

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.
CITY HALL – 8TH FLOOR
100 N ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Alex Collazo	A	4	2
Brucie Cummings	P	5	1
Caleb Gunter	P	5	1
Carey Villeneuve	P	6	0
Charlie Leikauf	P	6	0
Darren Heitner	A	4	2
Deborah Rosenbaum	P	6	0
Gale Butler	A	4	2
Greg Martin	P	5	0
Jo Ann Smith	P	4	2
Marianna Seiler	A	5	1
Mary Peloquin	P	6	0
Robert Payne	A	3	3
Steffi Paskow	A	3	1
Tangerean Moore	P	6	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, Director

Carl Williams, *Deputy Director*

Stephanie McClary, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

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 Joann Smith, that the minutes of April 28, 2021 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Department Update

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that city events have recently started and in the month of May the Great American Beach Party turnout was successful. Mr. Williams stated that Fourth of July celebration is coming up and the

Beach Boys will be the headliner. Mr. Williams mention Starlight Musical started 2 weeks ago and invited the board to attend this Friday 7pm to 10pm at Holiday Park until August 13. Mr. Williams informed the board that Starlight musical and Carter Park Jams are on the same night, Carter Park Jams is from 7pm to 10pm night on selected nights which are July 16, September 17th, and October 15th, 2021. Mr. Williams then stated Sips and Sounds will start this Sunday at 2pm-6pm at South Side with wine pairing. Mr. Williams informed the board about 27M Dive Tower Ceremony on July 1st, 2021 at 2:30pm and the board has been invited, parking will be available at DC Alexander Park. Mr. Williams reminded the board that there is no meeting in July and will reconvene in August.

Board member Mary Peloquin asked for a status of Carter Park Pool.

Mr. Williams informed the board that he anticipated the completion by the end of next week; however, depending on the weather it should be within the next two weeks.

Mr. Williams informed the board that property owner by Ann Murry Park concern has been address to the City Attorney for review and he believes the property owner did pull permits; however, it is in review with the City Attorney.

Board member Charlie Leikauf stated that his family sold the property and knew that the park was on private property for years. Mr. Leikauf stated that the new property owner had a survey done and put up a fence.

Mr. Williams mention that the City Attorney will continue to review and working on the issue.

2. EDSA Dedication Presentation

Douglas Smith, EDSA made a presentation to the board on the topic of dedication of portion of Riverwalk Historic District Park. Mr. Smith informed the board that EDSA is a design firm and planning landscape architecture that is based in Fort Lauderdale and started by Edward D. Stone, Jr. in 1960. Mr. Smith presented a proposal to the board to honor Mr. Edward D. Stone, Jr. naming a portion of Riverwalk Edward D. Stone, Jr Trail at the Riverwalk Historic District. Mr. Smith stated Edward D. Stone, Jr was passionate about the quality of life in Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Smith stated Mr. Stone came to Fort Lauderdale in the late 1950s as a graduate from Harvard School of Design. Mr. Smith stated that Edward D. Stone Jr. started his career in pioneer landscape architect and soon after he started EDSA (Edward D Stone Associates). Mr. Smith stated that he established the firm as internationally recognized in urban design, community planning and open space planning. Mr. Smith stated he was recognized throughout the world but mainly in south Florida. Mr. Smith stated under his leadership, EDSA flourished and the city fathers in Fort Lauderdale and Broward County embarked on a couple of game-changing public works projects that spurred a renaissance in Fort Lauderdale in the 1980s and 1990s. Mr. Smith mention that they were two landmark projects that resulted over a billion dollars of private sector investors that improved public access which were the Beachfront revitalization and The Riverwalk. Mr. Smith shared Edward D. Stone, Jr. accomplished by mentioned that Mr. Stone served on 3 consecutive terms of the US Commission of Fine Arts and was appointed to those term by Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Carter. Mr. Smith mention that he was awarded by American Society of Landscape Architects, ASLA.

medal which "the highest honorably Landscape Architect whose lifetime achievements and

contributions to the profession and had a unique domestic impact on the welfare of the public and environment." Mr. Smith mention that Edward D. Stone, Jr. is remembered as a gentleman who personified the qualities of honesty and respect. Mr. Smith stated that Edward, D. Stone Jr. has left a legacy in the Fort Lauderdale community and led EDSA's design on well-known local projects in Fort Lauderdale such as Broward County Library, Holiday Park, and Marriott Harbor Beach Resort and EDSA is proud to carry his legacy and have completed over 100 assignments in the City of Fort Lauderdale over 60 years and Greater Broward County 375 different commissions, studies, or projects. Mr. Smith mention that Edward D. Stone Jr. was active in the community and served on the Bonnet House board for many years and contribute his talents to help persevere historic gym and EDSA continue to carry the torch and have kept their seats on the boards such as the Bonnet House board, Stranahan House Historic Museum, and Riverwalk board.

Mr. Smith mention that they have received 30 letters of support from variety of community leaders and colleagues of Edward D. Stone, Jr. Mr. Smith stated each of the letters that were submitted had a commendation. Mr. Smith stated that EDSA does have full support of the proposal from Gina Ellis CEO of Riverwalk, Inc., and Patricia Zeiler. Mr. Smith stated that they are proposing to put monuments on the Riverwalk one at the east end which is close to the railroad tracks and the other on the west end which is closer to the escort. Mr. Smith thanked the board for their time and consideration on this proposal.

Board member Cary Villeneuve question if the monuments would have a financial impact on the city. Mr. Villeneuve asked if the proposal went before the Riverwalk board.

Mr. Smith stated that EDSA would be responsible for the monument cost and he doesn't have the answer if the proposal went before the board.

Board member Deborah Rosenbaum question if anyone else have plans for Riverwalk in terms of its development or if it's entirely APSC.

Mr. Smith stated that the envisioning of the Riverwalk 3 to 4 years ago, EDSA was the lead designer of the work that was implemented over time and the City of Fort Lauderdale did some of the work internally. Mr. Smith stated that they were other firms involved in the consortium.

Motion was made by Joann Smith and seconded by Deborah Rosenbaum in support to dedicate a portion of the Riverwalk Historic District to honor Mr. Edward D. Stone, Jr. with a monument. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

3. Florida Panthers Update on War Memorial

Bryce Hollweg with the Florida Panthers made a presentation to the board on the updated of War Memorial. Mr. Hollweg stated that he has taken the position for Sean McCaffrey. Mr. Hollweg stated that his background is in construction development operations, beverage operations, and hockey and excited to oversee this project. Mr. Hollweg stated over the last couple weeks they received their last permits. Mr. Hollweg mention that they are currently working on plumbing, engineering, and mechanical work onsite.

Board member Carey Villeneuve mention that there is an indication of utility relocation to start on March 15th and they are power lines across the park to get to War Memorial. Mr. Villeneuve questioned if those lines can be buried as part of the project.

Mr. Hollweg stated that they are working with FPL to bury the powerlines.

Board member Carey Villeneuve stated that the lease only goes up to the edge of the square grass field heading toward Sunrise Boulevard. Mr. Villeneuve ask if they would be buried to where their lease ends or would they be buried from the point where they enter the park.

Mr. Hollweg stated that he is not sure; however, he will look further into it.

Board member Carey Villeneuve stated if you only can buried up to your lease then there should be a conversation with AECOM or with Phil Thornburg, Director of Parks and Recreation so that they are buried all the way up to the entry of the park. Mr. Villeneuve mention as AECOM moves forward with everything for the Parks Bond he believes they shouldn't move that utility pole right outside their lease area and Mr. Villeneuve recommends to not have overhead lines running across the park and would be great to do that at one time.

Board member Charlie Leikauf stated wherever the easement runs the lines are not there at the beginning or ending of their lease, but they run from north to south towards the park. Mr. Leikauf stated that its FPL utility easement and the City granted for the power light for many years.

Board member Carey Villeneuve mention that if they are going to bury then they should want them buried done to the other side where the horses are located.

Mr. Hollweg stated that he will look into the concern.

Board member Brucie Cummings mention if there would be two occupants located there.

Mr. Hollweg informed the board there will be two occupants, one of them will be the Panthers practice facility and when it's not being used for the Panthers it will be used for the community. Mr. Hollweg stated that it will keep the same concept with two sheets of ice, and one is strictly a community rink and the other one will be the Panthers and when not used it will be community shared.