

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

4:00 PM

<https://coralgables.zoom.us/j/82882960727>

Coral Gables Country Club

Coral Gables Golf and Country Club Advisory Board

CALL TO ORDER

4:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL

a. Roll Call and Excusal of Absences

Present: 4 - Board member George Navarro, Peter Izaguirre, Board member Don Slesnick III and Board member Albert Sanchez

Excused: 1- Board member Ruben Rodriguez

A MOTION TO EXCUSED RUBEN RODRIGUEZ WAS MADE BY PETER IZAGUIRRE AND SECOND BY GEORGE NAVARRO. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Approval of October Meeting Minutes

A MOTION TO APPROVE OCTOBER'S MEETING MINUTES WAS MADE BY ALBERT SANCHEZ AND SECOND BY PETER IZAGUIRRE. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DIRECTORS REPORT

a. General Updates

Country Club Division Director Mitch mentioned our monthly tennis clinic with our tennis partner, which he encourages. On a side note, Mitch started talking to her about summer discounts or a kid-friendly summer. Mitch continued to inform the board about the kids lounge. A soft opening is planned. This service is provided at no cost to country club members. Our goal is from 8:00 to 12:00 pm on December 2. It shall be Saturday-only throughout the month of December. We will see the demand based on the memberships.

Board member Albert Sanchez inquired as to the number of children on the membership list. Country Club Division Director Mitch stated that he will provide them with the necessary numbers in the next meeting. Deputy Director Carolina stated family membership includes it. The pool and family were popular during the initial open house. Several people paused their memberships until the pool was ready. After the pool reopened, they emerged from the woodwork. We have various kinds of kids ages.

Country Club Division Director Mitch continued to disclose operational hours. He stated that the adjustments were made in consideration of daylight-saving time. We want to extend swim lanes by a few hours, given that leisure swimming no longer entails performing laps and exercising. Therefore, we are trying to help determine this so lap swimmers may get a few more hours at the start or end of the day. It depends on the weather. Some people like warm water, while others prefer cold water.

Director of the Country Club Division Mitch further stated that adjustments have been made to the rates. The rate for nonresidents rose with effect from October 1. Additionally, resident rates will not change.

b. Special Events

Country Club Division Director Mitch rapidly ran over forthcoming events, including a Halloween Member Mixer on Thursday, October 26th at 7 p.m. Mitch invited the board members to the member mixer and to participate in the costume party.

Board member Ruben Rodriguez inquired if they had received a large number of RSVPs. The invitation had requested an RSVP. Mitch Zuriarrain responded that they had about 65 RSVPs. He went on to say that for next year, they'll only have a Halloween members mixer and then activate the café area, which they'll be doing on the 31st to hand out candy and have the restaurant space accessible for guests trick-or-treating around. Mitch proceeded on to tell the board members that they are considering doing a trunk-or-treat a more kid-friendly event for next year.

Country Club Division Director Mitch proceeded to inform board members on the Roaring 20's Glamour Bridal Expo, which took place this past weekend on Saturday, October 21st at 12 p.m. Mitch went on to say that while they didn't have the crowd

they had hoped for, the merchants did well. They are hoping for a larger attendance next year. Board member Albert Sanchez inquired if they were promoted outside the club. Mitch said that they marketed it on social media, with light posters and postcards distributed to all facilities. Deputy Director Carolina noted that we had a lot of vendor engagements, and as a result, the most important feedback for them is obtaining leads from each other. It was undoubtedly favorable to the vendors.

Country Club Division Director Mitch mentioned Cars & Santa on Sunday, December 17th at 9 a.m. He then asked the board members if anyone had a vintage automobile or something remarkable and wanted to participate in the car event to register. The event, according to Director Couceyro, is a follow-up to their previous car and coffee event

c. Administrative Updates

Director Couceyro began the report by informing the board about when they last met, they were working with Bonjour Cafe, which supplied the meals. The front of the house was handled by staff. A 90-day interim contract with a 90-day option was approved by the commission. Six months is a possibility. They finally signed the contract. On November 27, they'll go full stock and barrel without us. The Monday following Thanksgiving. City officials notified him that after six months, they'll start specifying longer-term RFPs to see whether we can compete. If those six months are beyond our wildest dreams, the city administration may request a Bid waiver from the commission in order to negotiate long-term.

Directors Couceyro and the city manager have maintained their collaboration regarding the development of a business plan for the upcoming years. During the initial 18 months, we encountered numerous challenges and growing difficulties while attempting to establish our foundation and solidify certain aspects. It was during this time that we discovered the true nature of this structure. It is my belief that we will develop a business strategy to determine how we can increase venue rentals. Our ultimate objective is for this endeavor to become profitable.

Director Couceyro proceeded to update the board on the occurrences of upcoming events. 15th Annual William M. Schiff Art Show - Friday, Nov. 17 at 6 p.m., Parks Pollinator Patch at the War Memorial Youth Center - Saturday, Nov. 18 at 9 a.m., Holiday Tree Lighting Spectacular 2023 - Friday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. with Holiday Park opening. He said they deal with a vendor that builds, puts up, and removes the park. He continued with An Afternoon at the Cinema -Saturday, Dec 2 at 12p.m., AAC Annual Holiday Celebration 2023 -Friday, Dec. 15 at 1p.m., Hot Chocolate with Santa - Saturday, Dec. 16th and Sunday, Dec. 17 at 10a.m.

Director Couceyro continued with the Venetian Pool construction project. How they started redoing the whole kitchen because some outdated equipment needed to be replaced. They finally got the five-year capital project authorized.

According to Director Couceyro, the Granada Golf Shop will open at the end of the

month. We're also considering a ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 4th. We're still waiting for Commission and City Manager's Office approval. Construction on the shop's dining portion is set to begin soon.

The board was given an update by Director Couceyro on the upcoming park initiatives and the background of the Blue Road open space and Toledo and Alava open space. One of our objectives is to ensure that all residents have access to neighborhood park spaces within a ten-minute walking distance. Additionally, they want to ensure that it is accessible to all by preventing them from having to cross significant roads.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Golf Suggestions

- Private parking sign either "Ben McCaine" or "ProShop".

To effect a change, Director Couceyro approached Golf Course & Parks Superintendent Troy regarding this matter. He suggests that it should be for general pro shop staff.

- "NO PARKING" stripes on west lot by both entrance and exit curbs.

The building's west curb was highlighted by board member Peter Izaguirre. People park there often. Want to see it all along. They shouldn't park. Near the curve. On the two entrances, the entry and exit are narrow. Director Couceyro said they need to see whether we have signs or do in on the ground. We need parking department enforcement if we do it on the ground.

- At Grand Opening, celebrate Granada's 100th year Anniversary.

Board member Peter Izaguirre suggested tying the grand opening and pro shop together.

- Allowing private Golf carts.

They raised this with risk management two years ago, according to Deputy Director Carolina. Two requests were made. They both came out at the same time, and it was more of a liability problem since the carts we rented. Bringing your own cart results in liabilities. For the condition of the greens and golf course, we don't know what sort of golf cart you're bringing since there are many types nowadays, not hybrids.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Selection of Board Member at Large

Director Couceyro mentioned that the board must select a new Board-as-a-whole member and that they must submit a résumé or a paragraph explaining why they want to serve on the board. Director Couceyro suggested that potential nominees submit their resumes before the next meeting, after which we will disseminate resumes to the whole board, who will then analyze and choose their eighth member. According to Deputy Director Carolina, the City Clerk's office advised applying online and sending applications through the portal, which we would then distribute to the board. Deputy Director Carolina encouraged the board members to share the Boards and Committees link with the possible nominees.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

Next meeting date December 20, 2023 at 4 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

5:03 p.m.

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:03 P.M. WAS MADE BY ALBERT SANCHEZ AND WAS SECONDED BY GEORGE NAVARRO. ALL IN FAVOR; PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NOTE