

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of November 25, 2014 Meeting
War Memorial Youth Center
405 University Drive,
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

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

Tricia Spencer,
Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

1. Robert Ruano called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m.
2. **Approval of Board minutes of October 24, 2014 meeting** – A motion was made by Carlos Hernandez to approve the minutes of October 24, 2014 with changes as mentioned by Alisa Weiner. Motion to approve minutes was passed unanimously by the Board.
3. **Approval of Excused Absences** – Carlos Hernandez made a motion to excuse the absence of Marty Steinberger from the last meeting.
4. **Update on Board Items to City Commission**

William H. Kerdyk/Biltmore Tennis Center – Fred Couceyro said that improvements for the tennis center were discussed at the last City Commission meeting. There were some issues with the renovation due to the fact that there were not going to be any big tournaments held at the tennis center that would render such improvements. Instead the Commission felt that it would be better to move the funds for this project to improve the building itself. Fred and Robert Gomez, the Tennis Professional for the William H. Kerdyk/Biltmore Center met with Public Works and the designer to give their input on what they thought should be done. Based on Fred and Robert's recommendations the look of the William H. Kerdyk/Biltmore Tennis Center renovation project has changed. The courts will be resurfaced to a good level and the building infrastructure will be updated.

Granada Golf Course Renovation – Plans for this project are still moving forward.

Pierce Park – New playground equipment are going to be installed at this park.

Coral Bay Park – The basketball courts have been resurfaced.

5. Upcoming Special Events

There were some questions at the last City Commission meeting about the Youth Advisory Board. We are looking at an alternative way to get people on the Board. The object of this Board is to get the youth and teen prospective on programming at the Youth Center; it also gives young people a chance to engage in citizen involvement where they will be able to make a difference. At the beginning of the year we are going to be looking for new members from grades 8 through 12.

Junior Orange Bowl will be held on Friday, November 28th, 2014. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the parade.

Holiday Tree Lighting will be held on Friday, December 5th, 2014. The event will be from 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Pictures with Santa will on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday for the first two weeks until December 23rd. The park will be open for use Monday through Sunday from sunrise to 10:00 p.m.

Big Toy event will be held on Saturday, January 10th, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Farmers Market begins on January 17th, 2015 and will be held for eleven weeks until March 28th, 2015.

6. New Business

a. Nat Winokur Park

This park is located on 150 Ruiz Avenue just east of Ponce de Leon Boulevard towards 37th Avenue. It was an old style, small playground with old playground equipment for a long time. Equipment was unsafe and all of the equipment had to be removed. At one point members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board considered turning this park into a skate park.

Members of the Board suggested installing basketball courts at this playground because it will bring kids together.

Carlos Hernandez suggested surveying the residents to ask them what they would like to see at this park and if they would want basketball courts.

Fred Couceyro said that he would first like to receive funding for this park before surveying residents in the neighborhood.

7. Open Items

Robert Ruano suggested placing benches with round tables and umbrellas in the downtown area so that people who work downtown can enjoy their lunch outside similar to what was done for National Parking Day.

Fred Couceyro said that Jessica Keller is working on this and that it will be an extension of National Parking Day.

Carlos Hernandez showed members of the Board a flyer of a recycling initiative that was done at the Baptist West Kendall Hospital location; titled “I Want to be a Park Bench” encouraged people to recycle potentially buying into the idea that if you recycle we get park benches. Carlos said this will be a great project from a sustainability aspect.

Alisa Weiner showed a video about a 3.5 minute Walk Audit that was done by Mark Fenton, a National Public Health, Planning and Transportation Consultant because at the Granada Golf Course and the Alhambra Circle Park public meetings, residents quickly voiced their concern for pedestrian safety, the City has an extensive plan to repair sidewalks and in Coral Gables, after driving, most people walk to work. According to the October 2013 Nielson Co. survey, 31% of residents are 55 years or older and 25% are under the age of 21. After showing the video Alisa asked for general support from the Board for community activities such as the walk audit that was shown. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board fully support these kinds of activities with community involvement.

Alisa also took an Urban Planning course and received a Parks manual which she feels will be helpful when doing the Parks Master Plan. If you would like to see this manual please visit:
<http://www.upc.gov.ae/prdm/common/docs/Public-Realm-Design-Manual.pdf>

Robert Ruano mentioned that it has been almost two months he asked for the deed to the Granada Golf Course from Public Works and still hasn't received it. Robert feels that it is important to look at the deed for the Granada Golf Course as well as to the Youth Center before doing the Master Plans and any renovation of the golf course.

Fred Couceyro said that he is looking at the Scope of Services for the master plan and can still move forward with this without the deeds. Fred received feedback from the Planning Department, Development and the City Manager's Office for the Master Plan; he will bring a copy of the scope of services at the next meeting. Fred said that it will be a good idea to look at the deed for the Youth Center when doing the Youth Center Master Plan because he will be looking at expansion and the two lots located across the street from the Youth Center.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, December 18th, 2014** at 8:15 a.m. at Nat Winokur Park located at 150 Ruiz Avenue, Coral Gables.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.