motion that Public Works look at the feasibility of making the road one way to accommodate a bike path on the road. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

6. New Business

Alisa Weiner informed the Board of upcoming events for the Venetian Aquatic Club and the Venetian Pool. Adult Swim Lessons will be held at the Venetian Pool in September and October. Venetian Pool's Annual Paws in the Pool will be held on Sunday, October 5th, 2014; session 1 for small dogs starts at 10:00 a.m. and session 2 for large dogs begins at 1:30 p.m. Fee is \$5.00 per dog and \$3.00 for humans. Patricia Alderman earned a prestigious American Red Cross Spectrum award with more than 40 years of volunteering at the Venetian Pool. The Venetian Aquatic Club celebrated its 55th anniversary, the American Red Cross Safety Program is celebrating its 100th year anniversary and the Venetian Pool is 90 years old. Last night was the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for the volunteers who qualified. The VAC offers scholarships for swimming lessons; scholarships are available to those who have Medicaid or are receiving food stamps or submit a letter explaining financial need. Alisa also shared with the Board the swimming report for 2014. There were 69 Active Members and 21 Associate Members. The total number of Volunteer Hours for Spring and Summer was 4,135. This total is for day and evening classes combined. The number of Junior Aides this year was 46 and they volunteered 1,280 hours. The number of swimming lessons the adults gave was 999. There was a comment by Dallas suggesting that Lexi Segre one of our active members is suggesting Parks and Recreation promote the idea of the City of Coral Gables to consider providing a recreation facility with a lap pool similar to that of Flamingo Park in Miami Beach.

Carlos Hernandez discussed the field condition at Phillips Park stating that the park was closed during the summer for resodding and maintenance; since the field has been reopened with brand new sod it looks as bad. Months ago a motion was made to please consider the turfing of the field at Phillips Park. Pictures of the current condition of the field should be taken now saying it is less than one month since the park reopened with brand new sod and shown to the Commission. Carlos also said that the bases at the Youth Center looked like a swimming pool. He, another parent and a staff member were knee deep in water trying to scoop the water out of the bases. Everything could have been mitigated if we had a sand pile. Carlos recommended that we get a sand pile under a covered tarp and a canoe pump to avoid a situation like this in the future.

7. Open Items

Fred Couceyro shared with the Board that Carlos Pichardo was promoted to the Youth Center Assistant Supervisor.

Robert Ruano inquired about a piece of property off San Amaro and Campo Sano Avenue; he wanted to know if the City can purchase this property and turn it into a park. Fred Couceyro said that he already looked at that property however the owner is not interested in selling it to the City; the City does own a property nearby called Carlos S. Kakouris Park.

Fred Couceyro discussed three Capital Items that were proposed for funding. The new Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a Youth Center Master Plan and a Youth Center Surveillance System all received funding.

Robert Ruano said the Gables Bike Tour is having a "Holy Rollers" event on Sunday, September 21st, 2014 at 10:00a.m. that visits Coral Gables' most prominent houses of worship, including temple Judea, Church of the Little Flower, and St. Mary's First Missionary Baptist Church.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting** will be held on **Friday, October 24th, 2014** at 8:15 a.m. in the Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.