

MINUTES
Sunshine Meeting
to Follow-Up on Miami Lakes Optimist Park
February 27, 2023
5:30 PM
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. Call to Order:

The meeting began at 5:39 p.m.

The following Councilmembers were present: Councilmember Josh Dieguez, Councilmember Tony Fernandez, Councilmember Ray Garcia, and Councilmember Marilyn Ruano. Councilmember Luis E. Collazo arrived at 5:45 p.m.

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

The following were also present: State Representative Tom Fabricio and Legislative Aide Nikita Mizgirev, School Board Member Roberto Alonso and Chief of Staff Roger Miret, Miami-Dade County Public Schools Chief of Staff Jose Bueno, Miami Lakes Middle School Principal Maria Medina, Miami-Dade County Public Schools North Region Office Administrative Director Leonard Torres, Legislative Aide to Senator Rene Garcia, David Marin, and Former Vice Mayor Jeffrey Rodriguez.

2. Items Discussed:

Councilmember Ruano opened the Sunshine Meeting and began with introductions as they waited for Councilmember Collazo. Shortly thereafter, Councilmember Collazo arrived and spoke about the park, the design, and asked if anything could be done differently to get more value out of what's being proposed. All participants then spoke about the Joint Use Agreement (JUA) between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Town of Miami Lakes.

Councilmember Fernandez then presented his proposal and overview of the park which was phased out and did not include lighting. Miami-Dade County Public Schools Chief of Staff Jose Bueno and School Board Member Roberto Alonso emphasized that there needs to be a value added to the school so that the School Board can accept the design.

All participants then spoke about multipurpose fields, attracting multiple sports, and converting the high school field, as shown in the current design, into multiple smaller fields and green space.

Mr. Bueno also emphasized throughout the meeting for the Town Attorneys to reach out to the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Attorneys to discuss the JUA.

After further discussion, Town Manager Edward Pidermann stated there needs to be a threshold decision on the design, to either stick with the original design or an alternative design. He emphasized they need clarity from the Town Council on which way they are going.

As well, individuals from the public attended and gave comments towards the end of the Sunshine Meeting regarding the Optimist Park.

Adjournment:

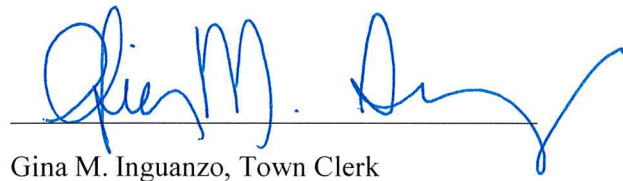
This meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Approved this 14th day of March 2023.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk