

MINUTES
Sunshine Meeting
on Optimist Park Alternatives
December 7, 2022
4:00 PM
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. Call to Order:

The meeting began at 4:16 p.m.

The following Councilmembers were present: Councilmember Luis E. Collazo, Councilmember Josh Dieguez, Marilyn Ruano and Vice Mayor Carlos O. Alvarez. Councilmember Ray Garcia was present via teleconference and Councilmember Tony Fernandez arrived at 4:40 p.m.

The following Town Staff members were present: Town Manager Edward Pidermann, Deputy Town Manager Tony Lopez, Town Clerk Gina M. Inguanzo, Deputy Town Clerk Victoria Martinez, Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun, Grants and Governmental Affairs Manager Renee Wilson, Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella, and Assistant to the Mayor Joseph Sosa.

The following were also present: State Representative Tom Fabricio and Legislative Aide Nikita Mizgirev, Former Vice Mayor Jeffrey Rodriguez, District Aide Darvin Somarriba, and Miami-Dade County Public Schools North Region Office Administrative Director Leonard Torres. Miami-Dade County School Board Member Roberto Alonso and Chief of Staff Roger Miret were present via teleconference.

2. Items Discussed:

Councilmember Ruano opened the Sunshine Meeting and explained this meeting is to begin conversations about what to do going forward with the Optimist Park as the bond failed in the General Election.

Councilmember Ruano then expressed that the Town is looking for partners at the School Board, State, and Federal levels for potential funding sources to refurbish the Optimist Park. State Representative Fabricio stated that he can ask for the funds however usually projects are focused on roads and drainage that are less than \$1 million with 50% matching funds. He added he has filed for recreational projects in the past, but they are not guaranteed.

During the meeting it was discussed that the Optimist Park floods and perhaps it can be a potential drainage project. It was also mentioned that currently, Optimist Park fields have no drainage and all of the water falls to a catch basin.

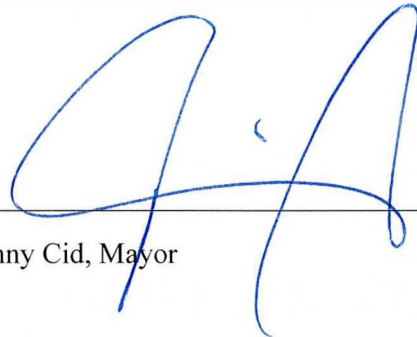
School Board Member Alonso suggested incorporating school activities from Miami Lakes Middle School and to have the principal more involved in the usage of the Optimist Park. Finally, State Representative Fabricio suggested as a next step to have a meeting between himself, School Board Member Roberto Alonso, Commissioner Rene Garcia, the Town Council, and Miami Lakes Middle School Principal Maria Medina.

As well, individuals from the public attended and gave comments throughout the entirety of the Sunshine Meeting regarding Public Private Partnerships, funding opportunities, and the Optimist Park in general.

Adjournment:

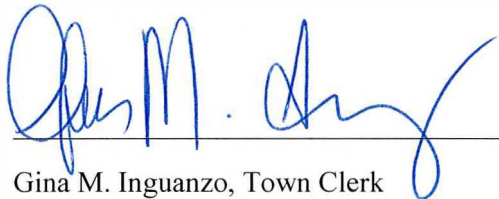
This meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Approved this 10th day of January 2023.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk