



THE CITY OF MIRAMAR PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 27, 2025

6:30 P.M.

The City of Miramar's Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) met for its regular meeting on Monday, October 27, 2025, 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
Abdool Gani
Carlister Gordon
Nichola Officer
Synthia Parchment-Green
Joshua Rhodes
Kimberlee Williams

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

Roland Cherasard
Carlos Ramsay
Sherria Williams (Excused)

A quorum was achieved.

Staff present:

Billy Neal, Director, Parks & Recreation (P&R)
Jacqueline Lovell-Santos, Dept. Coordinator, P&R
Dr. Ann Marie McSwain, COO for Health and Education
Rashad Thomas,

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **September 19, 2025**

Mr. Gordon made a motion to approve the minutes of September 19, 2025, as presented, seconded by Mr. Rhodes. The motioned passed unanimously.

5. WELCOME GUEST SPEAKERS

- **City Commissioner Carson “Eddy” Edwards**

Chairperson Revere welcomed City Commissioner Edwards.

COMMISSIONER EDWARDS: It's overdue. I think I missed the invitation a couple of times, but I am here to observe here. I know you guys do a fantastic job, Parks & Recreation Department is always just so busy doing a lot of things. So I'm here to observe, and hear from you; that's the purpose of my presence here.

Chairperson Revere, on behalf of the board, thanked Commissioner Edwards for taking the time to observe the best and most active advisory board in the City at work; the board would continue to make the City Commissioners proud. Miramar's children were the board's constituents, and the board worked with Parks staff to do what was necessary to bridge the gap between the children and the City.

Vice Chairperson Hall remarked the board enjoyed inviting the elected officials to sit in on board meetings, as this facilitates the board having a relationship with each member of the Commission; it enables the board's ability to share information on its initiatives and activities with them. He noted there would be times when the board would ask each elected official's office for assistance with the its programming, and the board was available to assist any elected officials with the initiatives they championed.

Chairperson Revere indicated the board planned to expand its activities, along with the existing initiatives it engaged in each year, including toy drives, back-to-school events, health services, food drives, etc. The plan was to partner with the Memorial Healthcare System to bring in more services for Miramar's youths, including immunizations, health checkups and assessments, etc. She said this was the reason the board welcome the elected officials attendance at the monthly meetings, as apprising them of what the board was doing enable each elected official to determine if they wished to partner with the board on any of these activities.

Ms. Parchment-Green restated the board sometimes needed financial assistance to help bring their initiatives to fruition, and they hoped Commissioner Edwards could help, if asked, at such times.

COMMISSIONER EDWARDS: But, certainly, I'm someone that, one, for me, health, activeness is my lifestyle, and I loved to see adults, as well as kids, live a health lifestyle in terms of an active lifestyle more than anything else. And using our parks, and programs that is put on by Parks & Rec to support, you know, activities, organized activities, I'm always for that, so that's high on my priority list as well, so. And any opportunities that I can help, I certainly will. I'd love to have a list of the activities that is offered by the board, and then we could look at, you know, enhancing what needs enhancing, and how we can help.

Ms. Parchment-Green mentioned speaking with Commissioner Edwards from time to time about collaborating on different events; she was unsure if he took over the Kite Festival.

COMMISSIONER EDWARDS: No, Cherasard has that event, yes, Commissioner Cherasard.

Ms. Parchment-Green said whenever Commissioner Edwards's events came up, he should feel free to reach out to the board for assistance, as the members did not mind putting in the work.

Mr. **Gordon 8:12** thanked Commissioner Edwards for attending the meeting mentioning their having some back and forth conversation the previous Saturday, adding that the board appreciated his partnering with the board to host its last food drive. Echoing the board's willingness to assist on any of his initiatives.

COMMISSIONER EDWARDS: Again, for me, the residents takes priority and all that, and so whenever we get a chance to serve the residents, that's up on my list there. And I don't think I need reinvent the wheel; I think we have a very good machine in place, so it's just how we improve it, that's where I want to see. And

it's not necessarily doing more events, but it's really doing quality events that serves the residents; again, that's kind of what I look at. My outlook on life, you know, I am not looking to do things to get my name on it, and have 20 events with my name on it; that's not who Commissioner Edwards is. I am one -- yeah, I want us to, you know, have quality things that really resonate, and is effective within the community. And we assess that there's a need in a particular area, then that's where we want to help deliver that resource, or service to the residents. So that's my thinking, and how I approach this position that I'm in.

Vice Chairperson Hall remarked the board sought to create a signature event for each member of the Commission, in order to annualize the board's activities, so as Commissioner Edwards looked through the list of activities the board engaged in each year, he could select a particular event he wished to endorse. For example, former Commissioner Barnes chose to partner with the board on its annual back-to-school Uniform Drive. He noted that, in selecting an event, the board had a year to plan a quality event knowing which elected official annually sponsored that event.

COMMISSIONER EDWARDS: And one of the things that I am looking to do is involve and include our business community, in terms of supporting some of our initiatives, because I firmly believe in full, wholesome support from a community. So we support the businesses, the businesses should support us as well. And I would love to be able to provide opportunities for businesses to participate, get some recognition, but also be part of whatever we do. You know, I think that helps relieve some of the financial burden, because as much as my office has some allocation of funds, you're not the only guys coming, and asking, you know. I look at it sometimes, and I'm like, "Wow, this is like -- we don't have enough." But it doesn't mean that we have to say no; if we get creative with ways to find additional resources, and I say partner with some of our businesses; you know, we have major corporations. At the higher level, there's some that can give couple thousand, and at the lower level, we find some of the small business help a couple hundred, and they'll help support some of the smaller things. So what I'm looking to do with my office is I'm in the process of having one of my aides develop a package, a support package, so that we'll -- her job is to communicate with the businesses, and have them support, so we'll build up a separate fund that small, large, medium business will support into that, and we'll have additional funding to support. So that's how I'm looking to be able to support some of the many asks that the office gets.

Mr. Gani commented that board members helped out Parks & Recreation staff by going around to different parks to determine their needs, and then brought that information back to staff and the Commission as to what was needed.

COMMISSIONER EDWARDS: I'm glad you made that point, because -- and I don't remember which park upgrade; I think it was that very first park that we had -- we had a park upgrade, and I spoke at that park, and I was newly elected then. And I said I want to present all 40 parks, right, that's here in Miramar. And I am planning to do it, and document it, and have it as one of those video pieces that is aired on Miramar TV; listing every park in Miramar, so people get a sense of what these parks are, where they are, and the offerings at these parks.. Because we have several different parks that would be something attractive to different people, you know. If you just want to sit and relax in a tranquil area, we have a number of those parks; we have the very active parks, you know, and I think I want to highlight that, so that is a project I'm going to embark on with Marketing. All right.

Ms. Officer recalled that was one of the requests the board received earlier in 2025, and the board was supposed to tour the City's parks as a group, a form of field trip; Commissioner Edwards was invited to join the board.

Vice Chairperson Hall concurred, stating the bus tour of the 40 parks could take a day.

Parks & Recreation Director Billy Neal stated the bus tour of all the City's parks would likely take at least a couple days.

COMMISSIONER EDWARDS: Yeah. It won't be a one-day venture; I wanted to do it over a period of time, but record it as well with just snippets of that park, a quick overview of what that park offers, and me inviting the public to come visit this park. I think that would be something awesome for us to do from Parks & Rec.

Mr. Gani noted the past Saturday night the City held a Food & Wine Festival that was a good event, and he observed the event well attended by local residents, as the City had limited adult, evening recreational options. He thought more of such events could be hosted by the City to keep local residents active.

COMMISSIONER EDWARDS: I'll tell you this. One of the visions that I had at one point was for Regional; Regional could be a destination event, and when I say that, not when we're having events, but we have a concession area there that we could really up, and we could create a little area where on a Friday, or from a Thursday evening we have some music, and it's just a gathering spot that people can come and relax, get something to eat, and feel safe, and there's some entertainment.

Mr. **18:09** said Commissioner Edwards was an entertainment genius.

Mr. Gani commented on some cities having a regular food truck night, when local residents knew food trucks would be present at a particular location on a set day of the week; they went to the location, met up with other people, bought food, and sat outside eating and talking together.

COMMISSIONER EDWARDS: On the other side of that, this city has so many events, right; I don't know how many more events you want to add to the schedule.

Mr. Gani pointed out he was speaking about a regular event aside from the other events, whereby, residents knew on a particular day every week at a set location there would be live music, food for sale, and a place for people to socialize. For example, every Wednesday night, people went to a location in Hollywood, where people knew they could meeting, listen to live music, buy food and drink, and sit around talking/dancing, etc.

COMMISSIONER EDWARDS: Those are some options, really. But, again, how do we sustain that; how do we fund it; so if we can answer those questions, we can make it happen.

Mr. Gani thought it would depend on whether the vendors wished to come out on a regular basis, etc.

Vice Chairperson Hall thought the vendors alone could not sustain the regularity; it was an idea the board could pencil in, and figure out the logistics over time.

COMMISSIONER EDWARDS: What I'd say, again, I don't think Miramar is lacking in entertainment, so if I'm going to add something, I'm going to look for something that's missing. That's really where I want to go. How do I create something that contributes to youth development? Right. We just spoke about kids, right, so what is it that we can do for kids, to help kids.

Chairperson Revere suggested starting an incubator, whereby, children who wished to become entrepreneurs, and they could be taught entrepreneurship; the incubator could include the City's small businesses helping the youths develop these skills. The youths could draft a business plan, do a competition, going through a process of learning to understand what they needed to do, and once they completed the process, a ceremony could be held at which the youths would present their business plan in front of the local businesses, and the latter could select the winners. The winners could be awarded dollar prizes as seed money to start their business.

COMMISSIONER EDWARDS: I like that idea, but I would shift that department -- that idea for Economic Development, for me, because the Parks & Rec, that's our lane, and I would look for recreational stuff.

Chairperson Revere thought what she suggested was recreational, stating she was an educator for over 40 years, and for 15 years she taught a program at Florida Memorial during summer where youths were educated on starting their business. It was a five-week program during which they went through the curriculum, and at the end the participants were put into an incubator, so they could go to the next level; this helped the youths determine whether they were serious or not about starting a business. She said such a program need not be under the Economic Development Department, just monitored by someone who knew what they were doing; when working with youths, it was sometimes necessary to do activities outside the box to gain their interest. For example, in their program, activities included showing youths how to run a kiosk business; the important thing was to make it a fun process for them. Dr. Revere commented she was referring to recreational activities for older children, as there were always more activities available for younger children.

Mr. Rhodes concurred as to providing such programs for older children, as he was once involved in a program in Jacksonville where they did similar activities with older youths, incorporating fun activities during the summer months. The program was run by a system that allowed participants to decide whether they wished to play sports all day, or do the entrepreneurial program, or a combination of both.

Vice Chairperson Hall thought the board could explore the possibility further.

COMMISSIONER EDWARDS: I'm just going to look at what we've got, I'll see that schedule, and then I'll be able to look at it, identify what I'd love to have as a signature event annually, and you will tell me where you'll need assistance. I will be going to get funding; like I said, I'm going to look at funding from corporate, so we'll have some funds to help, and then my visit to 41 parks.

Mr. Neal said it was 40 parks.

Chairperson Revere highly recommended Commissioner Edwards contact Royal Caribbean; they had offices nearby, and their corporate office was in Miami, as they contributed a lot to youth programs. Other Miramar corporations included: Southern Glazer, the area hotels, etc., as most of them had someone dedicated to their community outreach efforts.

COMMISSIONER EDWARDS: I'm in the process of setting up my veterans, you

know, all this stuff that we're going to be requesting.

Vice Chairperson Hall mentioned the numerous Fortune 500 companies located in Miramar.

Chairperson Revere mentioned Helen O'Connor was a contact person at Royal Caribbean's corporate office.

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Ms. Lovell-Santos stated the board was being provided with jackets, shirts, for members to wear at events representing the board. The board also had a banner, and a tablecloth.

Mr. Neal indicated most of these items were purchased with the proceeds from the board's fundraising activities.

6. CITY UPDATES: PARKS & RECREATION: Director Billy Neal

P&R Director Billy Neal provide updates on City events, as detailed in the backup:

- The City's Halloween event would take place on Friday, October 31, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at which the City expected some 5,000 children; there would be rides, games, and arts and craft activities; candy would be distributed, for which the City spent \$30,000.00 worth of candy
- Vice Mayor Colbourne's Mile Run event would take place on Saturday, November 1 starting at 7:00 a.m.; the event would begin at the Ansin Sports Center to the present location and back; staff from all departments would be participating; there were about five or six sponsors for the event, and awards would be handed out at the end
- Food Drive on November 15, which was a turkey drive.

Chairperson Revere confirmed with Farm Share they would provide 500 for that day; she was unsure about produce, but they would provide canned goods.

Ms. Lovell-Santos sought clarification the Farm Share contact understood the food was being distributed to Miramar residents only.

Mr. Neal continued his update:

- The City Commissioners would receive 300 turkeys each for distribution on November 15; the event would be 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Miramar

Regional Park

- The City's annual Veterans Day Ceremony on ?? honoring those persons who served in the American armed forces; the event would take place at the Veterans Memorial Park in Historic Miramar, 11:00 a.m. for about an hour and a half.

Chairperson Revere asked if the City would be handing out coins this year.

Ms. Lovell-Santos indicated she had to check the inventory of coins, though she did not think there were many left. The board could still have a table to hand them out if there sufficient to hand out.

Chairperson Revere thought the veterans gratefully appreciated being handed the coins.

Mr. Rhodes affirmed it meant something to servicemen in the military when they received a coin.

Ms. Lovell-Santos added that board members could hand out information on resources for veterans at the table.

Chairperson Revere concurred, as many veterans were unaware of the available services from which they could benefit. She would check with Miami who their Broward counterpart who was knowledgeable on veterans services to see if they could be present to give information as well.

7. EVENT RECAP - Board

- Community Food Drive - October 11th
- Mentor Program - October 18th

Chairperson Revere noted though she was out of town for the food drive, Ms. Lovell-Santos did a good job ensuring everything ran smoothly; Commissioner Edwards was the named sponsor on the flyer for the food drive, asking him how he thought it went.

COMMISSIONER EDWARDS: It went well. Good steady flow.

Chairperson Revere agreed, noting the Parks staff and the board liked the venue, and they had a system that worked well, with the line of people driving through to pick up food flowing efficiently; walk-ins were not allowed. She moved onto the Mentor Program on October 18, thanking Mr. Rhodes for being his backup. She did the scholarship program, with the participants coming from

Miramar High School to participate in a program on Saturdays. She was getting ready to release her November scholarship bulletin; she sent information to Reggie Williams, so he could put it out to the children. Dr. Revere would, again, be working with FAMU to provide tutoring to the students for SAT and ACT, so they could get higher scores. She also provided students with various financial aid websites, so they could apply to access those dollars for college; she provided the participants with a book to help them navigate their high school career. She encouraged students to apply for scholarships, as the funding was there, it just had to be accessed by the students/parents, regardless if the goal was a private or public college. Mr. Reggie told her the information she sent him was well received, and parents were pleased to get it; she would do so again when he was ready. She wished to do a summit on a Saturday at a city park; the activities would include tutoring sessions on SAT, ACT, the writing, and scholarships; the event could include serving a continental breakfast and/or a box lunch.

Vice Chairperson Hall believed Reggie wished to extend the program to younger children, as he thought the board's efforts were catering to the children too late.

Chairperson Revere agreed, as she provided help for children starting from kindergarten through the doctorate program; that is, the bulletin she posted had scholarships from kindergarten to 12th grade, but she could do a scholarship analysis based on the desired major for students already in college, or adults wishing to go back to college, and she would find the scholarships available for that major.

Vice Chairperson Hall stated he stressed to Reggie the importance of parental involvement if the program was being extended to younger students.

Chairperson Revere mentioned when the summit was held for the older students, the activities would include information on financial aid, so parents understood what was available, what needed to be done to access those dollars.

Ms. Officer mentioned that her daughter was a member of the City's Youth Advisory Council (YAC), and they were working on a similar program; in listening to Dr. Revere, and listening to her daughter, they appeared to be doing the same thing. She wondered if the board would consider inviting YAC members to speak at a meeting about their efforts; they sought to introduce scholarship information to their peers, as the YAC members attended a variety of high schools.

Chairperson Revere said YAC members should be invited to attend the summit, where they could get additional information, and get the link to access to her monthly bulletin, which she said was separate from her website. There were

billions of dollars in scholarships available, many of which the BRACE counselor were unaware.

Ms. Lovell-Santos said the board and staff needed to look at the budget, and available dates to hold the summit.

Vice Chairperson Hall felt there was a disconnect between the School Board and the cities, and when cities tried to help, they were blocked from doing so.

Chairperson Revere mentioned trying to hold the summit in the City previously, so it would be great if it could be held; she would invite someone from the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) to speak to participants, and show students and parents how to use their platform, where it would be possible to access more financial aid opportunities that could still be accessed while still in college. She mentioned the board hosting a scholarship banquet to raise money for high school seniors wishing to further their education after graduating; the funds could be used to purchase essential items needed while studying, such a microwave, or small refrigerator for their dorm. The program would be for Miramar residents only. She said that since the City had its own 501(c)(3), donations could be accepted to fund these education programs that benefited Miramar students.

Mr. Gordon advocated for the City to have a program that helped Miramar youths who were interested in careers in the construction industry, such as those wishing to acquire a general contractors license. He was very interested in the construction industry, and he finally passed all his State exams, and he was in Broward doing building construction technology, and he wanted to pass this on to youths who wanted to get into construction.

Chairperson Revere stated Home Depot recently began a program on Saturdays offering youths free training and certification for a contractor's license, and HVAC license; the program provided training and certification; she sent out the information.

Ms. Lovell-Santos asked for the information to be sent to her. There were students who graduated high school, but had no interest in going to college, and such training and certification might interest them.

Chairperson Revere affirmed many students had no interest going to college, but they were open to learning a trade, so she had her sources send her information on training for a variety of trades she could pass on.

8. BOARD UPDATES:

- Thanksgiving "Turkey Giveaway" - November 15th
- Around the Table

Discussed earlier.

9. UPCOMING EVENTS – ADVISORY BOARD PARTICIPATION:

Discussed earlier.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting would be Monday, November 24, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.



Dr. Yelena Revere, Chairperson
YR/cp