

# City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
[www.coralgables.com](http://www.coralgables.com)



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 3, 2018

8:15 AM

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

**@ 8:27am**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present: Carlos Hernandez, Desmond Gonzalez, Deborah Swain, Wifredo Fernandez, Nancy Leslie, Kirk Menendez, Charlie Rua**

**Absent & Excused: Felix Pardo**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Deborah Swain motioned to approve the minutes this was seconded by Nancy Leslie and passed unanimously by the board.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discussion on Jonathans Day:**

Carolina Vester opened the discussion by introducing Raquel Elejabarrieta who is the City's Director of Labor Relations and Risk Management. She also introduced Blake Sando who is the chairman of the Disability Affairs Board for the City of Coral Gables and also on the board for UM Card. Blake opened with commending the City on all of its efforts for inclusion and making this area very friendly for people with disabilities. Blake explained to the board the Jonathan's Day event which is targeted towards Autism but is open to people with all disabilities. Currently this event is held by the Village of Palmetto Bay, the Jonathan's Day family approached Blake to bring the event to the City of Coral Gables because of the location of UM Card. The event would hopefully be comprised of a resource fair and a 5K which would take place throughout the City. After brief discussion by the board as to what kind of precedence it would set for the City to sponsor a charity event. Carolina Vester explained to the board that the hard costs of the event will be in excess of 20,000 dollars. The board was not comfortable with the City encuring all of the costs.

Deborah Swain motioned to support conceptually the idea of an all inclusive event in the month of October as a part of Disability Awareness Month but would like to request additional information regarding the scope of the event. Also the board is adamant that the cost of the event should not be held against the current Community Recreation 100% budget. This was seconded by Carlos Hernandez and the board voted in favor unanimously.

Deborah Swain brought up the topic of the space close to the water surrounding Cartegna Plaza and requested that Parks staff look into how the City can utilize that space and maybe create a boardwalk space for the public to use.

The topic of the Blue Road open space was brought up, Carolina explained to the board that the need for that space to be converted to a true open space has been identified and Blue Road has been included into our capital project matrix. Moving forward there should be a fence and or wall included in the design to help with the safety hazards.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS DIVISION OVERVIEW AND REVIEW OF EVENTS**

Carolina began the discussion by introducing Norma Gavarette who is the Special Event Coordinator for the City. Norma began the discussion by recapping recent events such as the Farmer's Market and Easter Egg Hunt, she also highlighted the planning process for upcoming events such as Memorial Day and the 4th of July. Norma went into detail the planning process of her events and what it would take to run a 5k like the example that was given for Jonathans Day. Norma also explained to the board the photo and film permit processing and how clients can register and apply for the permits.

## **ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

**Date & Time of next meeting:**

**June 14th @ 8:15 AM @ the Youth Center Conference Room**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**@ 9:58am**

## **NOTE**