

PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020 – 6:30 P.M.
CITY HALL IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Virtual Meeting

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Alex Collazo	P	6	1
Brucie Cummings	P	7	0
Caleb Gunter	P	6	1
Carey Villeneuve	P	7	0
Charlie Leikauf	P	6	1
Darren Heitner <i>(New)</i>	P	1	0
Deborah Rosenbaum	P	3	1
Gale Butler	A	1	3
Jo Ann Smith	P	6	1
Karen Polivka	P	6	1
Marianna Seiler	P	5	2
Martha G. Steinkamp	P	5	2
Mary Peloquin	P	7	0
Robert Payne	A	0	1
Tangerean Moore	P	4	3

Oct 2019 - Sept 2020

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

Staff

Phil Thornburg, *Parks & Recreation Director*
Carl Williams, *Parks & Recreation Deputy Director*
Kimberly Mosley, *Assistant City Attorney*
Luisa Agathon, *Sr. Assistant to the City Manager*
Leona Osamor, *Grants Administrator*
Edgardo Noceda, *IT Technical Support Technician*
Johnny Rojas, *IT Technical Support Analyst*

Guest Speakers

Ken Krasnaw
Sean McCaffrey
Andrew Abbott

Roll Call

Chairperson Karen Polivka called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Roll was called, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Deborah Rosenbaum and seconded by Marianna Seiler, that the minutes of May 27, 2020 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Department Updates

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that beginning September 8, 2020 the City of Fort Lauderdale's Parks and Recreation department will launch a Supervised E-Learning Program at four park locations namely Carter Park, Croissant Park, Osswald Park and Warfield Park. Mr. Williams stated that the program will provide residents and employees with a safe and remote learning environment for their children in grades one through five and will also provide recreational and enrichment opportunities for participants.

2. Proposed Parks

Ken Krasnow of Colliers International, the City of Fort Lauderdale's real estate advisor made a presentation on the current status of park land acquisition, as it continues to expand the park footprint throughout the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. Krasnow confirmed that the City closed on its first property located at 4201 N. Ocean Blvd. in District 1 on April 28, 2020.

Mr. Krasnow also confirmed that the second proposed park acquisition located at 1016 Waverly Road in District 2, was previously brought before the City Commission on July 7, 2020 and August 18, 2020 respectively but did not get approval. Mr. Krasnow further stated that since the last City Commission meeting, the sellers have agreed to reduce the price of the property to \$2.54 million, a \$85,000 reduction in price and will be brought back to the City Commission on October 6, 2020.

Mr. Krasnow confirmed that a third property located at SW 5th Court and SW 12th Avenue in District 4, was currently also in the works for acquisition. The board was informed by Mr. Krasnow that the property was approximately 2.16 acres in size and located in the zone of need and will be beneficial in expanding Riverside Park and the waterfront. Mr. Krasnow also informed the board that the property was not listed for sale but currently the negotiated price is \$4.050 million.

Motion was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Alex Collazo in support of Colliers International moving forward with the due diligence process on the proposed property located as SW 5th Court and SW 12th Avenue. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

3. War Memorial Project Update

Chief Operating Officer, Sean McCaffrey of the Florida Panthers made a brief

presentation on the status of the War Memorial Project. Mr. McCaffrey confirmed that the current timeline for the project to break ground would take place right after the new year of 2021. Board members were shown images of the updated site plans that included various site elevations and the roof terrace. Mr. McCaffrey also confirmed that although a few trees had to be removed to accommodate the changes in the new site plan, the plan will double the number of trees that would be replanted. The board was also informed that the project plans will also include the preservation of the War Memorial Park history, walking paths and pickleball courts.

4. Presentation - Beach Bucket Cleanup Station [New Agenda Business]

Andrew Abbott, founder of the Beach Bucket Foundation made a presentation on the current collaborative work his foundation is currently conducting with the Cities of West Palm Beach as well as Boynton Beach. Mr. Abbott informed the members of the board that the Beach Bucket Foundation was established to encourage visitors to actively engage in stewardship over one of our most precious resources and to serve as a reminder that everyone can play a part in protecting our ocean. Mr. Abbott confirmed that the beach clean-up station was installed at Carlin Park in Jupiter for quite some time and the foundation's goal is to have them installed at all coastal municipalities.

Director of Parks and Recreation, Phil Thornburg agreed that the concept was a great idea but stated there may be a few challenges that would need to be worked out particularly as it relates to advertisement and revenues collected by the foundation. Mr. Thornburg confirmed that presently commercial advertisement is not permitted on the beach but would defer these challenges to the City's legal department for clarification.

Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, Carl Williams also agreed that the foundation's concept was a good one but noted that in the short-term may pose as a threat in the spread of Covid-19 as well as the possibility of the buckets being used for unsanitary and other illegal purposes.

5. Board Comments/Discussions

Board member Brucie Cummings inquired about whether the City of Fort Lauderdale was interested in imposing fines for visitors violating the beach as it is currently done in Los Angeles.

Board member Charlie Leikauf inquired about whether the City of Fort Lauderdale would ever consider having a stationed beach police unit particularly in the area of the South Beach Parking Lot to deal with a lot of the sketchy behaviors of patrons especially during the weekends.

Board member Alex Collazo suggested the incorporation of a bounty program in response to aiding in the enforcement of issuing fines for beach violators.

Board member Charlie Leikauf informed the board that the new Lockhart Stadium hosted its first real soccer game and encouraged everyone that has not driven by or seen the new beautiful stadium to take a look.

6. Communications to the Commission

There were no communications to the commission.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.