

The City of Aventura



19200 West Country Club Drive Aventura FL

City Commission Workshop Meeting

March 17, 2014
9 A.M.

Executive Conference Room

AGENDA

1. ***MAST Academy FIU Campus (Vice Mayor Weinberg) ****
2. ***Community Green Garden Update (City Manager) ****
3. ***NALEO Conference (Commissioner L. Weinberg)***
4. ***Resolution Urging County Commission to Restore Full Funding to the County Library District (Mayor Gottlieb) ****
Future Action Required: Resolution
5. ***Adjournment***

*** Back-up Information Exists**

This meeting is open to the public. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Office of the City Clerk, 305-466-8901, not later than two days prior to such proceeding.

CITY OF AVENTURA
OFFICE OF THE CITY COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM, City Manager

FROM: Commissioner Howard Weinberg

DATE: March 3, 2014

SUBJECT: **FIU MAST Academy**

Please place on the March Workshop Meeting a discussion regarding the School Board's MAST Academy at the FIU campus.

Thank you.

HW/tms



*Aventura
Community*

**GREEN
GARDEN**



NEWS RELEASE

City of Aventura

19200 West Country Club Drive
Aventura, Florida 33180

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 03/11/2014
Contact: Eric M. Soroka, City Manager
Phone: 305-466-8910
Fax: 305-466-8919

AVENTURA COMMUNITY GREEN GARDEN SET TO OPEN

Aventura, Florida ...

The City of Aventura announces the opening of the new Aventura Community Green Garden at Founders Park south on Monday April 5, 2014. This new project features the opportunity for residents to grow vegetables, flowers, herbs, and other plants in their own 4' x 12' garden section. The City is now accepting Green Garden membership and garden section rental fees which are \$100 per year and membership in the Garden Club is \$10 per year. Garden sections will be assigned in the order that applications and the required fees are received.

The Community Green Garden will feature garden sections filled with sterilized topsoil that will be fenced off and gated. Two hose bibs will be available for hand watering purposes. The Garden hours will be 8 AM - 8 PM during the summer and 8 AM - 6 PM during the winter months.

For more information, visit cityofaventura.com for the Community Green Garden Club Rules and Application, or call 305-466-8008 for more information. Applications are also available at all City parks and the Community Recreation Center.

Eric M. Soroka
City Manager

Stay informed! Visit the City's website and subscribe to **MyAventura E-Notifications**.

cityofaventura.com  [@cityofaventura](https://twitter.com/cityofaventura)

CITY OF AVENTURA

AVENTURA COMMUNITY GREEN GARDEN RULES AND APPLICATION FORM

Rules of Membership and Assignment of Garden Sections:

Members of the Community Green Garden shall submit an application for the Aventura Community Green Garden (ACGG) Membership where annual dues are \$10. Membership is for an individual or family and is non-transferable and non-refundable.

Membership is from April 1 of the current year to March 30 of the following year. New members may join at any time during the year, providing they are 14 years of age or older. Membership is limited to Aventura residents. Proof of residency is required when submitting Application.

Annual fee for one garden section is \$100 for a 4' x 12' section. Fee shall be due at the time of application and can accompany the application for membership to the ACGG. Fee is for one year. Members are limited to one section per year per household.

Garden sections are the property of the City of Aventura and cannot be sold, traded, sub-let or exchanged by members.

Garden sections will be determined by a lottery system if demand exceeds the number of garden sections available. Priority shall be given to Aventura residents who have not previously rented a garden section. A waiting list will be maintained for applicants for whom a section was not available and is based upon date of submission.

Garden Section rental applications will be available annually from February 15 through April 30. All fees are due at that time. Sections may be shared, but only one Member can be designated as the primary owner and must provide relevant information (names and contacts) on the application. All section primary owners and co-owners shall be Aventura residents, subject to satisfactory proof of residency. Partial year applications will be considered on a case by case basis, pending availability.

Assignment of the garden sections will be done at the Aventura Community Green Garden in person on a date(s) determined by the Community Services Director, or designee prior to the current season. All sections will be numbered and recorded with the current gardener(s) assigned to that section.

All gardeners are expected to volunteer a minimum of 12 hours per year toward Aventura Community Green Garden efforts such as overseeing the garden, pest inspection, applying mulch to the paths as needed, etc.

A Garden section assignment and ACGG membership may be revoked at any time if the member is guilty of failing to follow the rules of the Community Green Garden or fails to properly maintain their garden section, at the City's sole discretion. The member

will be given a fair warning as to their violation and allowed one week to remedy. The City will notify the member in writing of their violation and will inspect the section to determine the remedy was applied. In the event of a revocation, membership dues and rental fees are non-refundable.

The Gardener shall notify the City immediately if, at any time (work, illness, etc.), permanently or temporarily, they are unable to properly maintain their section.

The Community Green Garden hours follow the operating hours of Founders Park. Gardeners are expected to park only in designated parking spaces and follow the rules of the Park.

Maintenance and Use Agreement:

The Aventura Community Green Garden should be a safe and enjoyable place to garden, learn and socialize. In order to help ensure this, members of the Garden agree to the following rules, terms and conditions:

1. I am permitted to plant vegetables, flowers or a combination thereof, except for the following:
 - No illegal plants.
 - No invasive plants such as mints, ivy, liriopse, etc. in the garden.
 - No tall crops unless the crops do not shade neighboring sections.
 - No crops shall be planted in common areas outside your defined garden section.
 - Any violations will result in revocation of section rental without refund.
2. I will have my garden planted no later than April 1.
3. I understand I am expected to generally visit my section at least once a week.
4. If my section becomes unkempt, I understand I will be given a one week notice to clean it up. After notice has been given and one week has passed, if my section is still unkempt, access to and use of my section shall be terminated and re-assigned to another gardener in accordance with these rules.
5. I may ask another gardener who is a member of the Garden to water my section or care for it if I cannot, but a non-member is not permitted to stop by and water my section, harvest my vegetables or carry out any garden related activity.
6. I will harvest my vegetables promptly so as to not invite vandals, destructive insect pests or waste.
7. I will bring my own tools to the garden and will remember to take them home with me.
8. The Community Green Garden will be accessible during normal park hours by a combination lock. I am responsible for knowing the combination in order to access the Garden, which I shall not disclose to non-members.
9. If I bring children with me to the Aventura Community Green Garden, I will supervise them at all times.

10. Pets are not permitted in Founders Park including the Aventura Community Green Garden.
11. I understand that the application of synthetic herbicides and pesticides is prohibited at the Garden.
12. I agree to participate in at least one workday during the garden year.
13. I will not pick from another gardener's section, even if I think they have neglected their section, unless given permission.
14. I will either use the produce or flowers grown in my section for personal consumption, donations, or an approved association fundraiser, and I understand that the sale of any grown plantings is strictly prohibited.
15. I will place unwanted plants or weeds in designated compost areas and will dispose of trash in proper receptacles, or by taking home.
16. I agree to keep the common areas of the Garden around my section maintained and weed free.
17. I will conserve the use of water by only hand watering my section or the common areas of the Community Green Garden for which I am responsible, and I agree that use of water is restricted to garden activities.
18. I will get permission from the City if I want to make any improvements to the infrastructure of my section. I understand that the theft of any crops, tools, hoses, signage, containers, etc. will result in an immediate revocation of membership.
19. I will park my vehicle in the authorized parking areas only.
20. I understand that no alcohol or smoking is permitted in the Garden
21. I understand that any conflicts among gardeners or problems that may result will be referred to the City for resolution.
22. I understand that I am responsible for any health issues that result from insect bites or any unknown causes that are a possibility in a garden environment or working with soil.
23. The City will be responsible for the maintenance of the border fencing, signage, the materials and structure of the sections, and the paths.
24. I understand that the City has the obligation to enforce these rules and the authority to resolve conflicts, including dismissing gardeners, at the City's sole discretion.
25. I understand that vandalism is a possibility in any community garden, and will not hold the City responsible for any losses I may suffer.
26. As a member of the ACGG, I understand and agree to these rules.
27. I understand that the City of Aventura has the ultimate authority for determining the use of the Community Green Garden; accordingly, my use of the Community Green Garden is further subject to the laws, regulations and policies of the City of Aventura.
28. I agree to sign a Waiver as required by the City.
29. These rules may be amended from time to time by the City.

**AVENTURA COMMUNITY GREEN GARDEN
MEMBERSHIP AND SECTION RENTAL APPLICATION**

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ @ _____

The following ACGG members are authorized to tend my section, and must be Aventura residents. Provide name, address and contact number for each person. A maximum of three alternates is permitted, other than immediate family living at the same address.

I have read, understand and agree to abide by all the rules and conditions of the Aventura Community Green Garden. I further certify I am an Aventura resident.

Signed _____ Date _____

FOR CITY USE ONLY:

MEMBERSHIP FEE COLLECTED: _____ (\$ AMOUNT)
SECTION RENTAL FEE COLLECTED: _____ (\$ AMOUNT)
SECTION # ASSIGNED: _____ (SECTION #)
EFFECTIVE DATE: _____ (MM/DD/YYYY)
PROOF OF RESIDENCY PROVIDED (ATTACH COPY) _____ (DOC. TYPE)
WAIVER SIGNED: _____ (STAFF INITIALS)

STAFF NAME (PRINT) AND ID # _____

DATE: _____

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF PINECREST, FLORIDA, URGING THE MIAMI-DADE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO RESTORE FULL FUNDING TO THE MIAMI-DADE LIBRARY DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Whereas, the Dade County Home Rule Charter, adopted in 1957 by the electorate, assigned the authority to provide parks, preserves, playgrounds, recreation areas, libraries, museums and other recreational and cultural facilities and programs; and

Whereas, in 1961, the Florida Legislature adopted an act relating to libraries; providing for appropriations to the state library board for disbursement as grants to counties, qualifying therefore, to implement the state policy to encourage the establishment and development of free library service throughout the state by grants of money to counties maintaining a free library service; and

Whereas, in 1962, the U.S. Congress passed the Library Service and Construction Act to provide federal assistance to libraries for the purpose of improving or implementing library services or undertaking construction projects; and

Whereas, in 1963, the Dade County Commission created the Dade County Public Library Advisory Board detailing its duties, functions and responsibilities; and

Whereas, in 1965, Dade County provided for the establishment of free library service, adopted a special library fund by budget ordinance, and approved an agreement originally between Dade County and the City of Miami, which had established its library service in 1931, and Coral Gables, where the City of Miami agreed to furnish library services to unserved areas of Dade County, and those municipalities which may enter into inter-local agreements with the county to operate their municipal library services, as part of the county free public library system; and

Whereas, in 1965, the Dade County Commission adopted a budget ordinance directing the tax assessor to assess the millage for the Special library fund for the 1965-66 year of .26 mill upon all lands in the unincorporated areas of Dade County along with the ten municipalities not already taxed for library services by their own municipality, and to enter into contracts for library services with them, while additional municipalities then also joined the public library system paying into the special library taxing district; and

Whereas, the Miami-Dade County Public Library System (the "MDPLS") has now grown to include 49 branches with a service area of over 2.5 million residents and over 8 million annual visitors, and, as evidence of their vital importance to our community, opened a Pinecrest Branch in 2008; and

Whereas, the MDPLS, which is funded through ad valorem taxes and through state grants, and Pinecrest property owners pay into the library special taxing district which was set at .3822 for the library system in 2009, however each year thereafter, the millage rate was reduced; in 2010 to .2840, in 2011 to .1795, and in 2012 to .1725, a significant reduction in special taxing district

millage rate, reduced by half over the past four years, which created a \$23 million gap in required funds, resulting in severe reduction in materials, staff, hours, and circulation and

Whereas, the impact of reduction of funding in 2010 – 2013 at the Pinecrest Branch – staff were reduced from 16 full time staff to 6.5 full time staff, and public access hours have been reduced by 13.5 hours, including one less day a week, and the critically needed student tutoring program named SMART has been eliminated system-wide, and similar reductions in service have been seen throughout the entire public library system; and

Whereas, a healthy public library system is critically important to promote literacy and cultural awareness, fosters the joy of reading, and lifelong learning, and public surveys conducted recently by the Miami-Dade County Mayor's office, as part of his Blue Ribbon Task Force, demonstrate significant public support for the libraries and a willingness by the public to pay to maintain our level of service; and

Whereas, the severe reduction in funding has caused a serious reduction in materials, staff, resources and the inability to provide updated books and subscriptions with significantly reduced service hours and resource materials to the Pinecrest Branch, and every library in the county-wide system, thereby significantly reducing circulation and most importantly, access to learning by children, teens, and adults alike throughout the county over the past four years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF PINECREST, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That Village Council hereby urges the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners to fully fund the Miami-Dade Public Library System so that the entire countywide system will return to the level of service achieved in 2008 so that the taxpayers of Pinecrest, and every other municipality that has joined into this cooperative sharing of resources, receive full value for their invested tax dollars.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of February, 2014.


Cindy Lerner, Mayor

Attest:



Guido H. Inguanzo, Jr., CMC
Village Clerk

Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency:



Mitchell Bierman
Village Attorney



Motion by: Councilmember McDonald
Second by: Councilmember Ross

Vote: Councilmembers Cutler, McDonald, Ross, Vice Mayor Corradino, and Mayor Lerner voting Yes