



CITY OF MIRAMAR INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor, Vice Mayor, & City Commissioners

FROM: Dr. Roy L. Virgin, City Manager *R. Virgin*

BY: Billy Neal Director, Parks & Recreation

DATE: July 3, 2024

RE: Temp. Reso. No. 8166 – Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Update

1. Introduction

The 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
• Mr. Lair Hall – Vice Chair	07/03/2018	Finance
• 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
• Ian Excell	09/04/2019	Community engagement

The attendance records for all members are in good standing.

3. Meetings and Activities

This report covers the first and second quarter for the Fiscal Year 2024, October 2023 through to, and including, June 2024.

The board made a conscious decision at the end of FY23 to be more engaged within the community and at the First Annual Summer Retreat the Board prepared a FY24 calendar outlining events that they will bring to the community and city events that they would like to volunteer or participate in.



4. Accomplishments and Outcomes

Major Accomplishments:

- Community Food Drives
- Back-to-School Uniform Giveaway
- Back-to-School Bookbag Giveaway
- Christmas in July
- Veterans outreach
- Volunteering at City Events

In December 2023 the Advisory Board was able to take children from the Miramar camps to the Annual LLF (Little Lighthouse Foundation) Annual Toy Drive in Miami.



For Veteran's Day the advisory board distributed commemorative coins to all attending veterans as well as provided them with a list of resources where they can obtain assistance.



The advisory board's first community food drive was held on January 27th at Lakeshore Park which was hosted by Commissioner Barnes and distributed 500 bags of food donated by Farm Share. On June 1, 2024, they held the second community food drive, hosted by Mayor Wayne Messam, at the Multiservice Center and once again distributed 500 bags of food.



The board also participated in the MLK Parade and Black History Month. During Black History Month they challenged each member to visit each facility to view their display and take pictures of their visit.



The board members continue to visit parks and facilities and send emails to the department about any concerns that they have personally found, or which have been shared with them by members of the community.

5. Challenges and Lessons Learned

At the beginning of the fiscal year, the board found that many within the community, and the Miramar Campus Community, were not aware that there was a Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and made a conscious decision to become a visible face of parks & recreation by being present at as many City Events as possible and by bring community outreach events to the residents.

6. Financial Overview

The board does not have a budget line for events and use their resources to obtain community partnerships to bring events to Miramar and also partner with Commissioners on events.

7. Future Plans and Recommendations

The board is planning to bring events to the community with a focus on mentoring and sharing scholarship opportunities, and assisting with college applications for the young adults within the Miramar Community and are working within their network for sponsorship and donations to assist with this initiative.

They would like to be part of the drive to reduce the lack of higher education within African American communities through educating the families of Miramar on resources and opportunities available to obtain assistance for children to obtain higher education with minimal financial burden.

They will also be bringing events, this summer, for all Miramar Summer Campers that will get them ready for the new school year.

"It is not only about recreation but also education to build a good future", Dr. Revere.

8. Conclusion

This report covers the first and second quarter for the Fiscal Year 2024, October 2023 through to, and including, June 2024 as well as gives a glimpse into future events that the Board is planning to bring to the residents of Miramar.