

PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.
CITY HALL – 1ST FLOOR CHAMBERS
100 N ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312

Cumulative Attendance

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

Oct 2021 - Sept 2022

As of this date, there are 14 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Carl Williams, *Recreation Deputy Director*
Kimberly Cunningham Mosley, *Assistant City Attorney*
Patricia SaintVil-Joseph, *Assistant City Attorney*
Leona Osamor, *Grants Administrator*

Public Attendee

Dr. Allen Zeman
James Labrie

Roll Call

Chairperson Caleb Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. Roll was called, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Charlie Leikauf, that the minutes of October 27, 2021, be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Department Update

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that the newest edition of the parks Playbook will be sent out by mail.

Mr. Williams informed the board about the remaining upcoming light up series of events to take place throughout the city are as follows.

- Light Up Sistrunk – Friday December 3, 2021, from 5:00 – 9:00pm.
- Light Up Carter Park – Saturday December 11, 2021, from 3:00 – 7:00pm.
- New Year's Eve – Downtown Countdown – Friday December 31, 2021, from 4:30pm – 1:00am

The board was also informed by Mr. Williams that the LED lights have now been upgraded at Mills Pond Park, and currently the city is in the process of completing portions of the lighting upgrades at Holiday Park. Mr. Williams further stated that once the upgrades have been completed at Holiday Park, work will begin at Osswald Park.

2. Parks Bond Update

Mr. Joe Webb of AECOM informed the board that currently there are 34 parks in phase one design with 9 new parks to be designed. Mr. Webb informed the board that the AECOM team continue to work on refining the concepts for signature projects such as Carter, Holiday, and Lockhart Park.

Mr. Webb stated that at present the phase 2 projects consists of 16 design intensive parks with public consensus and would be using a multi team approach to tackle them simultaneously. Mr. Webb stated that the diagrams which display the type of work to be done can be found on the public input website under phase 2 concept sketches projects and with the approval from the parks advisory board and City Commission, they will be advanced into the design phase.

Mr. Webb further stated that the next steps in the process would involve the board's recommendation to move these projects into the next phase of work by taking them into conceptual designs, conducting cost estimates and engineering evaluations, and essentially moving these projects into what is called the 30% design drawings.

Board member Marianna Seiler inquired with Mr. Webb on whether it was possible to update the chart to show the list of projects that were in phase 1 or phase 2 and what was originally budgeted for each of those projects. Mr. Webb responded by stating that it was possible especially for his own internal tracking purposes and the desire to maintain a level of transparency with the public. Mr. Webb further stated that the goal is to create a dashboard instead of producing multiple sheets of paper that would be live and active and tied to a database because as more and more

projects become active it would be much more difficult to effectively keep track with a bunch of papers and the AECOM team is presently working on this database. Mr. Webb further stated that his team was also trying hard to document what was said is the amount of money and is the amount of money that they have to work with and despite some funding having to go to places like the aquatic center, they are still trying to hold true to that mantra.

Chairperson Caleb Gunter posed a question to Mr. Webb regarding some of the lighting upgrades that the city decided to handle and other various upgrades such as the playground at Bayview Park and asked if his team would be able to provide or add to the list of projects, a section that would show the projects that were originally apart of the bond but have now been completed and/or expended or reduced from the parks bond project costs. Mr. Webb responded by stating that his team was working on incorporating important information as such to the dashboard so that the public can have real time updates.

Board member Greg Martin stated that if the board can help evaluate the needs and accelerate the timeframe to get the projects completed, he would be more than happy to help because the more time spent on talking about things such as where a pickle ball court would go or what park needs a water fountain, the more expensive the projects will become.

Parks and Recreation Director Mr. Phil Thornburg stated that he wants it to be clear to the board that the city will not be able to know the real amount spent on any project until it has been bid, constructed and the project management is done. Mr. Thornburg further stated that Mr. Joe Webb and his currently cost estimating and proposing things that they think could be done. Mr. Thornburg further stated that he was also quite impressed with what Mr. Webb and his team has been able to accomplish thus far and wants to board to understand that as much as they would like to fast track some of these projects, there are still procurement codes that we would have to go through and different thresholds on what has to be bid and how long it has to be out on bid but wants to ensure the board that everything is currently moving as fast as it can.

Board member Carey Villeneuve posed a question to Mr. Thornburg on whether his team was in communication with the building department to let them know specifically what is coming down the pipeline to ensure that they are properly staffed to get the necessary permits or inspections. Mr. Thornburg responded by stating yes, he has been in communication with the building department on this matter.

Motion was made by Carey Villeneuve and seconded by Deborah Rosenbaum, recommending that the City Commission move forward with the phase 2 projects. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously as follows.

Alex Collazo – Yes
Caleb Gunter – Yes
Carey Villeneuve – Yes
Charlie Leikauf – Yes
Deborah Rosenbaum – Yes
Greg Martin – Yes
Marianna Seiler - Yes
Mary Peloquin - Yes

3. Joint Use Parks

Mrs. Zoie Saunders, Chief Education Officer with the City of Fort Lauderdale briefly introduced herself before making a presentation on the joint use parks initiative and how it all started. Mrs. Saunders stated that the Joint Use Working Group recommends 15 schools for parks bond funding based on the joint use scoring methodology and public input. Mrs. Saunders further stated that the budget proposal stays within the \$10,948,700 as listed in the parks bond for joint use parks and increases the number of joint use parks in the City of Fort Lauderdale and expands project scope in areas of highest need to promote geographic equity.

Mrs. Saunders stated that the proposed new projects were not contemplated in the original masterplan of 2016 but felt that as part of the review process, the following sites were considered great candidates for a park and include a proposed \$400,000 to Thurgood Marshall Elementary, \$275,000 to Rock Island Elementary, \$275,000 to Harbordale Elementary and \$100,000 to Dillard's 6-12.

Mrs. Saunders informed the board that the current proposed changes also include an increase of \$300,000 to North Fork Elementary, \$100,000 increase to Stephen Foster Elementary, \$200,000 increase to Westwood Heights Elementary, and a \$250,000 increase to Stranahan High School.

Mrs. Saunders stated that the proposed decrease in project scope would impact Croissant Park with a decrease of \$200,000, a decrease of \$725,000 from Sunrise Middle, a decrease of \$300,000 from Walker Elementary, and a decrease of \$675,000 from William Dandy Middle.

Vicechair Deborah Rosenbaum posed a question to Mrs. Saunders to confirm what the original budget was assigned to Sunrise Middle School and why this school was chosen to have funds reduced or reallocated from their original budget. Mrs. Saunders responded by stating that the goal was to work with the budget that was given but also relied on the process of need for each school and the type of amenities that could be built. Mrs. Saunders stated that there are some new amenities being considered that were not apart of the original posed plans such as track upgrades but was proposing this as part of the plan but unfortunately it is not feasible to get a high school size track at the available site due to the size. Mrs. Saunders further stated that a request was received to remove the racquet ball courts and this will be

considered as well with the proposed proposal.

Public Comments

Dr. Allen Zeman, chairman of the City of Fort Lauderdale's Education Advisory Board (EAB) informed the board that the EAB will be meeting on the 16th of December 2021 and encourages the members of the board to attend this upcoming meeting especially if they are quite passionate with any changes being considered as the board will be making a recommendation at that upcoming meeting. Dr. Zeman stated that the current issue with the Sunrise Middle School is a vexing one and wanted to see a plan that would be reflective of improving equity and conducting a needs analysis is a very difficult thing to do but further stated that there is still time for public input on the matter.

Mr. James Labrie, resident and member of Poinsettia Heights Civic Association stated that he voted for 1.7 million dollars going to Sunrise Middle School and to find out that money is now being proposed to take away from the school is unacceptable and believes that Sunrise Middle School deserves to get the full amount of money. Mr. Labrie further stated that maybe a full-size track may not fit at the site but believes there are other needs that can be addressed with the money.

Mrs. Saunders addressed the comments made by Mr. Labrie by stating the plan was not to pick any specific school and just start taking away funding but rather to answer the questions of which schools are most viable, what types of improvements would make the most sense on these sites based on input from the principal, and school community and within the given budget to work from there to itemize a cost for each site.

4. Board Comments

There were no board comments.

5. Communications to the Commission

There were no communications to the Commission.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.