

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
PARKS, RECREATION AND BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
FIRE STATION # 2
528 NW 2ND STREET
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Alex Collazo, Vice Chair	A	6	2
Ruchel Coetzee	P	7	1
Vanessa Apotheker	P	4	2
Ronald Goff	P	6	0
Anna Vratsinas	P	3	2
Solomon Schoonover	P	5	3
Joy Oglesby, Chair	P	8	0
Idan Eckstein	P	6	2
Colette Keno	A	4	2
Marta Reczko	P	7	1
Sean Fee	P	5	0
Don Mizell	A	2	1
Patricia Zeiler	A	0	1

Oct 2024 - Sept 2025

As of this date, there are 13 appointed members to the Board, which means 7 would constitute a quorum. A quorum was present.

Staff

Carl Williams – *Director of Parks and Recreation*
 Amy Jean-Baptiste – *Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation*
 Leana Suarez – *Senior Administrative Assistant*
 Patricia SaintVil-Joseph – *Assistant City Attorney*
 Alex Torres – *Senior Project Manager of Parks and Recreation*
 Brittany Henry – *Parks and Recreation*
 Mark Isaac – *Parks Bond Project Manager II*

Others

Karen Cruitt, Recording Secretary, Prototype-Inc.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Oglesby led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the May 28, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Eckstein asked for a review of comments regarding pickleball courts in section five.

Motion was made by Marta Reczko and seconded by Vanessa Apotheker, to approve the May 28, 2025, meeting minutes, subject to verification of change. In a voice vote, the motion passed 9-0.

1. Parks Bond Update & Funding Source Amendment for Seven (7) Parks – District 4. (Alex Torres)

Senior Project Manager of Parks and Recreation Alex Torres presented the previously approved funding strategy from the May 27, 2025, board meeting to fund Stranahan Park, Smoker Park, Cliff Lake Park, Poinciana Park, Snyder Park, Gore Betz Park, and Marshall Point Park. The proposed amendment was to use the interest earned on the Series 2022A debt to fund this project. Mr. Torres noted once the third bond disbursement takes place, advanced funds would be adjusted to reimburse the interest account.

Motion was made by Vaness Apotheker and seconded by Idan Eckstein, to approve the appropriation of \$1.1M of interest earned from the General Obligations Bond Series 2022A debt to advance the following seven Parks Bond Projects that were slated to be funded in the third tranche of the Parks Bond debt issuance: Stranahan Park, Smoker Park, Cliff Lakes Park, Poinciana Park, Snyder Park, Gore Betz Park and Marshall Point Park. In a roll vote, motion passed 8-0. Mr. Schoonover abstained.

Mr. Schoonover abstained from voting due to in-laws owning property adjacent to Smoker Park. Preferred to avoid the appearance of a conflict with any funding for Smoker Park. Ms. Suarez would obtain signature on the Voting Conflict form.

Mr. Torres briefly introduced Mark Isaac, Park Bond Project Manager.

2. Department Update (Carl Williams & Amy Jean-Baptiste)

Director Williams provided a recap of the Florida Panthers parade hosted on the barrier island from sunrise to 5th Street, with an estimated attendance of approximately 400,000 people. Director Williams noted the event was very well attended, with representatives from every department and commended staff for their efforts, especially given the extreme heat.

Mr. Fee complimented the staff who worked the event and the provision of water stations.

Ms. Coetzee agreed and noted the event felt very safe.

Deputy Director Jean-Baptiste highlighted the following upcoming events; Masters team swim meet at the Aquatic Center; Park & Recreation Night on July 18 as part of Park & Recreation Month; July 4th Spectacular featuring Vanilla Ice and the Love the 90's Tour; David Deal Play Day; Sunday Jazz Brunch on August 3; and Summer Jamz Concert at Mills Pond Park on August 15.

3. Outdoor Events Ordinance (Carl Williams)

Director Williams presented the Outdoor Event Ordinance update and addressed

questions from the previous month regarding event fees. Director Williams confirmed the Board did not support adding fees for ticketed events or reducing fees for large-scale events. The City Commission directed staff to provide a recommendation to limit the number of events on the Barrier Island and Downtown areas. In 2024, the Barrier Island hosted 197 events, and Downtown hosted 192. The total number of 2025 events scheduled to date include 209 on the Barrier Island and 144 off the Barrier Island. Director Williams emphasized the importance of processing event requests on a first-come, first-served basis for transparency and requested events clear out quickly after conclusion. Director Williams also suggested regulating road closures based on road setup and possibly designating specific routes for walks and runs, which were identified as the most impactful events.

Ms. Reczko asked how markets are managed, and Director Williams explained most markets are contained within parks and have low impact.

Mr. Fee confirmed the largest impacts came from walks/runs, the air show, and Tortuga. Director Williams noted the City Commission had not directed staff to limit road closure days, and event frequency varies throughout the year.

Ms. Vratsinas acknowledged the nature of the Barrier Island, questioning who objected to road closures. Director Williams said both residents and businesses raised concerns, though more feedback came from residents.

Mr. Eckstein asked for a staff recommendation, and Director Williams expressed caution about setting hard limits but acknowledged the City Commission's concern over the growing number of events and the need for better controls.

Ms. Coetzee asked whether the fee matrix would deter some promoters, and Director Williams agreed the new structure could naturally reduce demand. Director Williams noted the fee matrix would likely be implemented in August or September following City Commission direction.

Mr. Schoonover suggested using the fee matrix to naturally limit events rather than setting a fixed number and asked if a vote could be delayed until the matrix was finalized. Director Williams did not recommend delaying.

Ms. Reczko emphasized it was the Board's responsibility to provide a recommendation now.

Mr. Fee noted the issue was already growing, with 12 additional events on the Barrier Island year-to-date.

The Board discussed how to determine appropriate event limits, with Ms. Coetzee questioning if promoters would still pursue events despite higher fees.

Mr. Eckstein reminded the Board any proposed limits could be adjusted over time.

Motion was made by Idan Eckstein and seconded by Vaness Apotheker proposed we say there's 400 events as the max for both the barrier and the downtown. In a roll call vote, motion passed 6-3.

Assistant City Attorney SaintVil-Joseph confirmed staff would present the recommendation to the City Commission in the form of an ordinance.

Further discussion focused on balancing event approvals with road closure impacts.

Mr. Schoonover proposed increasing fees for events requiring road closures, which Director Williams confirmed was already addressed in the upcoming fee matrix.

4. **New Business** (Joy Oglesby)

None.

5. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 P.M.

[Minutes prepared by TBaclawski, Prototype-Inc.]