

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.**

Virtual Meeting

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Alex Collazo	P	3	1
Brucie Cummings	A	3	1
Caleb Gunter	P	3	1
Carey Villeneuve	P	4	0
Charlie Leikauf	P	4	0
Darren Heitner	P	3	1
Deborah Rosenbaum	P	4	0
Gale Butler	P	3	1
Greg Martin	P	3	0
Jo Ann Smith	A	2	2
Marianna Seiler	P	4	0
Mary Peloquin	P	4	0
Robert Payne	P	2	2
Steffi Paskow	P	2	0
Tangerean Moore	P	4	0

Oct 2020 - Sept 2021

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, *Recreation Deputy Director*
Kimberly Mosley, *Assistant City Attorney*
Leona Osamor, *Grants Administrator*
Enrique Sanchez, *Parks Deputy Director*

Guest Speakers

Joseph Webb

Roll Call

Chairperson Caleb Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 Robert Payne, that the minutes of February 24, 2021 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Department Update

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that the Parks and Recreation Department was in the planning stages for the upcoming 2021 Summer Camp Programs. Mr. Williams stated that an application is being prepared to apply for a CDBG grant that would provide an academic enrichment portion to the summer camp programs to help those students that struggled during the academic school year to stay on track academically. Mr. Williams also stated that the academic enrichment program is scheduled to run for approximately seven weeks.

2. Parks Bond Update

Parks and Recreation Director Phil Thornburg made a brief introduction and informed the board that it was a big night with respect to the parks bond process since the first set of project recommendations will be presented tonight. Mr. Thornburg stated that this process would involve projects first coming before the board for approval then on to the City Commission for a public hearing.

Mr. Joseph Webb of AECOM made a presentation that included a summary of the public engagement. Mr. Webb stated that there were 6,452 virtual open house visits, 4,700 comment portal views, 1,164 participants that provided 3,468 comments and responses and 534 participants that left a contact information.

Mr. Webb informed the board that of the 90 parks presented during the virtual public engagement, 55 had full concurrence and 13 will need minor correction. Mr. Webb stated that 9 new parks would be designed.

Mr. Webb stated that the criteria for project phases involves identifying signature projects, community consensus on the park development program, equitable distribution of projects across the City, potential for grants or leveraging bond funds, and the efficiency of design, bidding and construction.

The board was informed by Mr. Webb that the proposed phase recommendations involves phase 1 – signature projects and equitably distributed projects with clear public consensus; phase 2 – remaining projects with clear public consensus; phase 3 – construction of projects that require additional public input and phase 4 – newly acquired park areas.

Mr. Webb stated that the next steps in the process would include preparing design bundles, bid packages, construction followed by ribbon cutting ceremonies.

Motion was made by Charlie Leikauf and seconded by Mary Peloquin in support of the proposed Phase 1 projects moving forward to the next stage in the parks bond process. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

3. Park Impact Fees

Director of Parks and Recreation Phil Thornburg made a brief presentation to the

board on the topic of park impact fees, its usage and how it is collected. Mr. Thornburg stated that all new developments within the City of Fort Lauderdale is calculated by square footage but roughly equates to about \$2,500 per unit to buy into the park system in theory. Mr. Thornburg further stated that if there was nothing built on the site before the new development and the developer wanted to build for example 100 units, then the fees would be \$2,500 times the 100 units versus if there were 10 units previously built on site, and it was torn down to build 100 new units, then the calculations would be \$2,500 times 90 units.

Mr. Thornburg informed the board that the funds collected from park impact fees, could be utilized towards new developments and not for things such as park maintenance. Mr. Thornburg stated that the fees could only be utilized towards adding new amenities to a park or towards building a new park. Mr. Thornburg informed the board that the park impact fees have mainly been utilized towards larger regional projects and within the last few years the City has used it towards projects such as the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center (FLAC), Tunnel Top Park, and the development of a River Oaks Park.

Mr. Thornburg stated that back in July of 2019, the State Legislature was revisited and now requires cities to look towards the nexus and where the park impact fees were coming from and where they were being spent.

4. Board Comments

Board member Gail Butler inquired about the possibility of getting a copy of the presentation and backup information for the proposed designed of DC Alexander Park that came before the board prior to her appointment.

Board member Steffi Paskow inquired about the possibility of having someone provide an overview or a guide of the expectations of the duties as a new member on the board.

Board member Carey Villeneuve inquired with the other members of the board on whether they would be supportive in sending a communications to the City Commission to keep the One Stop Shop and designate it as a public park.

5. Communications to the Commission

Motion was made by Carey Villeneuve and seconded by Alex Collazo that the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board recommends the City Commission honors the City's downtown Master Plan and turn the One Stop Shop property into a public park. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.