

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
PARKS, RECREATION AND BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MILLS POND PARK
2201 NW 9th AVENUE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Alex Collazo	A	6	3
Ruchel Coetzee [6:34 P.M.]	P	7	2
Caleb Gunter, Chair	P	7	2
Mary Peloquin	P	8	1
Charlie Leikauf	P	9	0
Solomon Schoonover [6:34 P.M.]	P	3	0
Zillah Tarkoe	P	8	1
Idan Eckstein	P	7	2
Joy Oglesby	P	7	2
Marta Reczko [6:36 P.M.]	P	7	0
Barbara Magill	P	7	2
Samantha Sisler	A	3	1
Stacy Ritter	A	0	3

Oct 2023 - Sept 2024

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

Staff

Carl Williams – *Director of Parks and Recreation*
Amy Jean-Baptiste -- *Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation*
Leana Suarez – *Senior Administrative Assistant*
Patricia SaintVil-Joseph – *Assistant City Attorney*
Angela Salmon – *Assistant to the City Manager*

Others

Sheryl Woods, *CEO, YMCA of South Florida*
Mark Russell, *Retired CEO, YMCA of South Florida*
Shayla Sanchez, *Executive Assistant, Ms. Woods*
Jacqueline Howe, *YMCA South Florida Board Member and Victoria Park Resident*
Jason Howell, *Assisting YMCA and Victoria Park Resident*
Karen Polivka, *Coral Ridge Civic Association*
Amanda Chalfant, *Resident*
Craig Batzel, *President, Bal Harbor HOA*

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gunter led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the August 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Barbara Magill and seconded by Mary Peloquin, to approve the August 28, 2024, meeting minutes, as distributed. In a voice vote, the motion passed 9-0.

1. Mangurian Park Hours (Carl Williams)

Mr. Williams referenced a request by the Civic Association with a few requests.

The Board discussed with Ms. Karen Polivka the requests including making the park dog-friendly, homelessness issues, park hours enforcement, and fencing the northern side of the park. Mr. Williams explained that in the parks, sleeping is not allowed, and a police officer could issue a citation for it. He mentioned that typically, a warning would be given. However, when the park is closed they could issue a citation for trespassing.

Vice Chair Leikauf asked about next steps.

Mr. Williams addressed the park rule regarding time hours, stating that the matter could be resolved. He mentioned coordinating with the facilities group to assess the gate area. Regarding the dogs, he believed that the issue would be handled once the dog park was finalized through the City Commission, specifically referring to certain park regulations.

Chair Gunter asked for the status on the dog ordinance.

Mr. Williams confirmed that the issue would go before the City Commission on October 15, noting that it was a park rule, not an ordinance. He explained that the City Commission would discuss implementation, including signage and dog stations, which involve some expenditures.

Mr. Williams acknowledged Mr. Leikauf's request for a QR code on signage for easier access to park information.

2. Bal Harbour Homeowner's Association – Naming of Bal Harbour Park (Carl Williams)

Mr. Williams noted that at a prior meeting, a request was presented to acquire the property located at 2201 Northeast in the Bal Harbour area, which was approved. He added that discussions had since progressed to naming the park, and the City had been in contact with the HOA president, Craig. The proposed name for the park is "Bal Harbour Park."

Motion was made by Charlie Leikauf and seconded by Joy Oglesby to name the park Bal Harbour Park. In a roll call vote, the motion passed (10-0).

3. Playground Ordinance (Carl Williams)

Mr. Williams stated that the item had been an ongoing internal discussion. The previous city manager had asked him to explore the idea of adding designated children's areas. This designation would prohibit adults from sitting or engaging in children's play areas unless accompanying a child. He clarified that this item was not up for a vote yet but would be discussed in an upcoming City Commission meeting. Additionally, he shared examples of the proposed signage and noted that the city attorney was reviewing the matter.

Ms. Tarkoe expressed frustration that people are ignoring signage.

Mr. Williams responded that while people may sometimes ignore signage, it serves both as an awareness tool and an important aspect for enforcement. He emphasized that signage helps inform the public while enabling authorities to take action when necessary.

Assistant City Attorney SaintVil-Joseph explained that clear signage is necessary to inform the public about children's play area rules. Adults without children (over age 12) should not be in these areas. Police will give warnings, with enforcement as a last resort, to ensure children's safety and address related concerns. She further explained that cities like Miami Beach, Hollywood, Palm Beach County, and New York City have similar ordinances to protect children from sexual predators.

Discussion continued about signage and enforcement.

Ms. Reczo recommended adding a ground marker or paint to clearly demarcate the playground area. Mr. Williams acknowledged the suggestion.

4. YMCA Construction Project at Holiday Park Presentation (Sheryl Woods)

Ms. Woods introduced herself and additional team members. She presented the following: Health and Wellness Center – Coming in 2027; Serving the Community; Future; Downtown FTL Pipeline; Site Design; Broward Health; Holiday Park YMCA – First Floor; Holiday Park YMCA – Second Floor; Holiday Park – Site; Holiday Park Aquatic Center – Program Priorities; Water Safety / Drowning Prevention – Fact Sheet; Swim For Jenny Week; Water Safety Tips and Education; Partnership Vision; Community Based Model; Comprehensive Freestanding Emergency Room (FSED) Capabilities; and Holiday Park – Construction Timeline and Key Dates.

Mr. and Ms. Howell provided additional comments about the project.

Mr. Williams noted there was a potential for bond dollars from land acquisition, supported by two commissioners, to be allocated for the project. He reminded the board that they would need to approve it in a future meeting, with the funds specifically earmarked for the pool.

Ms. Woods emphasized that they aimed to be strong, collaborative partners. Their goal was to avoid duplication of efforts, listen to the needs of the community, and

offer assistance in areas where they could contribute effectively.

5. New Business (Caleb Gunter)

Mr. Schoonover mentioned a donation of a dog waste station in Hector Park. Mr. Williams asked Mr. Schoonover to share his contact information with the interested Mr. Williams noted that a new ordinance related to boards was recently passed by the city and would be addressed at the next meeting. He mentioned that it would be an item on the agenda for next month and promised to send out more information in preparation for that discussion.

Ms. Reczko mentioned that there is a new director at the Jimmy Evert Tennis Center and suggested inviting him to a future meeting.

6. Adjournment (Caleb Gunter)

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

[Minutes prepared by TBaclawski, Prototype-Inc.]