

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017 – 6:30 P.M.
CITY HALL – 8TH FLOOR
100 N ANDREWS AVE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Bill Schonlau	P	3	0
Bruce Quailey	P	4	1
Brucie Cummings	A	3	2
Darin Lentner	A	4	1
Debby Eisinger	P	4	1
Dermot McQuarrie (New)	P	1	0
James Jordan	P	4	1
JoAnn Medalie	A	2	3
Jo Ann Smith	P	4	1
Karen Polivka	P	5	0
Robert Payne	A	1	1
Ronald Goff	P	4	1
Ryan Fletcher	P	4	1

Oct 2016 - Sept 2017

As of this date, there are 13 appointed members to the Board, which means 7 would constitute a quorum. It was noted that a quorum was present for the meeting.

Staff

Carl Williams, *Deputy Director*

Leona Osamor, *Administrative Assistant*

Public Attendee

Benjamin Prows, *Broward B-Cycle*

Roll Call

Chairperson Debby Eisinger called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Roll was called and all stood for the pledge of allegiance. It was determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Bruce Quailey, seconded by Ronald Goff, that the minutes of January 25, 2017 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Bruce Quailey, seconded by Ronald Goff, that the minutes of February 22, 2017 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Department Report

Deputy Director Mr. Carl Williams informed the board that a new date has been set for the Field Turf Seminar and will take place on Friday April 21, 2017 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Fort Lauderdale Marriott North.

Mr. Williams informed the board that the City will be holding a groundbreaking ceremony to commence the Las Olas Beach Park Project on Saturday March 25, 2017 at 10:00 am at the Las Olas Marina.

Mr. Williams also informed the board that the City's recent St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival was a huge success which featured a special appearance of an elephant in this year's parade. It was also noted by Mr. Williams that it is possible that next year's parade may not follow the same route due to the construction of a new development project.

2. Dolphin Isles Park Renaming

Mr. Williams informed the board that a proposal was received from Vice Mayor Dean J. Trantalis to rename the Dolphin Isles Park to honor the late Lenore "Lu" Deaner who was the lead representative of the Dolphin Isles neighborhood and who was also very instrumental in ensuring that this park became a reality.

Motion made by Ryan Fletcher, seconded by Bruce Quailey to recommend the renaming of the Dolphin Isles Park to the proposed "Lu Deaner Park". In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

3. City Parks Assignments Update

As requested, the board was provided with a current list of all city parks in which each member of the board would select at least eight (8) parks to visit. The goal is to allow the members of the board to tour the parks and provide recommendations on areas that could use improvements or that could enhance the esthetics of the parks and to also provide feedback on areas of any safety concerns. It was noted that the discussion be continued at the next board meeting where members of the board would provide the names of the eight (8) parks they have selected.

4. Board Comments

It was noted that the members of the board welcomed the newest member to the board Mr. Dermot McQuarrie.

5. Board Discussions

Mrs. Karen Polivka raised the issue surrounding the removal of a large portion of fencing located behind the homes at the Mangurian Park and discussions were made in an attempt to determine the entity that would be responsible for making those repairs. Mr. Williams advised the board that he would look into the issue raised and provide an update.

Board member Mr. Ronald Goff raised an issue of concern surrounding the removal of approximately 40 pine trees located behind the Rooms to Go business on Federal Highway. Discussions were made surrounding the reason for their removal and Mr. Williams advised the board that he would look into the matter and provide an update.

Mr. Bruce Quailey applauded the City's efforts with the recent opening of the new dog park at Holiday Park but also raised a few issues of concerns. Mr. Quailey noted that he believes the pine trees at the park drop a lot of pine combs and are not good for the dogs especially the smaller dogs that tend to chew on them and could possible choke. He also noted that the City needs to install some signage to guide patrons to the direction of the dog park and also to the location in which they should park their cars while visiting the dog park. Mr. Quailey also raised the issue surrounding the lack of benches located in shady areas of the park and recommended that the City install another bench or two in a shady area of the park along with more trash and recycling containers. He also voiced his concerns regarding the water system features for the dogs which he referred to as being not functional and recommended that the City look into more effective systems such as the ones in cities such as Pompano and Oakland Park.

Chairperson Mrs. Debby Eisinger raised concerns surrounding the recent spring break activities on the Fort Lauderdale Beach and what appears to be a regress in actions taken in previous years by the City. Mrs. Eisinger applauded the City for ensuring trash and recycling cans were placed strategically along the beach but noted that it appeared as though the demand was much greater than anticipated and could not contain those collection efforts. Mrs. Eisinger also discussed her concerns surrounding the lack of priority efforts being given to restore the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center (FLAC) into a top rated facility that would be recognized all over the world.

6. Communications to the Commission

A **motion** was made by Ronald Goff, seconded by James Jordan for the board's Chairperson Mrs. Debby Eisinger to draft a letter to the City Commission expressing concerns about the issues surrounding the recent spring break activities on the Fort Lauderdale Beach. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

A **motion** was made by James Jordan, seconded by Bill Schonlau to request the City Commission to discuss at a conference meeting, the issues surrounding alcohol and underage drinking, trash, destruction of beaches, traffic, safety, disorderly conduct and the diminishing value of a family friendly beach environment from the recent spring break activities. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

7. Public Comment

Mr. Benjamin Prows of Broward B-Cycle raised the topic of discussion regarding the City having hammocks on the beach. Mr. Prows stated that he has spoken to Mayor Jack Seiler, Vice Mayor Dean Trantalis and City Manager Lee Feldman and that they don't mind having the hammocks on the beach but that he would need to follow the chain of command and take the matter to the board first which would generate a motion to begin the process.

It was confirmed to the board that Mr. Prows had previously come before the board on a matter surrounding slacklining on the beach and he is in fact that of the same person representing this current issue being raised on the use of hammocks on the beach.

Chairperson Mrs. Debby Eisinger noted that the minutes of the parks board meeting dated January 27, 2016 showed that a motion was passed by Karen Polivka, seconded by Darin Lentner to request the slacklining group to sign a petition showing the demand for a slacklining venue at Snyder Park but to date no petition was ever provided to the board.

Chairperson Mrs. Debby Eisinger noted that Mr. Prows was unable to produce any supporting documentation at this meeting and recommended that if he would like the matter to be discussed further at a future parks board meeting that he would need to provide backup information including studies conducted on the safety concerns as it relates to the trees and also make a presentation before the board.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.