

MINUTES
Sunshine Meeting
December 12, 2023
11:00 AM
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 11:08 a.m.

The following Councilmembers were present: Councilmember Luis E. Collazo and Councilmember Josh Dieguez.

The following Town Staff members were present: Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun, Deputy Town Manager Tony Lopez, Deputy Town Clerk Victoria Martinez, and Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella.

Also present at the meeting were: Jim Hamilton and Chris McCall from the Miami Lakes Optimist Club, Alvin Murray from the Miami Lakes United Soccer Club, and Lynn Matos.

2. Items Discussed:

This meeting was called to discuss the Miami Lakes Optimist Club and Miami Lakes United Soccer Club Contracts. Councilmember Collazo and Councilmember Dieguez explained the purpose of this meeting and mentioned this is preliminary. Councilmember Dieguez added that he would like to see more free play at the parks. Councilmember Collazo mentioned that he wants to see uniformity for both clubs, build on what they are doing, and only make improvements.

Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun explained the field rotation for use and also explained that in 2018-2019, they started to align the two contracts but explained the differences in fee structure of Miami Lakes Optimist Club and Miami Lakes United Soccer Club. Mr. Alvin Murray stated what he believes is the problem with volunteer coaches in recreational soccer. He also mentioned that in youth soccer not only the kids, but the parents want to participate in travel programs.

After discussion, the idea of Barbara Goleman as an opportunity for unorganized recreational was brought up. Mr. Jim Hamilton emphasized that Barbara Goleman is to only be used for nonorganized play. Councilmember Collazo stated perhaps having another meeting like this with School Board Member Roberto Alonso.

Councilmember Collazo then explained what he experienced with the travel program and Miami Lakes Optimist Park and also mentioned what he is experiencing now with Miami Youth Baseball Association. Mr. Chris McCall stated that the reason they do not have much travel is because the talent is not there, and the kids leave to other teams. Both Mr. McCall and Mr. Hamilton expressed that they want to primarily focus on recreational ball rather than travel so that what happened to Broward Optimist Clubs doesn't happen to them.

Councilmember Dieguez then asked how the concession stands operate at both clubs. Mr. Murray explained that each team can use the concession stand once a week, they have their own account where the money goes in to and they use that money for travel team purposes. Mr. McCall stated they do something similar where they tried to have teams run it but that doesn't always work because volunteers do not show up. Councilmember Dieguez then also asked what happened with Broward Optimist Clubs and Mr. McCall stated that the focus was on travel, not recreational ball so there were not enough participants in recreational ball to keep the program going.

Councilmember Dieguez suggested continuing this conversation through another sunshine meeting once he has a more concrete draft of the contract. Councilmember Collazo added that he wants the follow up meeting to include School Board Member Roberto Alonso.

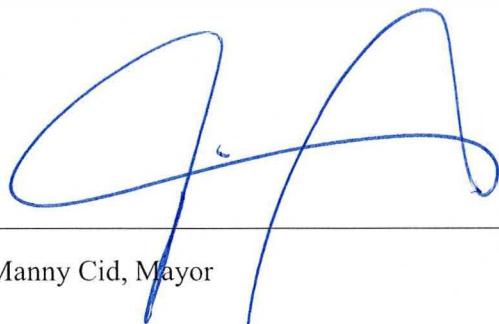
After further discussion, Ms. Lynn Matos spoke about the park and the recent Sports Hall of Fame event.

Councilmember Collazo then ended the meeting by proposing extending the current contracts by 6 months or a year to continue negotiations and follow up sometime after the holidays.

3. Adjournment:

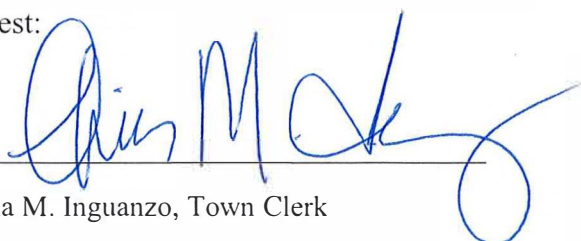
This meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Approved this 16th day of January 2024.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk