



**THE CITY OF MIRAMAR
PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

DECEMBER 16, 2024

6:30 P.M.

The City of Miramar's Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) met for a special meeting on Thursday, December 16, 2024, at 6:32 p.m. at the Community Service Building, 2nd floor conference room, 2200 Civic Center Place, Miramar, FL 33025.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ATTENDANCE - BOARD MEMBERS**

The following members of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board were present:

Dr. Yelena Revere, Chairperson
Lair Hall, Vice Chairperson
Ian Excell
Abdool Gani
Carlister Gordon
Synthia Parchment-Green
Joshua Rhodes

The following members of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board were absent:

Nichola Officer (Excused)
Carlos Ramsay (Excused)
Sherria Williams (Excused)

A quorum was achieved.

Staff present:

Billy Neal, Director, Parks & Recreation (P&R)
Jacqueline Lovell-Santos, Dept. Coordinator, P&R

4. JUNKANOO WITH SANTA: Saturday, December 16, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Chairperson Revere stated features of the subject event would include: bounce houses, toy giveaway, and food, such as cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn, hotdogs, hamburgers, baked beans, etc. Board members were asked to arrive at the venue by 9:00 a.m. to help setup for the event. Parents would not be allowed to go up with their children to select a toy, as sufficient city staff and board members would be present to organize the children by age; the toys would be set up by age, and children could pick a toy, then go back to their seat.

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Chairperson Revere thanked Mr. Rhodes, and Mr. Excell for their participation in the recent college readiness event the PRAB and the Parks Department hosted.

Mr. Rhodes noted there was a good turnout that included parents, and students were divided into two groups of boys and girls; they were asked to apply for scholarships, which the girls did willingly. The boys were not as enthusiastic, but parents and students would continue to work with Dr. Revere; Parks and the PRAB were asked to come back again to do one-on-ones, and that would be discussed for a future date. He took two booklets to give to his coworkers, as great information was provided that was usually paid for in a course elsewhere; it was a great service for Miramar residents.

Mr. Excell echoed Mr. Rhodes's comments, as valuable information was provided to Miramar students; parents and teachers were present, and they asked Dr. Revere for more information, including how she could assist them with their career. He learned a lot, and later told his son on the way home that he wished he had such information when his son was in ninth grade, so his daughter and he could benefit. The information should be provided to the children years before they were college ready to enhance their drive toward a future career.

Chairperson Revere commented more time was needed, so she would figure out where to do a workshop for a whole day; she would bring in people who would provide help with ACT, SAT, essay writing, and college application writing, and she would do the scholarship piece. Attendees would move through the workshop, going from room to room, getting help in the various areas. She

remarked once the holiday season was over, the PRAB members needed to decide when they would conduct a college readiness workshop; it could be advertised on the City's media platforms, and on the radio. The past Saturday she distributed booklets to students, so they could learn how to estimate costs for college at both private and public institutions. She had the material, so it was just a matter of getting the information to students.

Ms. Lovell-Santos stated Parks staff identified a grant, so they submitted the letter to apply for the grant to get the cart, etc., for the programs. Staff identified three locations at which the workshop could be held.

Chairperson Revere thought this would be a blessing, as it meant they would have a computer card, so when she conducted her workshops, she could tell the children to go on the website while they were at the workshop, and fill out the scholarship application(s). They would need guidance, and there would be sufficient city staff and board members to help in this regard. She hoped the PRAB could host a 5K event to raise funds that would help to award Miramar students scholarships.

Vice Chairperson Hall thought the board could start with piggybacking on existing 5K city events, as many teen runners usually participated.

Chairperson Revere concurred, as the PRAB was more visible, so the board needed to do more fundraising; possibilities included hosting a scholarship banquet; along with selling tickets, each elected official could buy a table.

Ms. Lovell-Santos mentioned Commissioner Colbourne would be attending the board's January 27th, 2025, regular board meeting.

Chairperson Revere thanked board members for volunteering their time in service to the City of Miramar, wishing them a blessed holiday.

Ms. Parchment-Green thanked Dr. Revere, on behalf of the PRAB members, for her leadership, and for all she did to help people.

Mr. Gani echoed thanks to Dr. Revere and Parks staff for the exemplary work they did, wishing everyone a good Christmas season, and a Happy New Year.

Ms. Lovell-Santos noted the Junkanoo with Santa event was being hosted by Commissioner Chambers; as the host, he was likely to drop in for a little while, as there were other city events taking place on December 21st.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting would be Monday, January 27, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.



Dr. Yelena Revere, Chairperson
YR/cp