

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
PARKS, RECREATION AND BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
100 N. ANDREWS AVENUE
CITY HALL - 8th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2022 – 6:30 P.M.
3rd DRAFT**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Alex Collazo	A	6	3
Brucie Cummings	A	5	4
Caleb Gunter, Chair	P	9	0
Carey Villeneuve	P	7	2
Charlie Leikauf	P	9	0
Deborah Rosenbaum, Vice Chair	A	7	2
Greg Martin	A	6	3
Jo Ann Smith	P	7	2
Marianna Seiler	P	8	1
Mary Peloquin	P	7	2
Tangerean Moore	A	7	2
Zillah Tarkoe	P	4	0
Idan Eckstein	P	1	0
Brett Patterson	P	1	0
Joy Oglesby	P	1	0

Oct 2021 - Sept 2022

As of this date, there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum. A quorum was present.

Staff

Carl Williams, *Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation*
 Phil Thornberg, *Director of Parks and Recreation*
 Stephanie McClary, *Senior Administrative Assistant*
 Patricia SaintVil-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 June 22, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Charlie Leikauf, to approve the minutes, as amended. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously 10-0.

1. Department Update

Carl Williams, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, introduced himself to the

new Board members.

Mr. Williams shared details of the 2nd annual Labor Day event on September 3, which will be held from 1:00 – 9:00 P.M. and feature live music and a car show.

He noted the City is in the final stages of finagling the artificial turf installation at Mills Pond Park.

Mr. Williams referenced the playbook everyone received, which summarizes what has been provided for this particular portion of the year.

He announced the Aquatic Center soft opening will be held on September 12 and they are working on details for the grand opening.

Mr. Villeneuve asked about jumping off the top deck. Mr. Williams replied that guidelines are being developed, but currently only the dive team will have access.

Mr. Leikauf asked if the entire facility is complete. Mr. Williams responded that there is still construction on the south end of the facility, and it remains an active construction site.

Ms. Peloquin said the Hall of Fame should be watched so they do not encroach.

Chair Gunter requested an update from Hensel Phelps on the future of the Aquatic Center. He also asked each Board member to introduce themselves to the new Board members.

The Board members and City staff introduced themselves. The new Board members introduced themselves and shared some personal background.

2. FRDAP – Carter Park

Mr. Williams noted this is a discussion point in reference to a grant we are applying for that will be applied to the bond. Carter Park is seeking \$200,000 for park improvements. The Board is not voting on the item.

Chair Gunter asked about the qualifications for the grant. Mr. Williams responded that they would need to match the \$200,000.

Ms. Peloquin asked if the grant funding would be in addition to the budgeted amount for Carter Park. Mr. Williams responded it will be part of the overall project cost.

Ms. Peloquin noted the new Board members need to same information the current Board members have. Ms. McClary stated she will send the bond resolution to the new members.

3. FRDAP – Bass Park

Mr. Williams said they are seeking the same amount of funding for Bass Park to leverage bond dollars. The funding will be used to provide the amenities that are designed for Bass Park.

Ms. Peloquin asked where the matching funds would come from. Mr. Williams replied that as part of the bond, a portion of the funding are itemized for grants.

Ms. Seiler asked for a summary of the amenities. Mr. Williams stated Bass Park will have a new building with several multipurpose rooms, a warming kitchen, and a fitness area. He noted the pool and outdoor amenities will remain the same.

Mr. Villeneuve asked about funding for solar. Mr. Williams said the original layout included an opportunity to include solar energy, but funding for solar was not included in current budget.

Mr. Villeneuve suggested exploring solar options with commercial companies who are willing to fund.

Ms. Peloquin noted solar energy is not being included on the Police Station project.

Mr. Patterson recommended looking at examples of other parks who have successfully partnered to install solar.

4. Park Bond: School/Park Funding Allocation

Phil Thornburg, Director of Parks and Recreation, introduced himself. He provided background on the Park Bond and reviewed next steps. He shared additional background on the School Parks and the allocated \$11 million. He referenced the handout for discussion and confirmed there was a \$1,087,500 gap. He asked the Board to confirm they still support spending the \$1,087,500 and the money will come out Vice Mayor Sorenson's budget.

Ms. SaintVil-Joseph stated a motion would be needed.

Mr. Gunter clarified the remaining funding for District 4.

A discussion ensued about the confusion from the previous meeting.

Mr. Thornburg noted the purpose of the discussion is to be clear on where the money will be allocated from.

Ms. SaintVil-Joseph clarified the 12 Parks Improvement Project went to the City Commission on May 3, 2022, for approval. She noted the City Commission voted to approve all 12 projects for the amount outlined in the Parks Bond. She noted the \$1,087,500 gap was created because some specific park funding was increased or

decreased. She confirmed Vice Mayor Sorenson agreed to fill the gap with his Park Acquisition budget. She noted they need a recommendation for City Commission that confirms the information was presented to the Board, discussed, and understood. She said they need another motion and another vote to bring to City Commission.

Motion was made by Mary Peloquin to approve allocation from District 4 to fill in the gap on the amounts for the school parks.

Ms. SaintVil-Joseph said she could help to clarify the motion. She stated, “a motion to allocate additional funds in the amount of \$1,087,500 from District 4’s Land Acquisition Budget to finance 11 park improvement projects.”

Ms. Seiler said we are not willing to approve that allocation. Ms. SaintVil-Joseph responded that the entire Board needs to vote on this.

Chair Gunter clarified that what Ms. Seiler is saying is to make sure it is known that the direction came from the City Commission and did not originate in the Parks Board.

Ms. Seiler asked if they could approve the allocation as presented by the City Commission.

Ms. SaintVil-Joseph replied no because the funding is not coming from all Commissioners’ districts. The funding is coming from one Commissioner’s district. She reiterated the directive from the Board needs to come in the form of a motion.

Ms. Seiler noted Ms. Peloquin’s motion is still on the floor.

Mr. Thornberg said the suggestion mentioned eleven parks and the Board needs to clarify the number. He said there are eight parks on the list.

Ms. SaintVil-Joseph said they need to clarify. She noted they already received the City Commission’s approval for the resolution for the twelve parks improvement project. Mr. Thornburg disagreed the number is eleven parks. He said they are funding eight parks on the list.

Ms. Peloquin rescinded her motion.

Motion was made by Marianna Seiler to approve allocation as presented by the Commission, understanding the fact that \$1,087,500 has been reallocated by Commissioner Sorenson from the District 4 Property Acquisition money.

Ms. SaintVil-Joseph said it has to be specific.

Amended Motion was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Idan Eckstein to approve the allocation presented by the Commission, understanding that \$1,087,500 is coming from District 4 Park Acquisition money as directed by Commissioner Sorenson, to make up the gap in funding eight improvement projects at eight parks,

as outlined in the exhibit presented.

Ms. Oglesby asked for clarification on which eight parks. Mr. Thornburg replied the eight parks listed in the third column.

Ms. Tarkoe asked about security at the school parks and who would pay for that.

Mr. Thornburg said they met with all schools and staff extensively to understand security needs. He said they are responsible for the school parks when school is not in session.

In a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously 10-0.

Mr. Leikauf asked if the projects will get to procurement by the end of the year. Mr. Thornburg responded no. He noted the large projects are still in the design phase.

Ms. Peloquin asked for an update on the Panthers ice skating rink. Mr. Thornburg replied that the ice will be complete by the end of the year.

Chair Gunter asked about a recent Lockhart City Commission vote. Mr. Thornburg said there continues to be a discussion about a community center or a skatepark.

Mr. Villeneuve asked when Tunnel Top will be complete. Mr. Thornburg said he heard it will be done in October.

Ms. Smith asked how much bond money was remaining. Mr. Thornburg said nearly all funds have been allocated. Ms. Smith noted some parks still need money. She asked whether the \$5M being requested from the DDA will come out of park bond money. Mr. Thornburg replied no.

Ms. Seiler requested an updated sheet in the packet.

Chair Gunter shared he received phone call from the former Board Chair regarding two topics, including a Thor Guard Lightning on the beach. Mr. Williams added the Fire Department believe it creates a safety challenge and they were uncomfortable with a Thor Guard. Mr. Thornburg provided additional information including challenges with operating environment, liability, and how to get people off the beach.

Chair Gunter said the second topic brought to his attention was smoking on the beach.

Ms. SaintVil-Joseph said the City Attorney has received a directive from the City Commission to draft legislation to address the topic.

Chair Gunter asked if there was any new business.

Mr. Leikauf reminded new Board members about communication between members and the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Eckstein asked if there is a list of parks they are responsible for.

Mr. Williams said there are 100 parks they are responsible for but there is no formal list.

Mr. Eckstein asked if the Board ever meets at the parks. Mr. Williams said there did it in the past, but they are required to meet in City Hall when there are actionable items.

Ms. SaintVil-Joseph said the Board can schedule field trips.

Mr. Villeneuve noted the iguana situation is getting worse and the City needs to have a plan. He noted the City rules make it challenge but the Commission should address the rules. He said it is a serious problem. Mr. Leikauf agreed they are very aggressive.

Ms. Oglesby asked how many members are needed for a quorum. Ms. McClary replied eight members.

5. Adjournment

Motion was made by Jo Ann Smith and seconded by Joy Oglesby, to adjourn the meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously 10-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

[Minutes prepared by TBaclawski, Prototype-Inc.]