

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
PARKS, RECREATION AND BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
528 NW 2nd STREET
FIRE STATION – ADMINISTRATION FLOOR
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Alex Collazo	A	2	1
Ruchel Coetzee	P	3	0
Caleb Gunter, Chair	P	2	1
Deborah Rosenbaum, Vice Chair	P	3	0
Charlie Leikauf	P	3	0
Mary Peloquin	P	3	0
Zillah Tarkoe	P	3	0
Tangerean Moore	P	2	1
Joy Oglesby	P	2	1
Idan Eckstein	P	2	1
Barbara Magill	P	1	2
Norby Belz	A	2	1

Oct 2023 - Sept 2024

As of this date, there are 12 appointed members to the Board, which means 7 would constitute a quorum. A quorum was present.

Staff

Carl Williams – *Director of Parks and Recreation*
 Leona Osamor – *Grants and Projects Administrative Coordinator*
 Leana Suarez – *Senior Administrative Assistant*
 Patricia Saint Vil-Joseph – *Assistant City Attorney*

Others

Carla Blair, *Recording Secretary, Prototype-Inc.*

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gunter led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the December 6, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Leikauf noted a typo on Page 2 to correct Chair Williams to Chair Gunter.

Motion was made by Deborah Rosenbaum and seconded by Charlie Leikauf, to approve the December 6, 2023, meeting minutes, as amended. In a voice vote, the motion passed 10-0.

1. Allowing Dogs in City Parks (Carl Williams)

Carl Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation, first introduced Ms. Leana Suarez, new Senior Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Williams noted the first item came to his attention from Commissioner Herbst. He stated the recommendation is to allow dogs in all parks with a 6-foot leash. He asked for feedback.

Discussion ensued about pet waste disposal and enforcement.

Commissioner Herbst further explained his recommendation. He noted they are a dog friendly city, and it is important to have ordinances in place.

Discussion ensued about areas to avoid, including playgrounds, other designated areas, and refining the language.

Motion was made by Deborah Rosenbaum and seconded by Charlie Leikauf, to allow dogs in parks on 6 ft leash and not allowed near playgrounds within 6 ft range and other designated areas. In a voice vote, the motion passed 10-0.

2. **Parks Rules and Regulations – Park Rule 1.2 (Carl Williams) Carter Park Funding (Carl Williams)**

Mr. Williams noted there have been concerns about the homeless population erecting tents in parks. He reviewed the recommended amendment.

Motion was made by Ruchel Coetzee and seconded by Joy Oglesby, to add in 4.9 of our park rules “no person shall erect any structure or accessory structure of any type on any park, park facility, or City beach, except pursuant to a City-issued permit or written approval of the City Commission.” In a voice vote, the motion passed 10-0.

Chair Gunter asked to have a further discussion on Park Rule 1.2. He recommended changes the language from “users” to “uses.”

Chair Gunter passed the gavel.

Motion was made by Caleb Gunter seconded by Ruchel Coetzee to change under 1.0 HOURS OF OPERATION, within the body of 1.2, the last sentence from “users” to “uses.” In a voice vote, the motion passed 10-0.

3. **Carter Park Funding (Carl Williams)**

Mr. Williams stated Carter Park is one of the signature parks in the City. He said the request is to use \$7.3M in the land acquisition fund to assist with bridging the funding gap towards the project. He spoke about cost escalation and noted they are

looking at creative ways to identify additional funding, including grants.

Ms. Tarkoe expressed concern about running out of funding. Mr. Williams clarified the request is not to use bond funding, but land acquisition funding.

Motion was made by Joy Oglesby and seconded by Tangerean Moore, to allocate land acquisition fund of \$7.3M from District 3 toward the building of Carter Park signature project. In a roll call, the motion passed 9-0. Vice Chair Rosenbaum was not present for the vote.

4. Riverland Woods Funding

This item was heard directly after Agenda Item 1.

Mr. Williams introduced Mr. Earl Prizlee, Engineering Design Manager. He is attending tonight as a Fort Lauderdale resident. He also introduced Mr. Jeff Rings.

Mr. Prizlee spoke about a community center and referenced a handout. He reviewed the history of the area and proposed design, amenities, and proposed programming. He stated they are there for two things. One is a request to agree to convert land acquisition money to a create a small community center. The second request is to change the name from Riverland Woods to Lauderdale Isles Landing.

Ms. Peloquin asked about the land acquisition amount in District 4. Mr. Williams said that each Commissioner and \$7.5M and the District 4 Commissioner has \$2.3M remaining. The project is requesting the remaining amount.

Mr. Leikauf said this is a good option since they cannot purchase land in that area due to the real estate market. He said the funding would be well spent to enhance the park and would satisfy the nearby homeowners in District 4.

Mr. Williams clarified this is simply taking the remaining land acquisition money in District 4's budget.

Discussion ensued about the land acquisition amount, playground, and name change.

Ms. Oglesby asked the funding costs. Mr. Williams replied if the project comes in under \$2.3M excess funding would go back to the Commissioner's land acquisition budget.

Mr. Prizlee spoke about soliciting public input. He noted the topic was brought forth to the City Commission in conference. Mr. Williams added this meeting was noticed as well.

Motion was made by Charlie Leikauf and seconded by Deborah Rosenbaum, to reallocate land acquisition funds of \$2,362,500 from District 4 to the project of the construction of community center located at Riverland Woods Park. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 10-0.

Motion was made by Deborah Rosenbaum and seconded by Charlie Leikauf, to change name of Riverland Woods Park to Lauderdale Isles Landing. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 10-0.

5. New Business (Caleb Gunter)

Ms. Magill asked about the recent beach soccer event and removal of volleyball courts. Mr. Williams replied he would have to do some research and report back.

Ms. Peloquin asked about renting the War Memorial. Mr. Williams confirmed the City owns the property but is leased to the Panthers.

Mr. Williams announced February events, including events for Black History Month.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 P.M.

[Minutes prepared by TBaclawski, Prototype-Inc.]