

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 12, 2020

8:15 AM

The Board meets the second Thursday of every month.
Coral Gables Youth Center, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, FL
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

CALL TO ORDER

at 8:29 am

ROLL CALL

Present:

**Carlos Hernandez
Kirk Menendez
Nancy Leslie
Charlie Rua
Felix Pardo
Wifredo Fernandez
Monica C. Segura**

Absent:

Desmond Gonzalez

I APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion to approve the January minutes was made by Carlos Hernandez and second by Monica Segura. Motion passed unanimously.

II DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Fred Couceyro began his director's report with going over current or pending capital improvement projects dealing with parks and our facilities. Among the report was the five neighborhood parks that are all currently within the substantial completion phase and are undergoing punch list items. Expected ribbon cuttings will be held in April.

With the completion of the neighborhood parks, other parks will start design phases and construction. Jaycee Park will have a new playground and hopefully will begin construction by the end of summer. Maggiore Park has been delayed due to the contract with the design firm, but we have resolved those issues and design submittals have been received. Public meetings will be scheduled for the Salvador Park renovation for input on the existing play area and open lot to the south corner of the park. With previous community input that had been received along with grant funds that have been received, an ADA playground structure will be installed. Previous resident input determined residents do not want to lose the open space concept so the designer will try to maintain as much of the open space as possible.

Fred and staff have met with the same design firm who is doing Salvador Park, to also look at Pierce Park. They have been given the scope of work and after design renderings have been received, community meetings will be scheduled for resident input.

Our department has been assigned a new project manager who is going to be handling the Granada pro-shop and the Granada golf shelters. The renovation of these structures requires a lot of funding to update after many years of use and to make it ADA compliant. Community meetings will be held for resident input on design.

Nancy Leslie asked if there will be course closures during renovations. At this time Fred and staff can only speculate that there might be a few days where there might need to have closures but nothing for the length of the renovation. If a long-term closure is needed, then an onsite-portable trailer will be rented much like the one used during Biltmore tennis renovations.

Carlos Hernandez asked if notices of community meeting also be posted around the golf course for residents that use the course that live outside the vicinity of the surrounding homes. Fred and staff will look into additional notices around the course.

Felix Pardo gave the suggestion that the hired contractor rent an onsite

portable trailer to use for office space to help marshal the construction of the pro-shop and shelters while still provide an office space for Granada staff. He also suggests that all the shelters be done at once.

Fred went over possible design needs and logistic ideas of how they would like to do the golf shelters. Because the cost of replacing each shelter and requirements needed for the new shelters, the department will reduce the number of shelters on the course. Mitch passed around the board table possible design ideas for the shelters. The board gave feedback to the designs and possible design features still needed.

Ponce Circle Park is still pending; the design company being used is having to go back to create a design to meet the multiple uses the park will need to target. Items include park needs, traffic mitigation needs, commercial business needs, and the Agave project housing development's needs. Once a design is presented it will be shared with the board and a community meeting will be scheduled.

Phillips park has \$2.2 million in funding already allocated for the park's major renovation within the next few fiscal years. Because Phillips Park is one of the most active parks in the city, the department would like to incorporate certain design elements to help safeguard the renovated space and promote program usage. Design elements they would like to see incorporate into the design would be a satellite community meeting room space with bathrooms and an office space for staff to remain on site. This design will have the baseball dug outs removed which will deter vandalism and other illicit activities. Staff would also like to make the walking paths wider to create a shared use path for walkers and bikers. And we would like to incorporate a pump track into the park for patrons with bikes and skates.

Kirk Menedez asked if trees will need to be removed. Fred believes that only the royal palms will need to be removed. There is one tree that is located near the tennis courts that are damaging the courts that will need to be addressed as well.

Kirk also asked how does narrowing the field impact programming. Fred says right now the narrowing of the field would not impact any spill over they have from programming at other facilities. Carlos Hernandez did suggest that because the field space is not regulation size anyways, narrowing the field would discourage adult games on the weekends without consent and having staff at the site will encourage field rentals with proper insurance.

After an overview of our capital improvement projects, Fred then addressed with the board the current situation with the Covid-19 virus and the way City of Coral Gables is handling it. We at this time have established responses and processes for handling the spread of the virus in concurrence with how Miami Dade County is implementing theirs. Fred remains in contact with the fire chief and the city manager for continued updates.

Larger events being held in the City are cancelling on their own accord in anticipation of city mandated shutdowns in order to notify patrons in time and receive any deposits back. Events that are still taking place need to adhere to mass gathering protocols, have signage posted on safe practices and must have hand sanitizing stations on site.

Kirk Menedez asked if schools are required to shut down, will the Youth Center remain open. Fred and Mitch's response were that if schools were to shutdown, the Youth Center will also close to discourage stay away from large groupings; There is not much we could do to offer childcare without having children gather in groups.

Fred wants the board to understand that policies and procedures will continue to evolve as matters worsen. We will continue to monitor CDC protocols and use counties nearby for additional guidance on how to proceed.

III NEW BUSINESS

The last item on the agenda that Fred needed to discuss with the board was in reference to the park dedication for former commissioner Jim Barker. Following policy and procedure on park namings, all board members were emailed supporting documents to help with the decision to pass any motions that are to be made in support of the park naming. The family of Jim Barker reached out to the department for their suggestion of a park that could be named in honor of their father and the department's recommendation is the park located off of Venetia avenue.

The motion in support of naming Venetia Park after former Commissioner Jim Barker was made by Carlos Hernandez and seconded by Monica Segura. All board members were in favor of the motion and passed unanimously.

IV DISCUSSION ITEMS

Monica Segura asked about the ribbon cutting dates for Venetia Park. Fred notified the board that Venetia is expected to have its ribbon cutting Saturday, April 18, 2020.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

The next board meeting is set for April 9th, 2020 at 8:15 am.

ADJOURNMENT

at 9:14 am

NOTE