



**CITY OF MIRAMAR
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor, Vice Mayor, & City Commissioners
FROM: Dr. Roy L. Virgin, City Manager *Roy L. Virgin*
BY: Billy Neal, Parks & Recreation Director
DATE: March 12, 2026
RE: Temp. Reso. No. 8641 – Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Update

1. Introduction

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board’s principal function is to advise and make recommendations to the City Commission on matters concerning recreation, athletic and special event activities within the community.

The board meets the fourth Monday of every month with a break in August which coincides with the Commission Break, with all members being in good standing with attendance to the monthly meetings.

2. Board Composition

MEMBERS	APPOINTMENT DATE	EXPERTISE/QUALIFICATION
Dr. Yelena Revere – Chair	05/05/2021	Education Community Engagement
Mr. Lair Hall – Vice Chair	07/03/2018	Finance Community Engagement
Synthia Parchment-Green	04/20/2021	Community engagement
Sherria Williams	07/06/2022	Law Community engagement
Nichola Officer	05/17/2023	Community engagement
Joshua Rhodes	07/06/2022	Parks & Recreation
Carlos Ramsay	01/15/2000	Community engagement
Carlister Gordon	08/17/2022	Community engagement
Adbool Gani	06/13/2015	Community engagement
Roland Cherasard	06/04/2025	Community engagement
Kimberlee Williams	05/07/2025	Social Worker Community Engagement

The attendance records for all members are in good standing.

Staff Liaison: Billy Neal, Director of Parks & Recreation | bdneal@miramarfl.gov | 954-602-3344

3. Meetings and Activities

This report highlights the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2026, spanning October through March 2026.

During this period, the board actively demonstrated its commitment to the community by volunteering at a wide range of city-hosted events and collaborating closely with elected officials to support and enhance local initiatives. Their continued presence and involvement reflect a strong dedication to fostering community engagement and building meaningful connections across the city.

4. Accomplishments and Outcomes

Major Accomplishments:

- Community Food Drives
- Volunteering at City Events

The advisory board's first community food drive of the quarter took place in October, hosted by Commissioner Edwards at Lakeshore Park. During the event, 500 bags of food, generously donated by Farm Share, were distributed to community members.



Each year, the Board participates in the 'Role Models of Today Creating Leaders of Tomorrow' event at the Vernon E. Hargray Community Center, sharing scholarship information, test prep guidance, and college essay tips with students and parents.



The Board actively participated in the MLK Day Celebration, the Annual Turkey Giveaway, and Veterans Day observance, and continues to visit parks and facilities throughout the City. Board members regularly communicate with the Department, sharing concerns they observe firsthand or that are brought to their attention by community members. Their ongoing engagement helps ensure that City amenities continue to meet the needs of all residents.



5. Challenges and Lessons Learned

The Board identified that many community members, including those at the Miramar Campus, were unaware of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and its role. In response, members have made a deliberate effort to increase their visibility and serve as active ambassadors for Parks & Recreation by attending as many City events as possible. Their presence continues to grow through participation in community outreach events, inviting elected officials to Board meetings, and collaborating with City leaders on initiatives that engage and benefit local residents.

6. Financial Overview

The Board operates without a dedicated budget for events and relies on its own resources to support initiatives. To raise funds and strengthen community connections, members have begun selling Italian ice at select City events, as well as partnering with elected officials.

These efforts not only generate additional funding but also help foster meaningful partnerships that bring more events to Miramar and create opportunities to collaborate with elected officials on initiatives that benefit the community.

7. Future Plans and Recommendations

The board is committed to bringing events and resources to the Miramar community with a primary focus on:

- Mentoring youth
- Sharing scholarship opportunities and assisting with college applications
- Community resources
- Senior assistance

Key Goals:

1. Support Higher Education:

- Address the lack of higher education in African American communities by educating families about available resources and opportunities.
- Minimize the financial burden for families seeking higher education for their children.
- Work with sponsors and donors to ensure necessary resources and funding are available for these efforts.

2. Summer Programs for Youth:

- Provide engaging and educational activities for Miramar Summer Campers, preparing them for the upcoming school year.
 - *Example: "Bright Smiles, Bright Futures"* – A program sponsored by Colgate to encourage healthy dental habits.
 - *Back-to-School Health Day* – Ensuring that all children are in good health and ready for the school year.

3. Focus on Senior and At-Risk Residents:

- Expanding efforts to include support and services for senior residents and those at risk within the community.

4. Collaborate with Parks & Recreation leadership to promote inclusion for all community members within park amenities and programming.

- For example, developing programs specifically designed for young adults on the autism spectrum.

Approach:

- Collaboration with local organizations, sponsors, and community leaders.
- Hosting targeted events, educational workshops, and outreach programs.

8. Conclusion

This report covers the first quarter for the Fiscal Year 2026, October 2026 through to, and including, March 2026 as well as gives a glimpse into future events that the Board is planning to bring to the residents of Miramar.

