

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of May 20, 2008 meeting
Coral Gables Youth Center
405 University Drive

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

Judy Kries
Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

None

1. Haydee Polo called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.
2. Approval of Board minutes from April 18, 2008 meeting – Haydee Polo - The minutes of the April 18, 2008 Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.
3. Approval of absentees from May 20, 2008 meeting – The Board excused Darby Plummer and Robin Symons from the May 20, 2008 meeting.
4. Update on Board items to City Commission – Fred Couceyro
 - Fred Couceyro said there was considerable discussion by the City Commission concerning the Fourth of July event at the Biltmore. He said the City Commission asked the City Manager to get with me to come up with an alternative for the

event. Fred Couceyro said he is looking at having an alternate event at the Youth Center which would include fireworks and would use 3 inch shells. It will give the same visual effect, but not as big and not as high as the 8 inch shells used in prior years at the Biltmore. It would be like a tail gate sort of event, because the space requirements for the fireworks would take up the entire field. We would have to close Segovia Street and the street between the Library and the field to come up with some sort of overflow parking there. We could shuttle patrons from the parking garages like we did for the event at the Biltmore. Fred Couceyro said he plans to submit this plan to the City Manager for consideration by the City Commission. There was a suggestion from the Board that, rather than put on a small scale event and disappoint people who are accustomed to a full scale grand Fourth of July, we cancel the event and let them plan their own day. The money saved could be used for other events that are threatened, such as the Christmas event which is very popular.

- Fred Couceyro said there was discussion at the Commission Meeting that the Country Club closed down and that the City has re-opened sections of it. He said currently Parks and Recreation staff are maintaining the tennis courts. The Country Club has three pros still working there. He said those three pros are now operating under our supervision and are generating a small amount of money for us. The Country Club has members who have paid out money for lifetime memberships and they want to help the City keep part of the Country Club operating. The membership is trying to come up with a temporary plan to give the City the money to do this. The City plans to open the pool next week and to let the lady who previously operated and maintained the pool for the Country Club do it. Fred Couceyro said the big issue is the restaurant and bar because there is a liquor license involved. He said the City has done a RFP and is looking for another manager to run it.
- Fred Couceyro said the Guard House at Hammock Lakes was discussed and approved by the City Commission.
- Fred Couceyro said term limits were discussed and approved by the City Commission.

5. City Projects Update – Fred Couceyro

- Variance Request – Fred Couceyro said we got the variance request from the Board of Adjustment for the triangle shade design coverings to be used over the Youth Center Playground. The shades have been ordered and the shade company is now waiting on the construction time table. Fred Couceyro said he took pictures of the square design used by Riviera Day School and asked the City Architect why they approved the square design for use there, but did not approve

the square design for use at Phillips Park and Sunrise Park. The City Architect said they approved the square design for use at Riviera Day School because it is not out in the open, it is sort of tucked in and is not as visible, but he did say that he would share the pictures with the Board of Architects. Fred Couceyro said he was either going back to the Board of Architects for approval, or he is going to put it on the Commission Agenda for the last week in June. Haydee Polo said to notify Commissioner Cabrera if it was going back to the Board of Architects.

- Salvadore Tennis Center – Fred Couceyro said it looks as if Salvadore Tennis Center is finally getting off the ground. We are having a construction meeting next week.
 - Youth Center Re-Sod – Fred Couceyro is concerned with our maintenance contract for Granada and the parks. He said we have completed the bid, but we are still waiting for them to bring it to the Commission. Hopefully, they will bring it to the Commission next week because they are the ones who are going to do the re-sodding of the field at the Youth Center and he doesn't want the schedule to get interrupted, as we plan to do the re-sodding in two shifts throughout the summer.
 - Rotary Park – Fred Couceyro said he is waiting to see what happened with the bids. He said we are having a bid opening on Rotary Park very soon.
 - Riviera Park – Fred Couceyro said the Grant Administrator for the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) informed him that they were not able to fund the entire grant list like they usually do, so every park got a prorated amount. He said we got 67 percent of what we asked for, which is \$137,000 instead of \$200,000. He said for Riviera Park that means we will get most of the renovation done. We will get the play area done, we will get all the new trees and the refurbishment of the lights and the sidewalk. We will not be able to do the Gazebo. We might be able to do the Fitness Trail, but will not be able to put in any equipment.
6. Discussion on Park of the Month – Sunrise Park – Haydee Polo said she had a birthday party there a couple weeks ago. She said two new metal swing sets are up, the Gazebo is gone, the tables are just sitting there, and the cable is still there. She said just as they were ready to start cleaning up from the party, the Park Ranger showed up and helped them do everything. She said he was very helpful. Fred Couceyro said there is still one swing set missing, one of the spring rockers is broken, and we are going to put in a plastic dinosaur in its place. He said when we get to the construction phase, the two playground structures are going to be replaced.

7. New Business

- Fred Couceyro said he turned in his new budget. The City this year made the department do three budgets. We had to do a 0% budget, 5% budget and 10% budget. He said most of the cuts that were made were not eliminating programs, but eliminating amenities in programs, such as less field trips for camps, less activities in a camp, or eliminating swim outings to Venetian Pool.
 - Haydee Polo said there is a new tennis instructor at the Biltmore Tennis Center whom her family thinks is excellent. She said her husband is going to write a complimentary letter about him.
 - The Board was very complimentary of Doggie Day at Venetian Pool. Fred Couceyro said we plan to schedule the event again next year.
8. Date and time of next meeting – The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for **Friday, June 20, 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 June** is **Ruth Bryan Owen Waterway Park**, located at 3940 Granada Boulevard. Please visit the park before the next meeting. **The Board will recess for the month of July.**
9. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.