



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

SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

6:30 P.M.

The City of Miramar's Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) met for its regular meeting on Monday, September 22, 2025, at 6:34 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
Roland Cherasard
Carlister Gordon
Synthia Parchment-Green
Joshua Rhodes
Carlos Ramsay

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

Lair Hall, Vice Chairperson (Excused)
Abdool Gani (Excused)
Nichola Officer (Excused)
Kimberlee Williams (Excused)
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:

- **July 28, 2025**

Mr. Gordon made a motion to approve the minutes of July 28, 2025, as presented, seconded by Ms. Parchment-Green. The motioned passed unanimously.

5. Welcome Guest Speakers

- **Dr. Ann Marie McSwain, COO for Health and Education, City of Miramar**

Ms. Lovell-Santos explained Dr. McSwain was joining the board's meeting, as Parks hosted a number of health, and wellness events for the City's children; she had connections with Miramar Regional, and **(unintelligible 2:34)**. Staff wished to see how Dr. McSwain and the board could work together for the City's next summer camp, so it could be less disjointed; this included not only opening summer camp to youths, but to adults.

COO for Health and Education Dr. Ann Marie McSwain mentioned working for the City for two years, giving a brief overview of her credentials that included working as a nurse in various locations, as well as a hospital administrator. Overall, she spent 22 years in the clinical setting, 20 years in academics before coming to the City of Miramar. She was present to explore ideas with the board on how they could collaborate, asking when the 2026 summer camp would begin.

Ms. Lovell-Santos indicated summer camp usually began in June, and health and wellness programs were held at the beginning when there were more children in attendance. In the past, Parks worked with Colgate for the dental portion, as well as a partnerships to provide vision screenings, and immunizations for the children in preparation for the new school year.

Dr. McSwain said she put together a list, asking the board to set a date when

they wished the programming to begin; with a date, she could gather the various individuals.

Parks & Recreation Director Billy Neal added that the City did similar health and wellness screenings at different city parks throughout the year.

Dr. McSwain affirmed they did immunizations, etc.

Ms. Lovell-Santos noted the summer camp was usually attended by about 200 Miramar children, so the board wished to provide them with more than just dental screenings, hence the addition of such services as immunizations, vision, etc. The plan was to open those services up to adult residents as well for 2026. She mentioned the board sought to work with St. Nicholas to do scoliosis screenings.

Dr. McSwain stated Memorial had an adult mobile unit, and one for children.

Ms. Lovell-Santos pointed out that they created a flyer for the wellness day. This would be done during the camp hours, so children were taken to the wellness event location to have dental screening, and work on their teeth, and in 2025, families were invited to do similar screenings, etc. With regard to vision screenings, the board worked with Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program, but the cost of their services was based on income, which some parents did not understand, so many families did not turn up. For 2026, the goal was to get all the children's eyes tested regardless.

Dr. McSwain noticed that the board's agenda had a college prep initiative, for which she distributed copies of a list of websites that might be valuable.

Chairperson Revere said she was starting the college prep program the coming Thursday with FAMU to do free ACT and SAT virtual tutoring. She taught scholarship readiness, teaching students how to search for the numerous scholarship opportunities, and how to pace themselves; student were asked to do a feasibility study that included questions as to whether they wished to attend a private or public institution. They were then helped to calculate tuition, room/board, books, meal plan, etc. for each institution, multiply that by four, so they could to determine the amount of grant funding they should seek.

Ms. Lovell-Santos indicated that the board helped Reggie Williams, Parks Manager of the City's athletics programs, with his mentorship program, but the board wished to hold its scholarship readiness program classes in east and west Miramar. The board was working on how to develop the program in this manner, exploring available grants to purchase laptops, and other devices, so young attendees had what they needed.

- **Rashad Thomas - Regional Director, External & Legislative Affairs - AT&T**

Mr. Rhodes noted that Mr. Thomas, a Miramar resident of about 15 years, and a mutual friend, was present to discuss with the board ways in which AT&T could partner with them on their programs and initiatives.

Rashad Thomas, Regional Director, External & Legislative Affairs, AT&T, commented that the company already partnered with the City on various initiatives, including with Mr. Williams on a mural project that was now displayed at the YEC basketball court, as well as partnering with the Miami Heat on a basketball summer camp that had a very good turnout. Hearing the board discussion on getting funding to purchase laptops for the scholarship readiness program, he said one of AT&T's current programs was their "Bridging the Digital Divide", hosting several laptop distributions throughout Miami-Dade, and Broward Counties. He said he could send Mr. Rhodes and/or city staff the information for upcoming events in Miami and Broward, so the board could share it with their family and friends; the goal was to distribute 250 laptops in partnership with world soccer organization, FIFA, and Inter Miami soccer club. Mr. Thomas explained that in order for them to host an event in Miramar, a nonprofit organization AT&T could work with had to be identified; the event would likely take place in 2026.

Mr. Neal said the City of Miramar had a nonprofit organization, asking if any criteria had to be met in order to receive a laptop.

Mr. Thomas answered no.

Ms. Lovell-Santos asked to be sent the information for upcoming events, as the City had a winter camp coming up, and she could share the information with the parents, etc.

Mr. Thomas added that for 2025, through AT&T partnering with various nonprofits, they gave away about 1,500 laptops throughout both counties; the devices were per family, as the registration was one per household based on their telephone number. They were refurbished laptops that came with a two-year warranty.

Chairperson Revere questioned how the board could partner with AT&T on their college readiness initiatives, as they were looking for funding to acquire computers to facilitate the program, particularly if there was a way for the students who participated to acquire a laptop. Many children did not have computers at home, and both Dade and Broward Schools stopped distributing

laptops to students, which they did during the pandemic. Students had to use computers in libraries, etc. to get their homework done; having their own computer would help them matriculate through the college process easier.

Mr. Thomas reiterated this would be possible for a 2026 event if the board could find a nonprofit AT&T could partner with. It was possible for some Miramar students to receive laptops if they registered to attend AT&T's remaining events in Broward County; they just needed to register and attend the event(s). Going into 2026, the board could partner with AT&T to distribute at least 150 laptops, as this was the minimum per distribution event.

Ms. Lovell-Santos said she would review the board's scholarship program information, look at dates and send them to Mr. Thomas, as well as contact an elected official to sponsor the event.

Mr. Thomas gave his contact number: 305-345-6084.

6. City Updates: Parks & Recreation Director Billy Neal

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

- There were five city events held in September
- September 11: 9/11 Veterans Memorial Ceremony
- September 13: Pickle Ball Court Grand Opening; Parks partnered with Florida Pickle Ball to host a tournament, along with opportunities to play with a pro, pro demonstrations, and participate in a tournament; there were over 30 to 40 participants; the event was very well attended; the sport was extremely popular, and the City's pickle ball courts in all areas of Miramar were well utilized
- The Latin Music Festival took place the previous Saturday, with the kickoff on the 16th; there were over 5,000 attendees; though it rained during the day, there was no rain during the event
- The Drone Show would cap off the September events at the Henry D. Perry Park on Friday, September 26, 2025, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; the last event was held at the Miramar Regional Park, and there were some 2,000 drones involved; the show was free for Miramar residents.

7. BOARD UPDATES: NONE

8. UPCOMING EVENTS – ADVISORY BOARD PARTICIPATION:

- Community Food Drive - October 11th

- Thanksgiving “Turkey Giveaway”

Mr. Neal pointed out that Commissioners Cherasard and Edwards had yet to host one of the board’s food drives; Commissioner Edwards would host October 11th, and the board could look at doing one more for the calendar year hosted by Commissioner Cherasard.

Chairperson Revere said she spoke to her Farm Share contact, as they were working on turkeys for another of her projects, and she asked him to provide the fixings, if the City provided the turkeys.

Mr. Neal explained that the City planned to distribute 1,500 turkeys; that is, 300 per elected official.

Ms. Lovell-Santos thought there should be a date in December that the board could hold a food giveaway hosted by Commissioner Cherasard.

Mr. Neal clarified the fixings were needed for the 1,500 turkeys.

Chairperson Revere stated she would contact Farm Share, and let staff know. She asked if the board was still doing its annual toy drive.

Mr. Neal answered yes; the board needed to select a date. The 2024 event was done at the same time Commissioner Chambers hosted the Santa’s Breakfast, so he would check with Commissioner Chambers to see if he was willing partner with the board to host one big event. He was the only commissioner hosting a seasonal event in December.

Chairperson Revere mentioned she had 44 pallets of toys for toy giveaways, and they could be wrapped and distributed at Commissioner Chambers’s Santa’s Breakfast event; the toys would be wrapped, and tagged to say from the board and Parks staff.

Mr. Neal felt the gift tags should just say from the advisory board, as that was understood to include Parks staff.

Chairperson Revere noted she would be concentrating on distributing toys to the migrant camps in Miami, but if she was given a number for the students in elementary schools, she could do an additional toy distribution for them. Designated board members could drop toys off to each Miramar school.

Ms. Lovell-Santos mentioned the upcoming mentoring program at the YEC on October 18 and 25, and November 1 and 8; she would send the board members

the dates, so they could let her know which dates they were available to help.

Chairperson Revere said if she was out of town on those dates, Mr. Rhodes would do the trainings. There were scholarships for students of all grades, and she recently completed her September and October bulletin for scholarships from K through 12; the website she built had many scholarships, and participants were taught to navigate the website. The first thing students were told to do was go on Raise Me, where students could join to receive micro dollars; as students went through high school, they added their achievements, such as grades, awards, activities to their Raise Me account to earn micro dollars. When they reached 12th grade, and were accepted to attend a college, the micro dollars went to the college to help with those expenses. Dr. Revere said all this, and more information was provided on her website.

Ms. Lovell-Santos noted that the feedback from the 2024 event was so positive, and that the City asked to do the program again, and they wished to include parents, so they could see what was available. Last year individuals were trained by Dr. Revere, so they could mentor the attendees, and board members could help as well.

Ms. Parchment-Green asked about scholarships for people desiring a college education after they left high school.

Chairperson Revere responded that she only needed to know what major they desired, so she could look at the scholarships associated with the major. She commented that she would contact the persons at FAMU who did the free SAT and ACT tutoring mentioned earlier to see if they would come out on the October and November dates to work with the students. She hoped to do a full day symposium for Miramar student residents, where they would receive SAT and ACT training, help with the college application process, the scholarship application process, and the applying for financial aid; a sponsor could be sought to provide lunch. This was the goal for the new fiscal year, and the event could be held twice a year, so students could apply for scholarships before the submission deadlines, so one event could be held during the summer.

Dr. McSwain asked if the PRAB worked with the Education Advisory Board (EAB), to which she was told no by staff and some board members. She was unsure what work they did.

Mr. Neal knew they had a scholarship program, but he was unsure about the credentials of the EAB members.

Ms. Lovell-Santos said she would see who served on the EAB, and possibly

invite them to a PRAB meeting. She went on to ask members to let her know which members planned to work at the October food drive hosted by Commissioner Edwards.

Mr. Gordon sought additional information on the availability of scholarships for persons who did not decide to attend college until after they left high school.

Chairperson Revere restated she just needed the major to see what scholarships were available.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.



Dr. Yelena Revere, Chairperson
YR/cp