

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 12, 2019

8:15 AM

The Board meets the second Thursday of every month.
Coral Gables Youth Center, 405 University Drive, Coral Gables, FL
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

CALL TO ORDER

8:30am

ROLL CALL

Motion to excuse absent board member will be made next meeting.

Absent:

**Nancy Leslie
Current Vacancy**

Present:

**Kirk Menendez
Felix Pardo
Carlos Hernandez
Desmond Gonzales
Wilfredo Fernandez
Charlie Rua**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Felix Pardo motioned and Wilfredo Fernandez seconded to approve the June advisory board minutes. Passes unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carolina filling in for Fred as director, opened with discussing the open vacancy on the board and encouraged board members to suggest potential applicants to apply. She notified the board of staff changes that have recently occurred in the department. Staff changes included the promotion of Katherine Anderson to the new Adult Activity Supervisor, reclassification of Mitchell Zuriarrain from administrative assistant to an administrative supervisor, and the transfer of Sarah Espino as the new administrative assistant. Vacant positions now include Assistant Aquatics Supervisor and Assistant Youth Center Supervisor.

Carolina presented the idea of the Youth Advisory board members adopting an event from an annual list of City events where they would help recruit volunteers. Carolina asked the Parks board if they were also interested; a partnership can be made between both Boards. Kirk agreed there should be a collaboration.

The playground at Kerdyk family park has been completed and Carolina gave brief explanation of hurricane prep for the playground following Hurricane Dorian. A ribbon cutting for Biltmore Tennis Center will be September 21st and board members are encouraged to attend. Kirk Menendez would like to have a future board meeting at the new Tennis Center.

Currently all five neighborhood parks are in active construction. Marlin Park was delayed by FPL but have now been allowed to continue. Sardo and Marlin will not have fencing due to location or design. Betsy Adams Park's legal issue has been resolved and construction has continued. Park is expected to open at the end of the month.

Discussion on the property acquisition process was had and board members expressed interest if any addition lots become available the City to try and obtain them.

Carolina presented Fred's finding on allocation of impact fees to the board (see attached memo), Miami-Dade does not have obligations to share impact fee distribution. Board member Felix Pardo was very dissatisfied with the County's policy of allocation and will pursue this issue as a Dade County citizen and not as a board member.

A community meeting for Jaycee park was held and residents are requesting a bigger play space and more shade structures. Play structures in that park have reached their end of life and the City will fast track this project using a

piggyback contract with another County to avoid a long procurement process. This will allow the park to stay open until construction begins but will create two phases of renovation on the park. Felix asked what is done with old playground equipment to possibly use for donation. Carolina explained most of the equipment is no longer salvageable. But any structures that can be reused are reinstalled in other parks. Carolina showed the Board a presentation on what will be included in the first phase of Jaycee park. The new resident requested swing bay structures will have built in shaded canopy's, Board members are concerned with the structure's height and the potential of users climbing the new structure.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Board member Kirk Menendez wanted to congratulate Art Centurion and Jerry Jones for putting together the sports awards ceremony that took place in the theater this year. He enjoyed the intimate setting and thought they did a wonderful job.

Kirk Menendez spoke to the board about the recent passing of Coral Gables resident Lonnie Hayes. Kirk spoke upon Lonnie's commitment to Coral Gables Parks and Recreation and wanted to recognize his years of volunteering and being part of the community to the Board. Asst Director Carolina Vester suggested to make a motion to have Lonnie Hayes honored during Commission.

Felix Pardo motioned to honor Lonnie Hayes at the next commission meeting, motion was seconded by Carlos Hernandez. Board was all in favor.

Charlie Rua made mention to Country Club Pardo and that there was an unauthorized party that was going on in the park. Assistant Director Carolina said she will notify code enforcement. She also made mention to the Board that the Mayor has requested to activate some of these open spaces in a way that does not intrude on the community. Maybe allowing a permitted yoga session or exercise classes.

Charlie Rua asked about looking in to crossing paths for park access to Country Club Pardo. It's become unsafe for pedestrians. Carolina let the board know that this is an item that will be addressed in the new master plan for parks.

Carolina Vester also let the Board know that the first phase of the Master Plan data collection has been completed and they will begin the second phase of Visioning Workshops. The Board will be invited to participate in this process. Invites will be sent to all Board members once the agenda has been created. October 23rd and 24th 2019. She continued on to let the Board know of potential land usage that will be included in the Master Plan.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

Next meeting will be October 10th, 2019 at 8:15 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

at 9:30 a.m

NOTE