

City of Coral Gables

*405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 14, 2021

8:30 AM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

CALL TO ORDER

This is an unofficial Meeting. The meeting began at 8:40am

ROLL CALL

Present:

Carlos Hernandez

Kirk Menendez

Nancy Leslie

Felix Pardo

Wifredo Fernandez

Monica C. Segura

Charlie Rua

Absent:

Desmond Gonzalez

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Prior to the start of the Director's Report, A discussion on COVID vaccines was had among the board and Staff. Staff let the Board know of the small pilot program the CG Fire department had for issuing vaccines to our 65+ age demographic from the Adult Activity Center; very limited number of vaccinations were administered. We will share more information with the Board as it comes in.

Community Recreation Director Fred Couceyro began his report by going over our special events that took place during the month of December. Those events included the Holiday Tree Lighting, Hot Chocolate with Santa, Zoom Calls with Santa, and Visits from Santa. We also continued with Movies Under the Gables Moonlight that will go through the month of April.

Holiday Park has now come to an end and it was deemed very successful. Staff were able to adhere to COVID safe-practice guidelines and patrons seemed receptive. We had limited capacity and monitors for the Park.

Fred explained details of the next series of Spring events which will include the Coral Gables Farmer's Market, Visits from the Easter Bunny, Bike Day and a new event called the Summer Literacy Festival. All events will need to keep COVID safe practice guidelines in place. Other events include the Annual Daddy Daughter Dance and the Romance Under the Stars Valentine's Day event; both will be held at the Venetian Pool this year.

Monica Segura asked staff if we could continue with the at-home style events. And to also consider more Mom and me style events for the non-traditional families. Fred let the Board know that as we continue, we will be in discussions of how to keep these events going. We already offer a Mother's Day style event but we will continue to look into something more large scale similar to the Daddy Daughter Dance.

Golf and Tennis although limited by COVID standards, have been extremely busy. Programming has continued at Tennis with limited spots for enrollment. Basketball, flag football and volleyball programs are full at the Youth Center. The Spring Break camps have now begun registration. The Youth Center staff has begun looking at how to proceed with in-house soccer. And the Youth Center has now received a new contractor for Gymnastics. The Fitness Center is also open and taking reservations.

Carlos Hernandez suggested to staff in efforts to increase revenue for golf, if patrons can provide proof of vaccinations, then we can start sharing golf

carts. Fred says the order needs to come from the County level but there will be talks soon about changing policies because the increase of vaccinations.

The AAC is being used for board meetings and vaccine distribution. Virtual programming and fitness in our parks have continued for our senior population. Venetian Pool is open with limited capacity.

Fred then informed the Board of ongoing capital improvement projects. Jaycee Park playground is slotted to begin in February. The Granada golf course rain shelters community meeting is also set for February. The Kerdyk Park fitness trail will begin in April. There are no hold ups on any of the current projects that have gone to the Community for input at this time.

Our parks department National Accreditation will be held in June. And the Community Recreation Master Plan final draft is almost complete.

Carolina and Fred informed the Board of our new Constant Contact Parks & Rec Newsletter that will be emailed to our park users once a month with all our upcoming events and parks news.

Fred Couceyro closed out his director's report with thanking Wifredo Fernandez for serving with the Parks Advisory Board and hopes he will continue with the board when he returns to Coral Gables full time. Board Chair Kirk Menendez also gave his sentiments for Wifredo and thanked him for participating on the board.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A discussion was had on possible venue locations to host board meetings in order to ensure quorum. Staff will continue to look into alternate solutions. The will be notified of any changes of venue via email.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

Mitch Zuriarrain has asked that the Board at this time begin entertaining the idea of a new Board-as-a-whole candidate to replace Wifredo. They will not be able to officially select a new board member until quorum can be met and a vote be established. Fred also reminded the Board we are in an election season and there could be changes in the board come May after the election.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2021 at 8:30am.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 10:00am.

NOTE