

# City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
[www.coralgables.com](http://www.coralgables.com)



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 9, 2020

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**

**at 8:39am**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:**

**Wilfredo Fernandez**

**Monica Segura**

**Nancy Leslie**

**Kirk Menendez**

**Felix Pardo**

**Charlie Rua**

**Absent:**

**Carlos Hernandez**

**Desmond Gonzalez**

**A motion to excuse Carlos Hernandez and Desmond Gonzalez absences was made by Monica Segura and was second by Wilfredo Fernandez. Motion passed unanimously.**

**I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**A motion to approve the meeting minutes from December was made by Felix Pardo and was second by Kirk Menendez. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **II. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Fred Couceyro began the report with a brief overview of the successes of Holiday Park and events associated. He mentioned the upcoming events which included Big Toy on Saturday January 11th in front of City Hall, Farmer's Market beginning January 18th thru March, and the Egg Hunt at the Youth Center on April 11th . He also let the board know of the continuing event of Movies on the Move which will be Thursday December 16th.

The City's float in the Jr. Orange Bowl parade won best in show.

Kirk Menendez shared with Fred and staff that they should notify Police of the traffic delay signage by altering it to not include mention of the Egg Hunt to avoid over exposure to the event. Mitch said he would take note of the suggestion. Fred continued to share with the board the successes of the last few years of the event and the popularity of the 0-3-year-old egg hunt.

March 15th Gables Bike Day will now be a Parks event.

After sharing upcoming events with the board, Fred continued to pending capital projects. He recently had a meeting with the designers of Bermello Ajamil Inc. for the Blue Road Park project. After the initial discussion, the design company will put a concept design together and it will be presented in a community meeting format. The Commission requested that Parks reallocate funds within this fiscal year to begin the planning phase. The remaining budget for the design of the park will be granted the following fiscal year.

The five Neighborhood parks project is still pending. The substantial completion date has now passed. We are expected to receive the parks one at a time upon completion from February to the beginning of March. Fencing issues have been caught early in the install phase but it will still delay the opening. Foundation specification issues of the playgrounds at Marlin Park and Majorca Park, and the swing arbor foundation at Venetia have put a delay on those projects. Venetia and Catalonia parks, we anticipate will be the first parks completed. Sarto Park is pending due to the replacement of the Dade County pine tree that was damaged.

After going through designing and constructing such a large grouping of the neighborhood parks at one time, Fred has decided if the City were to purchase additional land parcels with the expectations of placing parks in them, we will do each parcel of land individually and not as a group project.

Monica Segura shared a story with the board and gave it as a reminder to staff to register our City parks with Dade County to designate the purchased land as a park. This should be included in any future land purchasing checklists. Fred agreed and made mention that to register a park it is done through the City attorney's office.

Ponce Circle Park initial meeting took place and they will present three different options based on community feedback. A follow-up meeting will occur in the following week.

We are moving forward with the design of Margorie Park and the playground redesign of Jaycee Park.

The Capital Improvements department has hired two new project managers. This will help pending Parks projects to get started.

With the promotion of Assistant Supervisor of the Youth Center Yanessa Rodriguez, the Recreation Specialist position is still vacant and accepting applications. Interviews for the remaining assistant supervisor position at Venetian Pool were held and are waiting on the selected applicant to respond.

Maintenance items include landscape beautification on the north side of the Youth Center. Pressure Cleaning at Phillips Park and Jaycee Park.

Fred notified the board of a meeting he had with a resident that was interested in converting the Granada golf course into what he called Gables Greens, a central park for the City of Coral Gables. The resident understands the difficulties of achieving this park concept and has agreed to fundraise \$250,000 for surveying the golf course to see if the space would even be a candidate for such a park.

Kirk asked if there was a way to know the age range of Granada participants? Fred says just based on visible participation, two big user groups are the over 65 age group due to the ease of the course and the under 30 age group, beginner golfers.

Charlie Rue gave the suggestion of the City purchasing the current Publix lot space by Riviera Park that will soon become available. This potential land purchase would expand Riviera park and become a large central city park. Fred will check in with property asset manager for the City to investigate the

**Publix property.**

**February 6th, 2020 will be the next Ponce Circle Park meeting at the Youth Center at 7pm. Staff will share the concept designs with the board once finalized.**

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

**Fred looked into the request made by Felix Pardo regarding the Flower art installations on Segovia. The landscaping is taken care of by Landscape Services and Public Works. The art feature is managed by the Historic Department. Fred spoke with Assistant City Manager and he said that the artist's intentions were for the pieces to fade; no repainting was included. Fred will ask about the repair of the misters the next time he see the ACM. Any additional questions or comments should be directed to the Historic Department.**

### **IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Nancy Leslie brought up topic of the Blue Road repaving street project that is expected to be completed by Dade County. Nancy asked if Fred has heard anything on continuing the work. Fred said he would follow-up with Jessica Keller, Assistant PW Director for Transportation & Sustainability and report back any information to the board.**

**Kirk Menendez brought to the attention of Fred and staff that the recently repaired crosswalk station in front of the Youth Center is no longer working. Fred will reach out to Jessica Keller and will notify the board when repairs are complete.**

### **ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

**Date and time of the next meeting will be February 13, 2020 at 8:15 a.m.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**at 9:35 a.m**

### **NOTE**