

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
CITY HALL, 8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2013 – 6:30 P.M.
DRAFT**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Oct 2013 - Sept 2014	
		Present	Absent
Bruce Quailey, Chair	P	1	0
Joseph Bellavance	P	1	0
Karen Doyle	A	0	1
Tommy Knapp	A	0	1
Charles Love	P	1	0
Larry Mabson	A	0	1
JoAnn Medalie	A	0	1
Larry Nielsen "Ree"	A	0	1
Robert Payne	P	1	0
Karen Polivka	P	1	0
Richard Scanlan	P	1	0
Betty Shelley	P	1	0
Angela Ward	A	0	1
Michael West	P	1	0
Richard Zaden	P	1	0

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

It was noted that a quorum was present for the meeting.

Staff

Phil Thornburg, Director
Carolyn Bean, Administrative Assistant

Roll Call

Chair Quailey called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Roll was called and all stood for the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Richard Zaden, seconded by Betty Shelley, to approve the September 25, 2013 minutes. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

1. Department Report

Director Thornburg advised that the Boat Show was coming up October 30, 2013 to November 2, 2013. Director Thornburg reminded the Board that our next meeting is December 4th, which is a combined meeting due to the holidays.

2. Renaming of 15th Street Boat Ramp

Director Thornburg advised the Board that at the September 5, 2013 Marine Advisory Board Meeting, it was recommended that the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Board consider re-naming the 15th Street Boat Ramp to "Cox's Landing 15th Street Boat Ramp", to honor the City's former Mayor Robert Cox.

Director Thornburg informed the Board that in accordance with the guidelines for renaming Parks, Parks and Recreation staff sent letters to the surrounding Homeowner associations and also placed public notice signs to notice that the renaming of the boat ramp would be placed on the October 23, 2013 agenda for the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Board.

A motion was made by Richard Zaden, seconded by Karen Polivka, to support the renaming of 15th Street Boat Ramp to "Cox's Landing 15th Street Boat Ramp".

3. Thor Guard Presentation

Pat Bennett and Greg Fox from Thor Guard presented a new lightning predictor prototype compatible with salt air and the idea possibly testing it on Fort Lauderdale Beach. Pat Bennett advised that the predictor measures the ions in the atmosphere of a 10-15 mile radius. Based on the increase in ions, they are able to predict the probability of a lightning strike at the rate of 97% accuracy in a 1.5 to 2 mile radius. In the event the ions start building and a strike is apparent, a siren will blast warning patrons to seek shelter. Once the ions in the atmosphere return to normal, a 3 siren blast will sound, indicating that it is safe to return to the beach. There is also a potential to notify neighbors via text message of the conditions at the beach.

Breck Ballou, Ocean Rescue Chief, advised that currently staff uses 50/30 rule, which is a counting method in which, upon first sight of lightning, beach patrol would begin counting until you hear the thunder. The 50 for the 50 second count and then the 30 at the end signifies 30 minutes after the last seen lightning an all clear is given.

It was suggested that during the testing phase, the alarm remains on silent as to not alarm patrons. Thor Guard prediction results will be compared with our Fort Lauderdale Beach Patrol records.

A motion was made by Richard Zaden, seconded by Robert Payne, from our advisory board to communicate to the Commission that we recommend the testing phase of the Thor Guard system go forward under the supervision of Phil Thornburg. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Board Comments

Betty Shelly commended Parks and Recreation staff for the excellent support she received during her Fall Harvest event with approximately 500 guests. Mrs. Shelly advised that park was in top condition.

5. Communications to the Commission

A motion was made by Richard Zaden, seconded by Robert Payne, from our advisory board to communicate to the Commission that we recommend the testing phase of the Thor Guard system, as discussed, be implemented under the supervision of Phil Thornburg. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.