

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017 – 6:30 P.M.
CITY HALL – 8TH FLOOR
100 N ANDREWS AVE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312**

Cumulative Attendance

| Board Members | Attendance | Present | Absent |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Bill Schonlau | P | 3 | 0 |
| Bruce Quailey | P | 4 | 1 |
| Brucie Cummings | A | 3 | 2 |
| Darin Lentner | A | 4 | 1 |
| Debby Eisinger | P | 4 | 1 |
| Dermot McQuarrie (New) | P | 1 | 0 |
| James Jordan | P | 4 | 1 |
| JoAnn Medalie | A | 2 | 3 |
| Jo Ann Smith | P | 4 | 1 |
| Karen Polivka | P | 5 | 0 |
| Robert Payne | A | 1 | 1 |
| Ronald Goff | P | 4 | 1 |
| Ryan Fletcher | P | 4 | 1 |

Oct 2016 - Sept 2017

As of this date, there are 13 appointed members to the Board, which means 7 would constitute a quorum. It was noted that a quorum was present for the meeting.

Staff

Carl Williams, *Deputy Director*
Leona Osamor, *Administrative Assistant*

Public Attendee

Benjamin Prows, *Broward B-Cycle*

Communications to the Commission

A **motion** was made by Ronald Goff, seconded by James Jordan for the board's Chairperson Mrs. Debby Eisinger to draft a letter to the City Commission expressing concerns about the issues surrounding the recent spring break activities on the Fort Lauderdale Beach. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Dear Mayor and City Commissioners,

By unanimous approval of the Fort Lauderdale Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board, I send this correspondence to convey the Board's concerns about the behaviors of the many "Spring Breakers" visiting the Fort Lauderdale area in recent weeks. Although the Board is grateful for the increase in tourism and the positive economic impact that tourists bring to the City, the Board was very concerned about observations of disorderly conduct and disregard of City laws.

At the March 22nd meeting, the Board discussed their personal observations and the feedback received from other residents throughout the City. It appeared the number of college students and "20 something population" vacationing in Fort Lauderdale increased significantly this year over previous years. While it is wonderful to observe our youth enjoying Fort Lauderdale's world famous beaches, restaurants and shopping; it was disheartening to witness so much disrespect for the environment, the rights of others, public property and City ordinances.

We applaud the City for pro-actively placing garbage and recycling receptacles in high traffic areas as well as posting ample signage advising visitors of laws prohibiting drinking of alcoholic beverages on the beaches. Sadly, a significant number of tourists chose to disobey the City's requests.

While historically, Spring Break activity was more confined to the tourist areas of the City, the popularity of private home rentals through sites such as "VRBO" and "airbnb" has brought Spring Break activity into the backyards of private residents. Without doubt, this activity appeared to have been disruptive to the residents living near these rental homes.

The Board acknowledged seeing increased public safety services but nevertheless felt the large volume of Spring Breakers likely contributed to making enforcement of laws difficult. Therefore, it is the intention of this Board to suggest to the City Commission that a more pro-active strategy be adopted in anticipation of another deluge of "Spring Break" vacationers during the 2018 tourist season.

The Advisory Board was also deeply concerned about the possibility of other popular tourist groups such as families with young children and the over 30 crowd being dissuaded from visiting Fort Lauderdale next year as a response to the activities and somewhat unruly behavior that occurred this year.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence as well as for your dedicated service to the health, welfare and safety of the residents of Fort Lauderdale.

Sincerely,
Debby Eisinger, Chair
Fort Lauderdale Parks, Recreation, and Beaches Advisory Board

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A **motion** was made by James Jordan, seconded by Bill Schonlau to request the City Commission to discuss at a conference meeting, the issues surrounding alcohol and underage drinking, trash, destruction of beaches, traffic, safety, disorderly conduct and the diminishing value of a family friendly beach environment from the recent spring break activities. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.