

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of September 26, 2008 meeting
Coral Gables Youth Center
405 University Drive

MEMBERS	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	APPOINTED BY
Joan I. Valdes	R	P	P										Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Darby Plummer	R	P	P										Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Robin Symons	R	P	P										Commissioner Maria Anderson
Haydee Polo	R	P	P										Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Marty Steinberger	R	P	P										Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Martha Serola	R	P	P										City Manager David Brown
Manny Seage	R	P	P										Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

A = Absent
C = Cancelled
E = Excused absence
P = Present
N = No quorum
R = Recessed
S = Sick

STAFF:

Fred Couceyro
Parks & Recreation Director

Norma-Milena Gavarrete
Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

1. Darby Plummer called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.
2. Approval of Board minutes from August 22, 2008 meeting – Darby Plummer - The minutes of the August 22, 2008 Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.
3. Update on Board items to City Commission - Staff
 - The Country Club of Coral Gables RFP Process - Fred Couceyro said Company Liberty, the only bidder, gave a presentation, which was televised. Liberty runs different venues in Canada and two of them happened to be similar to the Country Club: historical properties that have been renovated and are in residential areas. Their business falls into more of a banquet, catering and restaurant services which will be open to the members and the public. They will keep the fitness center and tennis courts, and have proposed a

monthly membership fee and wanted to reserve the right to propose in 5 years a plan for the Golf Course. Liberty is geared more towards catering services and events. Two successful venues of theirs that are historical and located in residential areas are The Rose Water and Casa Loma.

- Senior Programs Presentation - Fred gave a presentation to at the Commission meeting on Senior programs. The Senior Budget has increased from \$72,000 to \$312,000 and increase in programs from two, the Young Viejo's Softball league and card club, to 126 programs, two programmers and this past July we had 549 participants. Fred also said that the purchase of the UBC was discussed and it appears that the issue is not dead. There have been conversations with the UBC about the purchase, but it still has to be determined if the City can financially afford it. Darby Plummer asked about the Senior budget and Fred explained that the budgets had not been cut. A Copy of Senior Presentation booklet was viewed by Board.
- Special Events – Events that request to have alcohol during the event need to be approved by the Commission. Frits & Franz - Oktoberfest was pulled for discussion because a resident from the apartment building across the Frits & Franz Restaurant has filed numerous complaints on noise coming out of the establishment and people lingering after hours. Due to the numerous complaints that the resident has issued, City Commissions has changed the establishments' hours during the Oktoberfest Event, October 2 – 13, to accommodate the residents request to 10pm during weekdays and 11pm during weekends for outside activity. Other events were also mentioned during the meeting, Art in the Park and John Martins Halloween Party and have been approved by the Commission.
- Rivera Park Use- Fred said that this issue came up when Commissioner Cabrera wanted to explore the possibility of a use agreement for use of Riviera Park. Commissioner Cabrera gave Fred a copy of the Riviera School Proposed Use at Park Facility Chart, Fred then submitted a response stating the concerns he had and the Riviera Day School has agree to work with it. One proposal was for operating summer camp programs which Fred said he had a problem because that would create a competition for our Parks and Recreation summer camp programs and activities. Commissioner Cabrera will proceed with this agreement and will address the Neighborhood Association because it would be best to have their endorsement. Fred also mentioned that the plan would be to come up with a six month pilot program and see how it works out. Darby Plummer mentioned that Joe Able had created a "park usage plan which had to do with the a formula that would have these private institute pay for park usage and asked Fred to call Joe regarding this plan. Fred will move forward and the board has approved for Fred to move further with this request. Riviera's Proposal Use at Park Facility Chart is attached.

4. City Projects Update – Fred Couceyro

- Rotary Park – Fred said that the 1st hearing has gone through and now the second hearing will be in the October 14 commission meeting. They had to redo the Bids because the building permits could not be issued until Zoning issues were solved.

- Shades – Fred said that we have one at the time, the second Shade request is waiting to hear back from BZ, and Public Works still need more things on this. It will go to the Board of Adjustments in October's meeting.
- Gym Floor – Fred said it looks great and is happy with the turn out. Board agrees.
- Salvadore Park – Fred said that is coming along after a hiccup with the electrical portion of the project but Public Works is looking into this as well as with the plumbing aspect of it but all this was also taken care of. The Fence around the racquet ball courts is going up and the project is moving along.
- Venetian Pool – Fred said the pool is now closed and the site survey has started and will be meeting with the sub-contractors for the remaining of the project this afternoon.
- Riviera Park – Fred said Dooley Mack Construction Company had approached the City regarding park usage for stage and store building equipment while they do construction on a nursing facility on 6901 Yumuri Street in exchange will then build and donate a gazebo at the Riviera Park. Park Advisory board has approved of this request but would like to request that the park be replaced to its original state, have establish a start and finish project date and build gazebo as per City Code and specifications.

5. Old Business – Darby Plummer

6. Discussion on the Park of the Month –

- The **Park of the Month for October** is **Ruth Byran Owen Waterway Park located at 3940 Granada Boulevard**. Please visit Ruth Bryan Owen Waterway Park before the next meeting.

7. New Business – Fred Couceyro

- Salvadore Park west swale area – Fred said he was approached by two neighbors regarding the swale on the west side of Salvadore Park to have a parking space like Riviera Park. Park Advisory board has approved of such request and Fred will then approach Public works and add to their street approved program.
- Youth Basketball and Athletic Evaluation Committee– Fred handed out copies of the Youth Center Athletics rule booklet, which contains copies of the Basketball Rulebook, Basketball Substitute Form, Evaluation Committee Guidelines, Athletic Evaluation and Athletic Evaluation Defined. Fred will also ask Jonathan Nasser, our Athletic Recreation Specialist, to add Guidelines on Bonus Points. Darby Plummer voiced a concern on some of coaches' techniques of coaching and certification of such and would like to see more clinics.

- Plastic Dinosaurs – Fred asked the board if they had noticed the new plastic dinosaurs that replaced the spring rockets in the parks playground and would like feedback on how they look and are working out.
- Youth Center Field Speakers. Haydee Polo said that the outside field speakers are making short circuit like noises.

Date and time of next meeting –The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for **Friday, October 24th, 2008**. The meeting will start at **8:00 a.m.** and will be held in the **Conference Room at the Youth Center**, located at 405 University Drive. In addition, The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board November meeting is scheduled for **Friday, November 20th, 2008**. The meeting will start at **8:00 a.m.** and will be held in the **Conference Room at the Youth Center**, located at 405 University Drive. The **Park of the Month for November** is **Nat Winokur Park** located at 150 Ruiz Avenue. Please visit Nat Winokur Park before the next meeting.

8. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.