

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 6:30 P.M.  
CITY HALL – 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR CHAMBERS  
100 N ANDREWS AVENUE  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312**

**Cumulative Attendance**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Alex Collazo	P	3	0
Brucie Cummings	P	2	1
Caleb Gunter	P	3	0
Carey Villeneuve	A	2	1
Charlie Leikauf	P	3	0
Darren Heitner	A	1	2
Deborah Rosenbaum	P	3	0
Greg Martin	P	2	1
Jo Ann Smith	P	2	1
Marianna Seiler	P	3	0
Mary Peloquin	P	3	0
Steffi Paskow	A	1	2
Tangerean Moore	P	2	1

**Oct 2021 - Sept 2022**

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

**Staff**

Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Director  
 Carl Williams, *Recreation Deputy Director*  
 Enrique Sanchez, Parks Deputy Director  
 Luisa Agathon, Senior Assistant to the City Manager  
 Zoie Saunders, *Chief Education Officer*  
 Stephanie McClary, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

**Public Attendee**

Jonathan Bennett  
 Dr. Pamela Beasley-Pittman  
 Beverly Chambers  
 Amy Lee Ellowitz  
 Yolanda Francis  
 Job LaBrie  
 Robert A. Spagnola  
 Marilyn Mammano

### **Roll Call**

Chairperson Caleb Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:31p.m. Roll was called, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** was made by Deborah Rosenbaum and seconded by Mary Peloquin, that the minutes of December 1, 2021, be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

### **1. Department Update**

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that February has many events that will take place throughout the city are as follows:

- Noon Tunes – February 2<sup>nd</sup> through March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, at Stranahan Park.
- Jazz Brunch – February 6, 2022, 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays of the month
- Finally Fridays – February 18, 2022, at 6pm-10pm on Sistrunk
- Kijiji Moja – February 19, 2022, at 1pm – 5pm at Lincoln Park
- Sistrunk Parade and Festival – February 26, 2022, 5K run at 7am at the Delevoe Park, Parade starts at 10am at the Lincoln Park, and Festival will start immediately after the parade.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Neighbors Support Night- February 10, 2022, at City Hall

The board was also informed by Mr. Williams that Benneson Park site has started construction this week.

### **2. Market Update**

Ken Krasnow from Colliers International 9 presented update and presentation to the board. Mr. Krasnow stated that they been looking for land in the city for 18 months and inquired 4 properties, one property in each district. Mr. Krasnow further stated that they acquired over 4.5 acres of greenspace of the \$30 million dollars that was allocated out of park bond funding, and they spent \$7.8 million dollars and have \$22 million dollars to spend. Mr. Krasnow stated that the real estate market has been a challenge. Mr. Krasnow informed the board that they have dealt with challenges with land that is environmentally challenging. Mr. Krasnow stated that there was a park located near Andrews that came across environmental issues. Mr. Krasnow stated that they are associated with properties that have structures and dealing with the process of the demolition. Mr. Krasnow stated that being a public entity the process getting appraisals and presenting to the parks board and commission presents certain challenges as well. Mr. Krasnow informed the board that they have priorities that they want to focus on which includes properties within the need, securing

waterfront lots, corner lots, and large tracts of land. Mr. Krasnow stated that some areas and uses that are targeted is kayak launch for access to the water, pickleball, and dog parks in district that was bought to their attention. Mr. Krasnow stated they are interested in the feedback of the growth in the downtown area and the need for public space in the next 5 to 10 years. Mr. Krasnow mention that skate park, neighborhood parks, and A1A area is also their focus. Mr. Krasnow further stated that some of the areas that are in focus was bought to them from the community such as Coral Ridge, Palm Aire, Middle River Terrace, Sailboat Bend, and Riverside Park.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum mention that Barrier Island can use a dog park. Ms. Rosenbaum stated that North Beach Village and Galt Ocean Mile will be great areas for dog parks.

Mr. Krasnow stated he agreed and those are the areas they are looking into. Mr. Krasnow stated to the board that they encourage to give thoughts, ideas, and target locations to view the areas.

Board member Brucie Cummings question about property near Davie Boulevard and Southwest 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the Northwest corner. Ms. Cummings stated that it is two acres, and the land is valuable and request that they continue to see if the property owner will still sell the property.

Mr. Krasnow stated they keep a list of properties that were too expensive or not willing to sell and they revisit the list to see if the circumstances have change.

Board member Greg Martin asked for the contact information should they find locations or share ideas and thoughts.

Mr. Krasnow mention to the board that they can contact Luisa Agathon from City Manager's office, Phil Thornburg, Director of Parks and Recreation Department and Carl Williams, Deputy Director of the Parks and Recreation Board.

Public Attendee James LaBrie posed a question to Mr. Krasnow if they were considering any properties in Poinsettia Heights to purchase and develop into a city park. Mr. LaBrie stated they relayed information to Commissioner Glassman last month and wanted to know a status on the property.

Mr. Krasnow stated that they will have to get back and review their list.

Brooke Berkowitz from Colliers International mention to the board that the 1400 NE 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue property was reviewed a year ago and believe it was an issue with pricing and will go back to the list.

Board member Alex Collazo question what constitutes a pocket park and if it must be one parcel of single-family residence that turns into a park.

Mr. Krasnow stated it will be viewed in a residential area on a small lot that has greenspace.

Deputy Director Carl Williams agreed that a small passive park would be considered a pocket park.

Board member Alex Collazo asked if there were any pocket parks.

Mr. Williams stated that they have inventory of parks that have space and land.

Board member Charlie Leikauf asked if they review the land that taxes has not been paid and defaulted back to the city.

Luisa Agathon from City Manager's office stated that it is a process that the County initially obtains the list and in the past two years they did not see any of the properties come through the department; however, they did review the portfolio and identified one of those properties and they declared it for sale because it will be a value to the city and assign the property as a park.

Mr. Krasnow stated one of their challenges of the process if they wait for a property to get listed it is too late.

Dr. Pamela Beasley-Pittman posed a question on the location of the lot in the Lincoln Park area.

Ms. Agathon stated that Little Lincoln which is the corner lot is currently owned by the city and they purchase the lot next to it. Ms. Agathon stated that any questions regarding how the park will be programmed to contact Deputy Director Carl Williams.

### **3. Pickleball Courts Update**

Director Phil Thornburg mentioned to the board that they are looking to build 6 pickleball courts at George English Park. Mr. Thornburg stated that the neighborhood reached out and is interested in moving forward with the pickleball courts at George English Parks. Mr. Thornburg stated that he is requesting the board to review and vote on the proposal so he can present to the city commission as a public hearing to move forward with the contractor to build the courts with park bond dollars.

Board member Caleb Gunter question if the \$186,000 is an additional funds that are needed or allocated from the parks bond for George English Park.

Mr. Thornburg answered it is apart of the allocated funds from the parks bond for George English Park. Mr. Thornburg stated to the board that there is an old roller hockey ring north of the community center and east of the elementary school that has been empty for a few years and the six courts will fit there.

Board member Caleb Gunter question if the lighting will be included.

Mr. Thornburg stated that the lights will be apart of the bid packages. Mr. Thornburg further stated that they will be brand new LED lights. Mr. Thornburg stated that they are recommending the 6 pickleball courts, lighting with aluminum poles.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum asked if they are going to upgrade the fencing for longevity purposes.

Mr. Thornburg answered that the fencing is apart of the proposal to install the courts and there is no fencing at the moment.

Board member Mary Peloquin stated that it is a demand for pickleball courts in the area and pickleball players are awaiting to use the courts and will be appreciated when they are installed.

Board member Charlie Leikauf questioned the amount that the board will be voting on.

Mr. Williams answered to the board stating that the total amount for the project including the installation of the courts, lighting, and fencing for grand total of \$188,440 dollars for 6 pickleball courts.

Board member Caleb Gunter requested the exact number.

Mr. Williams answered the total number is \$188,440 dollars.

**Motion** was made by Mary Peloquin and seconded by Marianna Seiler, recommending that the City Commission move forward with pickleball courts at George English Park. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously as follows.

Alex Collazo – Yes  
Brucie Cummings – Yes  
Caleb Gunter – Yes  
Charlie Leikauf – Yes  
Deborah Rosenbaum – Yes  
Greg Martin – Yes  
JoAnn Smith – Yes  
Marianna Seiler - Yes  
Mary Peloquin – Yes  
Tangerean Moore – Yes

#### 4. **Joint Use Parks**

Board member Caleb Gunter stated they will open discussion to public and board once the presentation is finished. Mr. Gunter stated that the joint use parks was

originally proposed in the bond and voted on and agreed to by the voters. Mr. Gunter stated the city staff worked diligently to be inclusive with the locations of the parks master plan which highlighted dessert areas. Mr. Gunter stated that inclusion is wonderful; however, when economics there will be shortages that might take away from desirable items. Mr. Gunter stated that he hopes to have a civil discussion.

Chief Education Officer Zoie Saunders mention to the board that the joint use park arrangement is a very economical way to enhance the park system through the cooperation of the school board and the parks will be available to the community after school hours. Ms. Saunders stated it is helpful in areas of the city that does not have land to acquire or that does not currently have a city park. Ms. Saunders mention the bond list included a scope of projects that were included in schools that was based on planning conducted in the 2016 master plan and did not include coordination with the School Board of Broward County. Ms. Saunders stated the Education Advisory Board recommended that the city reevaluate the allocation of the parks bond to enhance the joint use park system and through that work they develop a criteria and coordinate with the School Board of Broward County and adjust based on understanding the need and reviewing the viability of each specific property

Ms. Saunders stated that the joint use working group was formed to reevaluate the joint use needs and opportunities in coordination with the school district. Ms. Saunders stated that the Education Advisory Board spent time outlining the guiding principles which were to focus on the citywide plan and look at the collective impact of the project. Ms. Saunders mentioned to the board that they focused a lot on geographic equity and making sure that they could allocate additional resources where they would have maximum impact. Ms. Saunders stated that the goal is to build community across the city and identify the needs for every neighborhood. Ms. Saunders stated that Parks Advisory Board asked the Education Advisory Board for a recommendation. Ms. Saunders stated that Education Advisory Board has been involved to provide input. Ms. Saunders stated that they are required from the school board to put up fencing which initially included in the joint use proposal. Ms. Saunders stated that they used the common sense approach where they did not have to place a fence in front of a wall.

Ms. Saunders stated that they reviewed lower cost amenities. Ms. Saunders stated that the Education Advisory Board recommended adopting the proposed reduction to the joint use working group and identified additional reductions to cover the additional expenses. Ms. Saunders stated that the board voted that they could not justify moving those expenses for adding synthetic turf at Sunrise Middle School. Ms. Saunders stated the focus was the recreational use for all properties and maximize the impact city wide.

Ms. Saunders stated that the proposal adds four new parks to the system and enhances amenities areas that are identified as parks deserts and make reductions based on revised need and site viability in coordination with the school district. Ms.

Ms. Saunders further stated that the majority of park use arrangements that the parks are available after school hours and on the weekends. Ms. Saunders stated that there are two joint use parks that are in the city that are available to the community which are Croissant Park and Lauderdale Manors which gives the community access to those parks during school hours. Ms. Saunders stated that as a working group they did not recommend synthetic turf in any of the joint use properties since the 2016 master plan was developed with some additional enhancements in the city that bought in synthetic turf at Mills Pond Park and Holiday Park and the need of synthetic turf to support athletic play has been met through those additions to the park system. Ms. Saunders stated that they struggle recommending synthetic turf at one school over the other and Broward Schools does not have synthetic turf at any of their middle and high schools. Ms. Saunders further stated that the proposal included synthetic turf at Sunrise Middle School would be the only middle school and as the working group and the Education Advisory Board had challenges being able to recommend at one middle school but not recommend at some of the high schools that are opening their spaces to the community. Ms. Saunders acknowledged the level of cooperation across the city with Broward County school board for being a partner and making spaces available to the community, principals being able to see the opportunity to benefit their students outside the school day, and neighborhoods that have been really engaged.

Dr. Allen Zeman, Chairman of Education Advisory Board mentioned to the board in 2016 there were a master plan shared with voters and things have changed since then. Dr. Zeman stated that the board met last Thursday night and they identified the requirements and offsets. Dr. Zeman stated that the change in the master plan and the first joint use working group is about 55%. Dr. Zeman stated that change is due to huge amount of effort to view every detail. Dr. Zeman stated that they did not see the value in the synthetic turf field compared to the items that they're giving up. Dr. Zeman stated they agreed to take the reductions that add up to \$250,000 which was the cost for Walker Elementary School.

Board member Alex Collazo asked if the data that was given from Dr. Zeman is the same data that the Education Advisory Board voted on.

Dr. Zeman stated yes, it is the same data just sorted differently.

Board member Caleb Gunter clarified the total that states \$10,948,000 dollars and ask if the Education Advisory Board rejected all the motions.

Dr. Zeman stated that it is the net result, and they did not reject everything. Dr. Zeman stated that the Education Advisory Board passed to take the \$250,000 dollars to pay for Walker Elementary School lights and voted against taking the \$420,000 dollars to pay the synthetic turf field at Sunrise Middle School.

Board member Caleb Gunter clarified some of the items and blanks such as William

Dandy Middle School.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum questioned the purpose of the Education Advisory Board and if it was to approve the items that were taken away.

Dr. Zeman answered that the bond must fund capital projects. Dr. Zeman stated that the board drew a line on what made sense which was the value of certain items versus the value of the \$420,000 dollars of lower priority items. Dr. Zeman stated the vote was 9 to 4.

Board member Charlie Leikauf asked how many items were gained from the one item that was dropped which is the synthetic turf field.

Dr. Zeman stated they would have to take 11 items to pay for the \$420,000 dollars synthetic field turf. Dr. Zeman also stated they have gained 4 projects.

Board member Tangerean Moore stated she agree that Sunrise Middle School does not need synthetic turf and the funds can go for lighting and to spread the funds to other parks.

### **Public Comment**

Public attendee Mr. Jonathan Bennett from the Riverland Village neighborhood stated they have no parks. Mr. Bennett mention to the board that he hopes everything that is proposed is kept and nothing is taken away to give funds elsewhere.

Public attendee Dr. Pamela Beasley-Pittman is a 57 resident of the city and speaking on behalf of the community. Dr. Pittman stated she is advocating for the parks for North Fork and Walker Elementary School. Dr. Pittman stated that the request aligns with the needs in the community. Dr. Pittman stated she believes that the site should not have items removed and don't believe that the synthetic turf field should be approved because there are no other turf fields at city schools and will result into being funded by taxpayer's dollars. Dr. Pittman further stated her recommendation is to focus on the need at the whole city and requesting that board make a motion to remove turf field from all the plans.

Public attendee Beverly Chambers asked if the board or staff could explain why the items requested by the schools have been ignored or removed.

Zoie Saunders, Chief Education Officer answered that they suggested reductions that were focus on fencing, signage, and benches.

Board member Caleb Gunter asks if the working group proposal was prior to the bond or after the bond. Mr. Gunter stated that it needed clarification and certain things were added on what was voted on and not taken away.



Ms. Saunders clarified that they evaluated the best way to expand and enhance the joint use park system. Ms. Saunders stated that they identified the site that was not valuable, and some items did not need any longer. Ms. Saunders stated the bond was to fund what was needed. Ms. Saunders stated Croissant Park and Lauderdale Manors are larger items because they do programming at those locations.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum clarified that the largest investment and the large portion of that investment is the splash pad.

Ms. Saunders confirmed that Croissant Park and Lauderdale Manors Park are in essence city parks they are only school board property, but the students do not access those parks during the school hours and are fully open to the community. Ms. Saunders stated that they are including Croissant Park and Lauderdale Manors Park because its school board property.

Board member Charlie Leikauf confirmed that North Folk Elementary school loss \$10,000 dollars for their benches and Walker Park Elementary loss the pavilion, but they were able to get lights. Mr. Leikauf stated he believe that it is a definite need.

Ms. Saunders confirmed that the lights would extend the use of the park.

Public attendee Amy Lee Ellowitz, Vice Chairman of the Education Advisory Board stated that they spent over 2 years on equity and education. Ms. Ellowitz stated that it wasn't equitable and decided against the synthetic turf field.

Public attendee Yolanda Francis, Board member of the Education Advisory Board stated that their board recommend if the turf field is removed everything else would be able to stay on the list.

Public attendee James LaBrie, member of the Poinsettia Heights Civic Association stated that he is not against schools; however, the City of Fort Lauderdale Education Advisory Board and the Joint Use program working group chose to disregard the language of 2018 park bonds that state \$1.7 million dollars go to the Sunrise Middle School and bond language is what the public reads, evaluates, and responds to when making voting decisions. Mr. LaBrie stated that the William Dandy Middle School is receiving their designated fund for their school at 100%; however, the school is across the street of the city owned Osswald Park, which is receiving \$3.18 million dollars in park bond improvements, and \$200,000 is coming from Croissant Park and getting 2.42 million dollars in park bond improvement. Mr. LaBrie stated that all the funds have been found and filled the gap and Walker Elementary is receiving their lighting in their proposal and other school's items were eliminated. Mr. LaBrie stated that Walker Elementary is in the vicinity in carter park and Carter Park is receiving \$13.6 million dollars. Mr. LaBrie stated that Sunrise Middle School is in a park desert and no city park in the area within a 10-minute walk or having to cross over. Mr. LaBrie stated that it needs to be a benefit to the school and community where the school is located. Mr. LaBrie stated that he believes that the Education Advisory Board process

and proposal is not equitable. Mr. LaBrie stated that there's no funds planned to purchase and develop a park in Poinsettia Heights. Mr. LaBrie stated that the improvement of this park is the only opportunity for Poinsettia Heights. Mr. LaBrie request that the board rejects the Education Advisory Board proposal and challenge the board to find additional funds for those within the greater park bond budget. Mr. LaBrie proposed to take the \$200,000 dollars from Croissant Park and the \$675,000 dollars from William Dandy and apply those funds to Walker Elementary School for their lights and Sunrise Middle School for the synthetic turf field. Mr. LaBrie asked the board to work with Sunrise Middle School PTA and Poinsettia Heights Civic Association.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum asked Mr. LaBrie if the neighborhood would be happy if they receive the \$1.4 million.

Mr. LaBrie responded that it would be appreciated; however, he won't be able to speak for everyone on the board.

Board member Mary Peloquin clarified it's the item that they are requesting and not the funds.

Mr. LaBrie responded that they prefer the funds instead of the items.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum asked if they receive the synthetic turf field and all amenities that were proposed would he be satisfied.

Mr. LaBrie responded personally he will be satisfied.

Public attendee Robert Spagnola stated that it brings in 7 communities that come to Sunrise Middle School. Mr. Spagnola stated that his concern is if they have a natural field that is a higher quality that it will get torn and not be maintained. Mr. Spagnola stated that 10 years from now they will have to deal with artificial turf.

Public attendee Marilyn Mammano, President of the Harbordale Civic Association stated that when the original bond proposal came forward it was prior to having a bond. Ms. Mammano stated she participated in these process and credit the joining working group that worked and view the list. Harbordale Elementary school has a playground that is fenced off in the community and they do not have access to it. Ms. Mammano stated that they are requesting resurfacing of the basketball court and some play equipment for the children. Ms. Mammano requested that the board vote for the total approved by the Education Advisory Board. Ms. Mammano stated that the proposal put forward by the joint use committee is the most equitable and reasonable distribution of the funds. Ms. Mammano stated that they need to get in the program and the keys to the gate and hope the board will be able to approve that.

Phil Thornburg, Director of Parks and Recreation stated they are no additional funds;

however, if at the end of the bond if funds are left over then they can revisit some of those items.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum question if the park benches can be tied into next years budget. Ms. Rosenbaum stated that capital improvements are well spent funds and with all the resources we have can we find ways to include those items within the next years.

Mr. Thornburg stated that the bond was to replace all and make the parks new. Mr. Thornburg stated that he won't be able to replace all the benches with the operating budget.

Board member Caleb Gunter questioned about Virginia Schuman Elementary and the reduction of the funds and fencing.

Mr. Thornburg stated that there is enough funding for Virginia Schuman Elementary after they revisited with the school board staff regarding the fencing. Mr. Thornburg further stated after noticing that the fence was going to be in front of the wall, they decided that the fencing was not needed and to do the sunshade with the funds that are there.

Enrique Sanchez, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation stated in the original parks bond list there were a pavilion that was reallocated for sunshade and the PTA raised funds to increase and make sure they received sunshade on both of the schools playgrounds.

Board member Caleb Gunter asked if the parks staff reviewed the reductions that Education Advisory Board listed to reallocate the \$250,000 for lighting and if they verified the changes so they can accomplish what they accomplished.

Mr. Sanchez stated they are in approval of the Education Advisory Board recommendations.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum asked can the board decide to add an additional \$670,000 dollars so that everyone will be able to get what they want and needed.

Mr. Thornburg stated that the board can make a recommendation to the commission. Mr. Thornburg stated that it goes to the commission public hearing and the commission will vote on that proposal. Mr. Thornburg recommend that they state where the funds will be coming from.

Board member Alex Collazo stated that there is an opportunity to get all the items.

Board member Caleb Gunter read a prepared statement from Carey Villeneuve board member of the Parks and Recreation stated that the Virginia Shuman Young and

Victoria Park Civic Association sent a joint letter to Parks and Recreation and the Joint use working team in December 2019 showing how they wanted the funds spent and asked if the sunshades be built as soon as possible. Mr. Villeneuve stated they been waiting for 2 years and ask the board if they send any joint use recommendation to the commission to include allocating all \$375,000 dollars in parks bond funds to Virginia Shuman Young to have the voters get what they initially voted on as well as Sunrise Middle.

Mr. Thornburg clarified that the pavilion was requested to be removed by the neighborhood and the school and it wasn't removed without their knowledge and request. Mr. Thornburg further stated that they didn't get the information regarding the fencing till six months ago. Mr. Thornburg stated that the school board staff said they didn't need to put a fence next to a wall which was much after the master plan.

Board member Caleb Gunter asked if they have any unspoken funds out of the bond remaining.

Mr. Thornburg answered that there are no remaining unallocated funds.

Board member Mary Peloquin wanted a clarification regarding the synthetic turf field at Sunrise Middle School. Ms. Peloquin ask if the track at Sunrise Middle School will only be available during non-school hours

Mr. Thornburg stated it would be allowed to be used by the public and it would be resurfacing the track. Mr. Thornburg stated that at Sunrise Middle School are open after school hours. Mr. Thornburg stated that during the master plan they looked at the place to alleviate a lot of the soccer challenges they had at that time and that is how the synthetic turf field was first mentioned.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum stated that the children in the neighborhood that only have access to Sunrise Middle School to play soccer or any sports and you shouldn't expect the children to cross the street to play sports. Ms. Rosenbaum stated that when she visits Carter Park the park is used all day. Ms. Rosenbaum stated that the neighbors were promised items.

Board member Alex Collazo stated that he didn't find out they were not going to be getting the full amount of funding until six months ago. Mr. Collazo stated that it led to a review of what happen to the funding. Mr. Collazo stated that he would like to see a park; however, there are no bathrooms. Mr. Collazo stated the park is good enough for lighting for after hours and lighting is something that the community wanted. Mr. Collazo stated that the community find themselves in the situation on how to get a nice park in the community and get what the school needs. Mr. Collazo stated that a synthetic turf field is a superior field that they want to play on. Mr. Collazo stated that this issue goes back to the funding and if they have the funding that was originally promise they can get the park. Mr. Collazo stated that the issue not just the turf, but

this is one of the key schools and don't understand why they can not have a turf field. Mr. Collazo stated that it is an opportunity to do capital improvements and would like a park.

Board member Marianna Seiler stated that the purpose of the joint use parks is to give the most to the community. Ms. Seiler stated that although Sunrise Middle School is a destination park the children do return to their neighborhoods after school to play at their individual parks and it is important.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum stated that they don't have any parks in that area.

Board member Greg Martin stated that we can have staff find parks to get in that neighborhood.

Board member Tangerean Moore stated that items that they want such as bathrooms and lighting is more important than getting a synthetic turf field.

Board member Greg Martin questions if the field will be regraded.

Mr. Thornburg answered they will regrade the field and add new grass.

Board member Greg Martin acknowledged what the joint use working group gathered. Mr. Martin stated that the board should not dismiss the hard work that they put together. Mr. Martin stated that the board shouldn't come back asking for more funding and find the funding by looking at properties to make a park in that area.

Board member Alex Collazo stated that they are several different avenues that the board can explore before they make the decision. Mr. Collazo stated that he cannot agree with the Education Advisory Board proposal.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum stated that they are items that can come out of parks budget even if it's this year or next year's budget. Ms. Rosenbaum stated that Sunrise Middle School was promised the synthetic turf field and believe they should get it.

Board member Greg Martin stated that it was a huge project and must be a bigger issue than a field. Mr. Martin stated there are different needs in different areas. Mr. Martin stated that staff approve it and in position to support the staff that did the work.

Board member Mary Peloquin stated that she understands the Education Advisory Board work is trying to make a balance; however, she worries about the 1500 students that go to Sunrise Middle School every day. Ms. Peloquin stated that the board needs to recognize that the property is very important when 1500 students attend the school.

Ms. Saunders stated that the challenges are that every school is special, and they have high schools as another joint use park that service more students.

Board member Caleb Gunter asked if an artificial turf field was put there but not a full-size field would it break up the entire playground with the concrete border around it.

Mr. Sanchez stated it would be limited to an 80 by 40 yard of playable space and would take up area. Mr. Sanchez stated it would be small and they recommended the site improvements to make sure they have proper drainage and irrigation.

Board member Alex Collazo stated that the layout in mind would allow the baseball diamond to stay there. Mr. Collazo stated that Sunrise Middle School stated since they don't use it would be considering an option to remove it if needed.

Board member Caleb Gunter stated that the artificial turf field have concrete boarder that goes around the field and it would create a hazard to someone that is playing kickball or baseball on that field which would lose the entire integrity of the space.

Board member Charlie Leikauf stated if the synthetic turf can be something the board looks at in the future. Mr. Leikauf asked how many students utilizes the busses. Mr. Leikauf stated that you can not satisfy everyone and every school.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum stated that it is also for the neighborhood and not just for the students. Ms. Rosenbaum proposed that the board goes to the city commission and request more funding to give every item that was promised and wanted from each community.

Board member Brucie Cummings stated that in Tarpon River had many items that were not discuss with the community and asked where those funds went.

Board member Alex Collazo stated that the board voted on these items in the past and the board needs to make a vote today.

Mr. Thornburg stated that the staff were open with a master plan and had a virtual input and neighborhoods were aware.

Board member Greg Martin asked if staff is in full support of the Education Advisory Board Recommendations.

Mr. Thornburg answered that they are in support. Mr. Thornburg stated the staff came up with the recommendation and presented to the Education Advisory Board.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum stated that the city will be able to come up with additional funds and want the board to go to commission requesting additional funds in the amount of \$670,000 dollars.

Board member Marianna Seiler stated that if the board vote on the motion and do a communication to the commission to request additional funding.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum stated that the board needs to go to commission requesting the additional funds and allow the commission to make the decision and not wait. Ms. Rosenbaum stated that it will cost the board more money if the board wait to decide.

Board member Marianna Seiler stated that her concern is that the commission can reject the additional funds. Ms. Seiler stated that if the board needs additional funds, they will have to reallocate the parks bond.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum stated it is up to the commission to decide if they will approve the parks board proposal. Ms. Rosenbaum further stated that the board should provide their own recommendation giving the schools everything and asking for the \$670,000 dollars.

Board member Tangerean Moore asked if there were extra funds in the parks bond.

Mr. Thornburg answered there are no extra funds in the parks bond.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum stated that the neighbors voted for the bond and were promised certain items.

**Motion** was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Tangerean Moore, approving the Education Advisory Board recommended budget for the joint use parks. In a voice vote, the **motion passed** as follows.

Alex Collazo – No  
Bruce Cummings – Yes  
Caleb Gunter – Yes  
Charlie Leikauf – Yes  
Deborah Rosenbaum – No  
Greg Martin – Yes  
JoAnn Smith – Yes  
Marianna Seiler - Yes  
Mary Peloquin – No  
Tangerean Moore – Yes

Ms. Seiler stated that it should be everyone that gets what they need back and not just Sunrise Middle School.

Board member Caleb Gunter stated that including what is already allocated for the field which is \$230,000 dollars plus the \$420,000 dollars would be a total of \$650,000

dollars allocated to the artificial turf field will cover the cost.

Board member Alex Collazo stated that the board focus should be related to the funding so that Sunrise Middle School can get the park they initially requested and that if the additional funds of \$420,000 dollars will be able to be allocated to them. Mr. Collazo stated that the commission might be able to approve the additional funds given that it was initially voted on.

## 5. **Board Comments**

Board member Joann Smith shared to the board that Broward County is hosting an event called “Ignite the light” for five nights from 6pm to 10pm and the event is open to the public.

Board member Charlie Leikauf stated that the meeting was the most engage meeting since his time on the board and its important that the public comes out and share their opinions.

Board member Greg Martin stated that the board should make it a priority and goal to get a park in the Poinciana Heights neighborhood.

## 6. **Communications to the Commission**

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum made a recommendation to the commission to give additional funds in the amount of \$420,000 dollars to allocate to Sunrise Middle School for the synthetic turf field so that the neighborhood and Sunrise Middle receive what they initially requested.

**Motion** was made by Deborah Rosenbaum and seconded by Alex Collazo, in addition to the Education Advisory Board recommendation request for additional funding in the amount of \$420,000 dollars to be allocated to Sunrise Middle School for the synthetic turf field that the neighborhood and Sunrise Middle School initially promised. In a voice vote, the **motion did not pass** as follows.

Alex Collazo – Yes  
Brucie Cummings – No  
Caleb Gunter – Yes  
Charlie Leikauf – No  
Deborah Rosenbaum – Yes  
Greg Martin – No  
JoAnn Smith – No  
Marianna Seiler - No  
Mary Peloquin – Yes  
Tangerean Moore – No

## 7. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 PM.