

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Minutes of October 24, 2014 Meeting**  
**War Memorial Youth Center**  
**405 University Drive,**  
**Coral Gables, Florida 33134**

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

Tricia Spencer,  
Administrative Assistant

Julia Abraham  
Civil Engineer

**GUESTS:**

Gustavo Santana  
AECOM

1. Robert Ruano called the meeting to order at 8:25 a.m.
2. **Approval of Board minutes of September 19, 2014 meeting** – A motion was made by Carlos Hernandez to approve the minutes of September 19, 2014 with changes as mentioned by Alisa Weiner. Motion to approve minutes was passed unanimously by the Board.
3. **Approval of Excused Absences** – There were no approval of excused absences.
4. **Upcoming Special Events**

Gables Hispanic Cultural Festival is this weekend, October 25<sup>th</sup> - October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The event is from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Saturday and from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Junior Orange Bowl will be held on Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the parade.

Holiday Tree Lighting will be held on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The event will be from 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Pictures with Santa will on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday for the first two weeks until December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The park will be open for use Monday through Sunday from sunrise to 10:00 p.m.

## **5. Kings Bay Project – Gustavo Santana and Julia Abraham**

Gustavo Santana presented to the Board the Kings Bay Project. Kings Bay Park is adjacent to Deering Bay and an old power plant. It has a private mariner that is accessible to the residents in the community. AECOM will be looking at the plans that were given to them to see how this project can be constructed with the budget the City of Coral Gables has. This construction project includes making a minimum of 8 parking spaces for golf carts, sitting areas, access to the water, redoing the asphalt and resurfacing the road, adding a retaining wall, adding more bike racks, as well as designing a space that will be allotted for a picnic table.

Board members were concerned about the funding of this project and what funding source will be used.

Carlos Hernandez inquired about the demographics of Kings Bay and would like this project to not only benefit the residents of Kings Bay but the community as a whole.

## **6. New Business**

Robert Ruano requested that the deeds for Granada Golf Course and the Youth Center be brought to the next board meeting so the Board as a whole will have a better understanding of the properties.

Fred Couceyro said that Ernesto Pino is working on getting the deed for Granada Golf Course and that he will follow up with him on that. Fred also said that Kirk Menendez will have access to the deed of the Youth Center since he is a member of the War Memorial Association. Kirk Menendez gave a little history of the planning stages of the Youth Center stating that there was support to close Rivera drive and unifying the Youth Center and the library. By doing so there would have created 25% more field space. However, approval of this was voted down by the City Commission.

Valerie Gelnovatch said that she has received many complaints from the Youth 15 Soccer Team; players practice on a very small field and they are concerned about where they are playing their games. There is also a drainage problem on the youth center field. Carlos Hernandez said that Tuesdays and Thursdays are the days there is most activity on the field which are also the days that soccer practices are held. Carlos also said that the middle of the field is beat up and there is a drainage issue. Fred said that he is going to look into this.

Kirk Menendez inquired about the RFP for soccer and would like to know when Board members are going to be able to give their input. Kirk also requested that a copy of the RFP be sent to members of the Board.

Carlos Hernandez said that he has received comments about people calling the Youth Center to ask about athletic programs and the staff that answer the telephones don't really know the correct answers to the

programs. He suggested two ways to resolve this problem: 1) Periodically mystery call the Youth Center and ask questions 2) Make sure a Leisure Guide is handy and available. Kirk Menendez suggested having a cheat sheet. Fred said that he has done mystery calls and have been pleased by the response he gets. He also said that he is aware of the problem and is correcting it.

## **7. Open Items**

Alisa Weiner asked if the Venetian Aquatic Club can still use the Venetian pool before work starts. Fred said that the City is still going forward with the improvements such as roofing and have already relocated staff members to the Youth Center. Alisa asked if the pool will reopen on time. Fred said yes, the pool will reopen by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Alisa said that it helped advertising the swimming lessons in the e-news because more people have signed up. She also said the Paws in the Pool was a success; there were 75 small dogs and 135 large dogs. Alisa had some concerns that in the Maggiore Park community meeting they discussed more about parking than the actual park itself. Fred said that those meetings are always like that.

Valerie Gelnovatch asked if an e-mail blast for soccer has been implemented. Kirk Menendez said that he suggested to Chris Matteucci, the Youth Center Supervisor to look at soccer registration options through [www.gotsoccer.com](http://www.gotsoccer.com)

Robert Ruano said that the City needs to look at providing opportunities for the downtown Coral Gables community to enjoy green spaces.

## **8. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014** at 8:15 a.m. in the Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.