

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
PARKS, RECREATION AND BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
FIRE STATION # 2
528 NW 2ND STREET
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Alex Collazo, Vice Chair	P	7	2
Ruchel Coetzee	A	7	2
Vanessa Apotheker	A	4	3
Ronald Goff	P	7	0
Anna Vratsinas	P	4	2
Solomon Schoonover	P	6	3
Joy Oglesby, Chair	P	9	0
Idan Eckstein	P	7	2
Colette Keno	P	5	2
Marta Reczko	A	7	2
Sean Fee	A	5	1
Don Mizell	A	2	2
Patricia Zeiler	P	1	1

Oct 2024 - Sept 2025

As of this date, there are 13 appointed members to the Board, which means 7 would constitute a quorum. A quorum was present.

Staff

Carl Williams – *Director of Parks and Recreation*

Leana Suarez – *Senior Administrative Assistant*

Patricia SaintVil-Joseph – *Assistant City Attorney*

Mark Isaac – *Parks Bond Project Manager II*

Monica Ferrer – *FLPL Sergeant*

Others

Nicole Day, Recording Secretary, Prototype-Inc.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Oglesby led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the June 25, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Chair Oglesby noted a misspelling in sixth sentence of Parks Bond Update paragraph.

Motion was made by Solomon Schoonover and seconded by Colette Keno, to approve the June 25, 2025, meeting minutes, as amended. In a voice vote, the motion passed 8-0.

1. High Impact Beach Events Ordinance (Monica Ferrer)

Sergeant Monica Ferrer reported disturbances caused by juveniles at recent high impact beach events had raised safety concerns. She recommended the City consider adopting a juvenile curfew for anyone under 18 who was not accompanied by an adult. She explained similar curfews were used by other large cities and would assist with enforcement, reduce fighting, and improve the experience for patrons.

Chair Oglesby asked whether the curfew would be set at 9:00 p.m. Sergeant Ferrer replied the curfew time would depend on the event, with flexibility to align with start and end times. The rule would require juveniles to be accompanied by an adult to remain at high impact beach events.

Chair Oglesby asked if juveniles could call their parents if separated. Sergeant Ferrer stated a parent or adult must be physically present, as conflicts often occurred when unsupervised juveniles from different neighborhoods gathered. Director Williams asked if the Board needed to provide a recommendation of support. Sergeant Ferrer confirmed the curfew would apply to all high impact beach events for individuals 17 and under, but not to regular weekend activity at the beach.

Motion was made by Alex Collazo and seconded by Anna Vratsinas, to approve FLPD request to impose a curfew for children under 18 which would require them to be with their parents for all high impact beach ordinance events. In a roll vote, motion passed 8-0.

Chair Oglesby introduced new Board Member Patricia Zeiler. Ms. Zeiler stated she had served on the Cemetery Board for nine years and was the Executive Director of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society.

2. Parks Bond Update & Funding Source Amendment for Seven (7) Parks - District 4. (Marc Isaac)

Parks Bond Project Manager Marc Isaac provided a presentation and reviewed the following: Previously Approved Funding Strategy; Revised Amendment for Funding Strategy; and Proposed Plan and Motion.

Assistant City Attorney Patricia SaintVil-Joseph clarified the funding source. She explained the funds would still come from interest but from both the Series 2020 and Series 2022A Parks Bond, rather than solely from the Series 2022A as previously reported in the minutes.

Mr. Schoonover initially made a motion to approve but immediately rescinded it and abstained from voting due to a family relation to the developer of a project adjacent to Smoker Park. He completed Form CE 8B, Memorandum of Voting Conflict for County, Municipal, and Other Local Public Officers.

Motion was made by Idan Eckstein and seconded by Anna Vratsinas, to approve the appropriation of \$1.1 million of interest earned from the General Obligations Bond Series 2020A & 2022A debt to advance the following seven (7) Parks and Bond Projects that were slated to be funded in the third tranche of the parks Bond debt insurance: Stranahan Park, Smoker Park, Cliff Lakes Park, Poinciana Park, Snyder Park, Gore Betz Park, Marshall's Point Park. In a roll vote, motion passed 7-0. Mr. Schoonover abstained.

3. Parks Bond Updates (Marc Isaac)

No additional updates were provided.

4. Amend Code of Ordinance Section 8-55.4, titled "Sale, Service, and consumption of food and alcoholic beverages" (Carl Williams)

Director Carl Williams explained an existing ordinance allowed hotels along A1A to sell alcohol and food, with Parks and Recreation serving as the administrative body and City Commission providing annual approval. He asked the Board to consider recommending the process be handled solely at the parks level, eliminating the need for annual City Commission approval. Director Williams noted nine hotels currently participated, with between six and nine renewing each year.

Discussion followed on whether a five-year license would make more sense, though Director Williams emphasized annual renewal was important to verify insurance and compliance.

Motion was made by Alex Collazo and seconded by Colette Keno, to authorize the City Manager or Designee to review and approve license renewal applications and license agreements following City Commission approval.

Discussion ensued about City Commission approval and process.

Vice Chair Collazo rescinded his motion.

Ms. Keno asked how defaults would be handled if a hotel applied through the City Commission and then failed to comply during the year. Director Williams explained if a hotel defaulted while still providing service, code enforcement could issue a cease-and-desist letter. Once the hotel returned to compliance, it could then reapply. He added once a hotel was approved by the Commission, Parks and Recreation could process renewals annually.

Ms. Keno also asked about liability coverage. Director Williams confirmed general liability insurance would continue to be reviewed annually.

Vice Chair Collazo restated the motion.

Motion was made by Alex Collazo and seconded by Colette Keno, to authorize the City Manager or Designee to review and approve license renewal applications and license agreements that allow owners and operators of upland hotels or hotels located on Breakers Avenue within the City's boundaries to sell, serve and deliver food and alcoholic beverages on the public beach for consumption by any person using a beach chair from a city-approved beach concessionaire. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 8-0.

5. Department Update (Carl Williams)

Director Carl Williams announced an annual event would take place Sunday and include a car show and entertainment. He also reported discussions were underway to relocate the beach basketball court to the South Beach area and convert the existing site into pickleball courts. Director Williams explained over \$1 million in bond funds, part of approximately \$1.6 million allocated for barrier island improvements, would be used for the courts, new benches, and grills.

Ms. Keno asked if the project involved widening the area or moving the fitness and basketball courts further south. Director Williams confirmed the basketball court would remain in the same general area east of the construction line, noting new builds were typically kept west of that line.

Vice Chair Collazo clarified he had been informed the basketball court would be moved, with new gym equipment installed, and emphasized the need to review the contract to ensure commitments were kept. He opposed removing basketball courts in favor of pickleball.

Ms. Keno asked if the Board had been told the basketball court would be replaced.

Chair Oglesby recalled the Vice Chair Collazo's letter indicating the amendment removed basketball courts.

Mr. Schoonover added many residents were upset about the change.

Director Williams stated the agreement guaranteed basketball and pickleball activity, with benches and grills included in the \$1 million funding.

Vice Chair Collazo noted the entire \$1 million in bond money would be used.

Mr. Schoonover commented it seemed like a reasonable compromise.

Director Williams reiterated the importance of the Board being aware of the conversion.

Chair Oglesby raised questions about the \$1 million reimbursement.

Assistant City Attorney SaintVil-Joseph responded she had not reviewed those

contract terms and would discuss them further with Director Williams and management.

Chair Oglesby suggested partial reimbursement options be explored but acknowledged the City would ultimately be made whole.

6. New Business (Joy Oglesby)

Vice Chair Collazo remarked he would soon term out and reflected on several priorities during his service. He urged the Board to hold the City accountable to original commitments for Lockhart Stadium and continued to press for replacement of the Holiday Park playground. He described the Sunrise Middle School project and encouraged the Board to ensure City funds remain dedicated despite Broward County involvement.

Mr. Isaac reported on the Sunrise project, noting delays and challenges but anticipated an award to a contractor by year's end. He confirmed it was a construction package.

Vice Chair Collazo also expressed concern about deteriorating swings and poor appearance.

Director Williams explained the solicitation had been reissued due to bidder questions and delays caused by program manager specifications.

Chair Oglesby noted resident frustration, and Director Williams confirmed staff was eager to proceed.

Ms. Keno asked about playground completion. Director Williams stated it would be finished the following month with ribbon cuttings planned at several sites.

Mr. Osy McCray, on behalf of Florida Beach Ballers, voiced opposition to relocating the basketball courts, supporting their preservation as public amenities. Director Williams confirmed basketball and pickleball courts, as well as other beach amenities, would remain public. Mr. McCray questioned why pickleball could not be built north of the current location to which Director Williams noted higher costs.

Mr. Leo Lorenz objected to the proposed changes, stressing the courts' historical role in desegregation and warning of lawsuits and petitions.

Ms. Zeigler recalled the courts were once racially restricted, while Ms. Zeiler disagreed, they symbolized desegregation, though Mr. Lorenz maintained this view reflected community sentiment.

Chair Oglesby thanked the public for sharing concerns.

Ms. Felicia Watkins emphasized most residents were unaware of the courts' racial

history. She described the courts as a safe haven and opposed replacing them with pickleball courts, which she felt were unsuited to the beach. She also objected to removing grills and other free amenities.

Chair Oglesby acknowledged her comments and confirmed turtle protections would remain in place.

Ms. Vratsinas questioned why the basketball courts could not simply be refurbished. Director Williams explained the City Commission approved an agreement two years earlier exchanging \$1 million in enhancements for the conversion of basketball courts to pickleball courts. He reiterated the amenities would remain public and noted a prior \$1 million allocation in 2019 for beach aesthetics.

Ms. Keno asked for clarification to assure residents the courts would remain public.

Mr. Torres discussed long-term leasing arrangements with hotels.

Chair Oglesby reminded speakers the PRAB was advisory and urged them to continue advocacy with the City Commission.

Mr. Lorenz concluded the City should prioritize resident input and argued community members could renovate the courts themselves.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

[Minutes prepared by TBaclawski, Prototype-Inc.]