

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
 Minutes of February 15, 2008 meeting
 Coral Gables Youth Center
 405 University Drive

MEMBERS		M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F		APPOINTED BY
Joan I. Valdes		P	C	P	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Darby Plummer		P	C	P	P	R	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		Vice Mayor William Kerdyk.
Robin Symons		P	C	E	E	R	P	E	P	P	P	A	A		Commissioner Anderson
Haydee Polo		P	C	P	P	R	P	E	P	P	P	P	P		Comm. Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Marty Steinberger		-	-	-	-	R	P	A	P	A	P	A	P		Comm. Wayne "Chip" Withers
Martha Serola		E	C	E	E	R	E	E	E	P	P	P	P		City Manager David Brown
Manny Seage		P	C	P	P	R	P	P	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. Darby Plummer called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.
2. Approval of Board minutes from January 25, 2008 meeting – Darby Plummer - The minutes of the January 25, 2008 Board meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.
3. Update on Board items to City Commission – Fred Couceyro
 - Fred Couceyro said the Memo of Understanding with UM for the Computer Kiosk at the Youth Center has been approved by the Commission. He said UM is working with our I. T. Department to set it up. It will be installed in the Youth Center Lobby near the front office. This computer system will allow parents access to the School Board computer system. This is one of our beginning partnerships with the school system.

- Fred Couceyro said there was discussion at a recent Commission Meeting about there being too much noise after the Fritz and Franz Bierhaus special event. He said the neighbors across the street are concerned about people staying around and making too much noise after such an event.
- Fred Couceyro said the Charter Amendment for the Trial Board did not pass.
- Fred Couceyro said Pinecrest was looking into contracting with Coral Gables for fire services. He said the resolution did not pass.

4. City Projects Update – Fred Couceyro

- Shades – Fred Couceyro said the new packets have been completed and turned in to Building and Zoning. It will now go to the Board of Architects. Fred Couceyro will follow up with Mercy Mendoza on a time table for this project.
- Youth Center Lights – Fred Couceyro said the contractor is waiting on the shipment of materials and then they will start. He is hoping that in the next month or two they will pull all the electrical permits and commence work.
- Venetian Pool – Fred Couceyro said we have \$750,000 from the bond for renovations. He said we are going to make \$750,000 worth of improvements and close the pool for six months. Fred Couceyro is concerned that when the pool is re-opened, none of the improvements will be noticeable to the public. All the expansion joints must be replaced. Only the repainting of the poles will be noticeable.
- Sunrise Harbor and Phillips Park – Fred Couceyro said we were able to get a good bid to replace the swings and they have been ordered. We are going to replace all the spring rockers that are missing with statues. We have also ordered trash receptacles and benches.
- Salvadore Tennis Center – Fred Couceyro said the bids came in under what we expected. He said Procurement is presently checking on the reliability of the bidding firms.
- Youth Center Security Plans – Fred Couceyro said the Security Plans came in and are available for the Board's review. He said we have \$75,000 available which is enough to complete half of the project. We are getting cameras and an access control card system. He reviewed the plans with the Board discussing both the large area cameras for the outdoor areas, and the closed circuit cameras for interior spaces. For entry security, we will have a pass through card reader system and we will also have an intercom. There was a question about putting cameras on the field to cover the possibility of an abduction from the field. Fred Couceyro said it

would require an expensive camera system and would require at least 8 to 12 cameras to monitor the field. He said this would have to be done in the second phase of the project.

5. Old Business – Darby Plummer

- Monitoring the Youth Center Field on Weekends – There was discussion about Police enforcement of the Youth Center Field Usage Resolution. Fred Couceyro said as enforcing officers become more familiar with the resolution, this, plus signage, should help resolve the problem.
 - Partnering with Schools – Fred Couceyro said Roxanne Gonzalez is working on an agreement with Coral Gables Senior High to use their softball field in the summer. In exchange, we are already allowing their Drill Team to practice here.
 - Registration for Tennis at the Biltmore Tennis Center – There was a complaint about the difficulty in registering children for tennis classes on Saturdays at the Biltmore Tennis Center. Fred Couceyro said we have issues with our part-time staff there on Saturdays. He said we may have to have full-time staff there on Saturdays.
 - Annual Report – Darby Plummer asked for discussion on the draft copy of the Annual Report. Haydee Polo said she has a couple of changes which she will e-mail to Darby Plummer.
 - Basketball Program – There was discussion on the progress of the Basketball Program. Fred Couceyro said we are moving ahead with certification of the coaches through our partnership with Coral Gables High and are proceeding with our own plans for more parental oversight of the program.
6. Discussion on Park of the Month – Jaycee Park – The comments were that the water fountains do not work and there were some issues with the gate not working properly. Other comments were that it is a great little park. It is well kept and used, especially by parents with children.

7. New Business – Darby Plummer

Darby Plummer asked for discussion regarding the letter the Board received from Mr. Brad Hornbacher opposing the elimination of the park on S. Alhambra Circle between Camarin Street and Mindello Street (the “Park”) by creation of a Proposed Traffic Calming Circle at the intersection of S. Alhambra Circle, Veronese Street and Mindello Street (the “Traffic Circle”), copy attached.

Fred Couceyro said the green space in the area of the Proposed Traffic Circle is a right of way, not a park. He said to proceed with the project, Public Works needs

approval by vote of 51% or more of the area residents/property owners, and they will give special consideration to those residents/property owners who are directly affected by the construction of the Proposed Traffic Circle. After discussion, the Board made the following recommendation: While the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recognizes the need for traffic calming measures, the Board recommends that the existing green space on S. Alhambra Circle between Camarin Street and Mindello Street be preserved as is. The recommendation was unanimously approved by the Board.

Darby Plummer said she would respond to Mr. Brad Hornbacher's letter to the Board advising him of the Board's recommendation in favor of keeping the green space and advising him of the Board's lack of jurisdiction in the matter.

8. Date and time of next meeting –The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for **Friday, March 21, 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 March** is **Sunrise Harbor Park**, located at 25 Sunrise Avenue. Please visit the park before the next meeting.
9. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.