

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes of March 14, 2014 Meeting
Venetian Pool
2701 DeSoto Blvd.,
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	APPOINTED BY
Robin Burr	P	P	R	R	P	P	P	P	N	P	P	P	Mayor Jim Cason
Valerie Gelnovatch	A	P	R	R	P	P	P	P	N	P	P	P	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Kirk Menendez	B	B	R	R	P	P	P	P	N	P	P	P	Comm. Patricia Keon
Robert Ruano	P	E	R	R	P	P	E	P	N	P	P	P	Comm. Vince Lago
Marty Steinberger	P	E	R	R	E	P	P	P	N	A	E	P	Comm. Frank C. Quesada
Martha Serola	P	E	R	R	E	E	E	E	N	P	P	P	City Manager Patrick G. Salerno
Carlos Hernandez	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	P	N	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

Chris Matteucci,
Interim Youth Center Supervisor

Carolina Vester,
Venetian Pool Aquatics Supervisor

Tricia Spencer,
Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

1. Robert Ruano called the meeting to order at 8:26 a.m.
2. **Approval of Board minutes of February 28, 2014 meeting** – A motion was made by Carlos Hernandez to approve the minutes of February 28, 2014. Motion to approve minutes was passed unanimously by the Board.

3. **Approval of Excused Absences** - A motion was made by Kirk Menendez to approve the excused absence of Marty Steinberger who was absent at the February 28, 2014 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. Motion to approve the excused absence was passed unanimously by the Board.

4. **Upcoming Special Events**

- Fritz and Franz will be having its second annual St. Patrick's Day Weekend event from Friday, March 14th to Sunday, March 17th, 2014 from 12:00 noon to midnight at the Plaza located at 60 Merrick Way.
- Bike305 will be having a Bike and BBQ on Sunday, March 16th, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.; the event will begin in front of the Coral Gables Museum and end at Matheson Hammock Park
- Bike305 will have its 1st Annual Farmers Market Bike Ride on Saturday, March 22nd, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.; there will be two bike tour rides: the first tour ride will start at 9:30 a.m. and will be a 4 mile ride with stops at the Granada Golf Course, the Alhambra Water Tower and the Merrick House. The second tour will begin at 11:30 a.m. and will be a 3 mile tour with stops at the Biltmore Hotel and the Venetian Pool.
- The Food and Wine Festival by United Way of Miami-Dade will be held on Thursday, April 10th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Village of Merrick Park.
- Eggstreme Egg Hunt and Helicopter Egg Drop will be held on Saturday, April 19th, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.; there will be five egg hunts at 5 City parks - Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center, Jaycee Park, Phillips Park, Salvadore Park and Sunrise Harbor Park.
- Fritz and Franz will be having its 10th Annual Rib & Beer Fest on Friday, May 23rd to Sunday, May 25th, 2014 from 12:00 noon to midnight at the Plaza located at 60 Merrick Way.

5. **Update on Board Items to City Commission**

Carolina Vester, Aquatics Supervisor of the Venetian Pool was named the 2013 Employee of the Year. The Board congratulated Carolina on a job well done.

6. **New Business**

• **Venetian Pool**

Robin Burr inquired about the status and plans for renovation at the Venetian Pool.

Carolina Vester said that they received eight new picnic tables, new umbrellas, new trash cans, and money for landscaping and have started landscaping around the pool and just planted flowers on the little island. There are funds being allocated to big capital projects such as re-roofing the entire structure of the roof, the Pecky Cypress beams did not be replaced, and the pool bottom needs to be done. The beach area is going to be rehabilitated and a lot of pressure cleaning has been done to get rid of the algae growth. She is in the process of hiring a new maintenance person and has introduced new programs such as Adult Swim classes. Carolina would also like to introduce a different membership next year.

Valerie Gelnovatch asked about the possibility of having food trucks in the front parking lot of the Venetian Pool or movie night to bring the community together and bring more people to the pool.

Fred Couceyro said that if you are going to do a food truck event it is better to do it at another location and that it is not a good idea to do a movie night because the pool is too dark at night and you will not be able to see if someone is in trouble in the water. He also said that we did do a movie night years ago but it was not successful because of the turnout.

Robert Ruano inquired about doing a concert in the pool like they used to back in the 1920s. Fred Couceyro said that he is looking into doing something like that again however the pool does not drain completely.

Robin Burr asked why there was no Wi-Fi at the Venetian Pool. Carolina Vester said that due to Historical issues and concrete walls, no Wi-Fi could be installed.

• **Travel Soccer Director of Coaching Proposal/Soccer RFP**

Fred Couceyro appreciated the feedback he received on the Scope of Services from the Board members. The contractor for soccer would not start until May 2015 because the program has already started and the new fiscal year does not start until October 1st. As long as we get the Soccer RFP done we can put it out in more than enough time to be able to hire someone by May 2015. In the meantime we could bring in a Director of Soccer that would work as a city employee and handle all soccer operations. Fred distributed copies of the Travel Soccer Director of Coaching proposal and the Soccer RFP. He asked that the Board members look it over to have an idea of what they are looking for then give him their input by next Friday so that he can submit it to Finance and Human Resources, and once it is approved he can post the position and start conducting interviews.

Kirk Menendez asked what was the difference between a part-time employee versus a contractor. Fred said that it is easier to get approval for a part-time employee.

Valerie Gelnovatch inquired about the number of hours that person will be allowed to work and if they will receive any benefits. Fred said that person will be able to work a maximum of 29 hours per week, for approximately \$20.00 per hour. They will have a computer to work on and will have access to develop an e-mail system or texting system that works best for soccer. Valerie commended Fred and the rest of the staff on doing a great job.

Kirk Menendez made a motion to move forward with the part-time Director of Coaching position. Motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

7. Old Business

Robert Ruano requested that Fred Couceyro bring to the next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting the financials on the Granada Golf Course as well as invite Ernesto Pino of Public Works to the meeting.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting** will be held on **Friday, April 11, 2014**. The meeting will start at **8:15 a.m.** The location is TBA.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.