

# City of Fort Lauderdale

*City Hall  
100 North Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
[www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov)*



## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, July 9, 2019**

**12:00 PM**

**Joint Workshop with Parks, Recreation and Beaches Board**

**City Commission Conference Room**

## **CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP**

***FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION***

***DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor***

***ROBERT L. McKINZIE Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District III***

***HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I***

***STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II***

***BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District IV***

***CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager***

***JOHN HERBST, City Auditor***

***JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk***

***ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney***

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 12:26 p.m.

**Commission Members Present:** Commissioner Heather Moraitis, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Vice Mayor Robert L. McKinzie, Commissioner Ben Sorensen, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

**Parks, Recreation and Beaches Board Members Present:** Chair Karen Polivka, Vice Chair Caleb Gunter, Alex Collazo, Brucie Cummings, Michael Flowers, Jr., Roy Grimsland, Charlie Leikauf, Tangerean Moore, Robert Payne, Mary Peloquin, Marianna Seiler, Jo Ann Smith, and Martha Gutiérrez Steinkamp

**Note Present:** S. Carey Villeneuve, Esq., Amber Vanburen

**QUORUM ESTABLISHED**

**Also Present:** City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, Deputy City Manager Rob Hernandez, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau, City Auditor John Herbst, and Parks and Recreation Director Phil Thornburg

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS****BUS-1** [19-0705](#)

Discussion - Parks and Recreation General Obligation Bond - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis gave opening remarks regarding the Parks General Obligation Bond (Parks Bond). He acknowledged the extensive experience of Phil Thornburg as Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Mayor Trantalis discussed the importance of each Parks, Recreation and Beaches Board (Parks Board) Member's connection to the community and resulting input moving forward. Participation by Parks Board members will serve to achieve an optimal environment for residents and future generations, taking the City to the next level. He requested each attendee introduce themselves.

Mayor Trantalis thanked the Parks Board members for their participation, commenting on the list of proposed Parks Bond Projects (Projects) and the necessary interaction and the exchange of ideas with neighborhood associations, neighbors and Commission members.

Board Member Martha Gutierrez Steinkamp thanked Commissioner Moraitis for appointing her to the Board. Ms. Steinkamp commented that

Parks Bond funding (Funding) does not allocate funds for maintenance and repairs at existing parks and recreation areas, requesting additional information.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding what the Funding represents, City Attorney Alain Boileau said that the Funding could not be used for maintenance. City Attorney Boileau confirmed it does have provisions which allow the Funding to be used for renovations or improvements, explaining related details. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Attorney Boileau confirmed that maintenance of Parks is part of the City's operational management budget.

Board Member Alex Collazo concurred with Ms. Steinkamp's comments, requesting that Mr. Thornburg update the Board on the maintenance schedule for existing parks at their next meeting. Mr. Thornburg said that maintenance had been delayed due to the forthcoming Funding. Holiday Park is first on the schedule for playground replacement and would include interaction with the neighborhood.

Mayor Trantalis said that neighbors are requesting the Hortt Park playground be placed on the priority list. Mr. Thornburg noted the approximate 10-year life cycle of playgrounds due to weather and other factors. The Parks Bond will fund items which are due for replacement.

Board Member Charlie Leikauf commented on his understanding that Funding would be used for capital expenditures, i.e., replacement and investment, stating that maintenance of parks is part of the annual operational budget. Further examples were discussed.

In response to Board Chair Karen Polivka's question regarding a timeline to spend the Funding, it was confirmed there is no deadline for the spending of the Funding. She requested Commission input and recommendations on how to evaluate projects, citing potential examples.

Mayor Trantalis noted that the Commission's annual Spring Goal Setting Sessions provide an opportunity for Commission input regarding Funding, i.e., *LauderTrail*. Input and ideas would be forwarded to the Board for input and recommendations. Additionally ideas generated by the Board would filter up to the Commission for review and discussion. Further comment ensued on opportunities at Lockhart Stadium.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the Board and Commission being flexible regarding the generation of ideas and concepts. He noted the large amount of input from neighbor surveys regarding open greenspace and recreational facilities, confirming that the City is moving in that direction,

i.e., *The War Memorial Auditorium*.

In response to Chair Polivka's comments regarding D.C. Alexander Park and the Aquatic Complex moving forward, Mayor Trantalis confirmed there is funding in place for both of these projects. D.C. Alexander Park is currently in the design phase and is moving forward. Construction has begun on the Aquatic Complex and is moving forward.

In response to Chair Polivka's question regarding the ideal number of multi-use fields for local teams, travel leagues and population growth, Mr. Thornburg said he did not have an exact number. He discussed efforts to replace the field at Holiday Park and fields at the Lockhart Stadium site, which would be open to the public would serve this need. Mr. Thornburg said that opportunities for additional field space are a challenge. Efforts are ongoing with the Broward County School Board (School Board) for opportunities to utilize its field space. Mayor Trantalis noted that the opportunities at the Lockhart Stadium site would provide additional field space.

Mayor Trantalis recommended that the Board, in conjunction with Mr. Thornburg, review the list of Projects and determine what could be accomplished. He expounded on his perspective, including the need to keep a balance while addressing both small and large Projects of importance to residents.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding having a Project Manager for these Projects, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed that the scope of work needs to be reviewed and would be followed by a competitive bid solicitation for a Program Manager. This approach is similar to the implementation of the Wastewater Bond.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on the interaction of the Program Manager with the Parks and Recreation Department, the Board and the Commission. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed, noting his expectations regarding the competitive bid solicitation. A Commission update regarding the results of the competitive bid solicitation would be presented following the Summer Break.

Vice Chair Caleb Gunter commented on having a Staff person as the lead in-house liaison directing the Program Manager. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed there would be a liaison in addition to a Program Manager.

Vice Chair Gunter discussed addressing this topic from a broader perspective, commenting that the large amount of Funding allows the City

to apply for grant match funding. He noted the need for an in-house Staff member to address these opportunities. Mayor Trantalis commented on leveraging the Funding and the expectation that a consultant would pursue this opportunity. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed that Staff is available to address grant funding prospects.

In response to Ms. Steinkamp's question regarding providing the scope of work to the Board, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed. Mayor Trantalis said that the Board would not have to approve the scope of work. The Board would utilize the scope of work as an information/advisory resource.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the timeline for the Projects and related Funding, City Manager Lagerbloom said that the expectation is for the first \$80,000,000 tranch of Funding to be used for the initial set of Projects would occur in the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY 2020). Further comment and discussion ensued on subsequent tranches of Funding.

Mayor Trantalis recommended the Board review the Project list and interact with their respective neighborhoods for input, recommendations and prioritization. This feedback would provide information to the Board and Commission regarding the spending of the first tranch of Funding. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mr. Collazo's question regarding the Program Manager's fees being paid from the Funding, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the administration of the Program Manager fees would be paid from the Funding.

Mr. Collazo concurred with Vice Chair Gunter's comments to keep the Program Manager position in-house. City Manager Lagerbloom commented on the distinction between the Project Manager and Program Manager. The Projects would be managed on a different level than the Program, expounding on details.

In response to Vice Mayor McKinzie's questions, City Manager Lagerbloom said the Program defines the entirety of the combined Projects. Mr. Thornburg explained the role of Program Manager is to take projects from birth to ribbon cutting. This includes working with Staff from resident outreach through design, procurement, project management work with contractors and assisting with the opening of the Parks. The Program Manager would be a Staff member who would oversee the group of Project Managers. Mr. Thornburg noted that the majority of municipalities address these situations in this manner, expounding on

related details.

Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on his understanding of this topic, including neighbor outreach and input, creation of the Parks Master Plan, interaction with previous Parks, Recreation and Beaches Boards and other related details. He also noted additional requests for Park amenities in the downtown area that requires the location of parcels and included in the Parks Bond. An amendment to the Parks Master Plan was made part of the Funding. Vice Mayor McKinzie commented that neighbor input could impact Projects, expounding on possible opportunities for the reallocation of Funding.

City Attorney Boileau discussed wording of the Resolution. The Funding for the initial \$80,000,000 tranch would be dedicated to the four (4) signature projects, estimated at \$65,000,000 could provide funding for other items. Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on his perspective regarding Projects in District III. Further comment ensued.

Commissioner Glassman noted that each District received a signature project. Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on the need to complete all Projects.

In response to Board Member Brucie Cummings' question regarding the amount appropriated for the purchase of additional park land being adequate, Mayor Trantalis noted that a determination regarding the location of parcels had not been determined. The amount appropriated in the Parks Bond are reserve funds should an opportunity become available. Further comment and discussion ensued on budgeting for an amount above the allocated amount.

In response to Ms. Cummings' question, Vice Mayor McKinzie confirmed his preference would be for all District III Projects to be completed prior to purchasing additional parcels for Projects. Comment ensued on efforts to utilize the City owned former One-Stop-Shop site to open green space in the downtown area. Further comment ensued on possible future opportunities for public greenspace parks and the need to keep pursuing this prospect. Mayor Trantalis said that all opportunities and goals are a parallel path.

Ms. Cummings commented on the ongoing Board efforts to provide input. Vice Mayor McKinzie acknowledged that this has assisted in reaching the current point in the process.

In response to Ms. Steinkamp's question regarding the percentage of Funding going towards administration, City Manager Lagerbloom said

that this would be known after completion of the competitive bid solicitation process.

Commissioner Moraitis said that when the Program Manager is in place, they would need to meet with each District Commissioner and the Board to discuss Projects and associated priorities. She commented on expectations regarding expenditures for the District I Lockhart Stadium site and addressing other Projects. Commissioner Moraitis said that a better timeline is anticipated when the Program Manager is in place, commenting on future opportunities to tweak Projects.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding addressing American with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements at all parks prior to hiring a Program Manager, Mr. Thornburg recommended ADA improvements for all Projects await the final design to ensure an understanding of what ADA improvements would be required. He commented that the landscapes of Projects may change, noting that any immediate ADA needs could be done now.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on her support of the Board's continued research and efforts to address connectivity for *LauderTrail* and *Rails-to-Trails*, which would provide opportunities for bicycles and pedestrians. Commissioner Glassman recommended incorporating the *Mockingbird Trail Working Group*. Commissioner Moraitis concurred. Mayor Trantalis noted the *LauderTrail Working Group* efforts to address this subject.

Ms. Cummings discussed communicating with neighborhoods regarding updates to the Parks Master Plan and requesting neighbors to prioritize and possibly remove projects. Mayor Trantalis concurred. Commissioner Sorensen also concurred, recommending this happen when the Program Manager is in place.

Commissioner Sorensen reviewed his efforts to bring together the *LauderTrail Working Group* and the *Mockingbird Working Group*, giving a short synopsis and noting his recommendation to bring both Working Groups together under one name. He confirmed that these discussions are ongoing. Mayor Trantalis commented on the *Mockingbird Trail* branding, challenges to making the trail contiguous and the readiness to see implementation.

Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on the need to ensure that residents on the west side of the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) tracks have access to these trail projects and BrightLine service. Chair Polivka

confirmed that *LauderTrail* is located on the west side of Interstate 95, confirming she would send Vice Mayor McKinzie the related link.

Ms. Steinkamp commented on the approval of the historical marker at Stranahan Park in 2019.

Vice Mayor McKinzie recognized his appointee to this Board, Robert Payne, a retired Parks Department Staff Member. Vice Mayor McKinzie acknowledged Mr. Payne's service as the first African-American lifeguard in the City.

Mr. Collazo commented on the pulse of the community and input regarding overdevelopment. Mayor Trantalis noted the Commission's sensitivity to this subject and commented on communications related to this topic. Mayor Trantalis said the majority of current construction projects and others, which have not yet broken ground, were approved under the previous Commission. The current Commission has slowed this down and is focused on infrastructure in order to accommodate new development.

Mr. Collazo commented on the positive things happening and the need to communicate this via social media. Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on his perspective on this topic. Mayor Trantalis discussed efforts during the March 2018 campaigns. He noted that Mr. Collazo's comment has merit, confirming the possibility of creating a brochure to inform residents of ongoing efforts.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 1:06 p.m.