



**City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
July 11, 2017**

ITEM TITLE:

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of April 28, 2017

BRIEF HISTORY:

At the April 28, 2017 meeting, the following actions were taken and/or item discussed:

- Approval of minutes
- Director's Report
- Autism Awareness
- National Playground Safety Week
- Blue Road Open Space Discussion
- Tennis Program at Phillips Park

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Minutes from April 28, 2017 meeting

**City of Coral Gables
Meeting Minutes**

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

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Friday, April 28, 2017

8:15 AM

The Board meets the third Friday of
every month.

Coral Gables Youth Center, 405
University Drive, Coral Gables, FL 33134

CALL TO ORDER

@ 8:26 AM

ROLL CALL

Felix Pardo was absent and excused by the board.

All other board members were present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Robert Ruano motioned to approve the minutes this was seconded by Sandy Dimitris, the board voted in favor for this unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fred began his report discussing both of the community playgrounds located inside the Youth Center and the other located on the exterior. He overviewed the design and selection process and explained to the board where the City currently is with the project. Fred also reviewed the roof and gymnastics projects which the City is currently preparing to purchase new equipment for the gymnastics program once the roof project has been completed. Fred also reviewed the overall condition of the Youth Center and explained to the board with the city's new superintendent of Parks & Golf the field will begin to look much nicer and be kept up to a better level.

Fred continued with the explaining the final design which was approved by the commission for the William H. Kerdyk Biltmore tennis center. During explaining the location and overall decision of the staircase in the project the board was not comfortable with the City's decision on the type of staircase which will be included with the project.

Robert Ruano motioned that the board not support the current design because of the exposed staircase which will pose a danger to children. This was seconded by Nancy Leslie and the board voted in favor unanimously.

Fred continued discussing the Phillips Park light project which is currently in the procurement phase, Fred expressed he believes that this project should begin shortly. After opening discussion on the Easter egg hunt and the overall success of the scaled down version, Chairman Kirk Menendez asked Fred about the exterior audio system which was used to communicate on the athletic field. Finally Fred overviewed the five passive park meeting and gave the board updates on where the Parks dept. is with all of these new additions.

NEW BUSINESS

Autism Awareness:

Alisa began her report discussing the importance of programming that serves the Autistic population. She continued with praising the City for spear heading programming and hiring a Special Needs Coordinator. Alisa also referenced the new Sesame Street character Julie, who was created to demonstrate to children the characteristics of a child with autism. In order to learn more visit sesamestreet.org/Autism.

National Playground Safety Week (April 24-28):

Alisa began her report discussing the playground safety week and how important it is for these sites to be safe. Fred explained the Certified Playground safety inspector program which this year he will be sending new staff to get trained and take the exam certifying them as inspectors. This certification will allow the city to on staff have experts in fall heights, proper equipment spacing etc. For more information on this visit Playgroundsafety.org

OLD BUSINESS

Blue Road Open Space:

Fred and Robert discussed the possible options for this space expressed the location and over all aesthetics of the location.

Robert Ruano made a motion for the board to support the Blue Road open space activation. This was seconded by Alisa Weiner and was voted in favor unanimoisly by the baord.

Tennis Program @ Phillips Park:

Fred explained that this program had been jump started because funds associated with a ESPN grant but if there is a need for tennis instruction the parks dept. will look into programming at this park.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

Date & Time of next meeting:

May 26th @ 8:15 AM

ADJOURNMENT

@10:05 AM

NOTE