



## CITY OF MIRAMAR INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, & City Commissioners

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

**BY:** Billy Neal, Director, Parks & Recreation

**DATE:** April 10, 2025

**RE:** Temp. Reso. No. 8393 – Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Update

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### 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
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.

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### 3. Meetings and Activities

This report covers the first and second quarter for the Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 through to, and including, March 2025.

At the board's annual summer retreat, they prepared a FY25 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
- Junkanoo with Santa
- Back-to-School Uniform & School Supplies Giveaway
- Back-to-School Heal Fair
- Halloween
- Veterans outreach
- Volunteering at City Events

In October 2024 the Advisory Board participated in the City's Halloween event at the Ansin Sports Complex and had a tent to give away candies to the residents.





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.



In December, the board held its inaugural College Scholarship and Preparedness Mentoring Program at the Youth Enrichment Center. This program, designed for secondary school students in grades 9 through 12 and their parents, is exclusive to Miramar residents. It was met with a positive response and will be the first of many similar events to be hosted at various locations throughout the City.

For Christmas, the board organized the "Junkanoo with Santa" event on December 21st, hosted by Commissioner Chambers. The event invited all Miramar winter camp attendees, along with children from the daycare program, for an afternoon of festive activities. Highlights included performances by Junkanoo dancers and a special gift presentation from Santa.



The Advisory Board's first community food drive for FY25 was held on February 8<sup>th</sup> at Lakeshore Park which was hosted by Commissioner Chambers and distributed 500 bags of food donated by Farm Share. The next food drive is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> and will be hosted by Vice Mayor Colbourne.



The board also participated in the MLK Parade. They 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, by bring community outreach events to the residents, and inviting the elected officials to their board meetings.

## **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 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.

### **Approach:**

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

"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 2025, October 2024 through to, and including, March 2025 as well as gives a glimpse into future events that the Board is planning to bring to the residents of Miramar.