

**MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
PARKS, RECREATION AND BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
FIRE STATION # 2  
528 NW 2ND STREET  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.**

**Cumulative Attendance**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Vanessa Apotheke</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Ruchel Coetzee (arrived at 6:10 pm)</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Idan Eckstein</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Sean Fee</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Colette Keno</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Don Mizell</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Nazir Lavji</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Steven Woytko</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Solomon Schoonover</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Anna Vratsinas</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Patricia Zeiler</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Joy Oglesby, Chair</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Janet Moreira</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

**Oct 2025 - Sept 2026**

As of this date, there are 13 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum. A quorum was present.

**Staff**

Quentin Pough, *Assistant City Manager*  
 Amy Jean-Baptiste, *Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation*  
 Leona Osamor- *Grants and Special Projects Administrator*  
 Patricia SaintVil-Joseph, *Assistant City Attorney*  
 Norelli Liguori, *Senior Administrative Assistant*  
 Laura Voet, *Aquatic Center Manager*

**Others**

Nicole Day, Recording Secretary, Prototype-Inc.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Oglesby led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Approval of the January 28, 2026, Meeting Minutes**

**Motion** was made by Solomon Schoonover and seconded by Vanessa Apotheker, to approve January 28, 2026, meeting minutes with corrections. In a voice vote, the motion passed 9-0.

### **1. Introduction: New Board Member – Joy Oglesby**

Chair Joy Oglesby introduced new Board Member Steven Woytko. Mr. Woytko then introduced himself to the Board, providing an overview of his professional background, prior positions held, places he has lived, and other relevant experience throughout his career.

### **2. Nominations for the Election of Vice Chair- Amy Jean-Baptiste**

Amy Jean-Baptiste, Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation, noted that Marta Reczko stepped down from her position as Vice Chair and is no longer on the Board. The Board then opened nominations.

**Motion** was made by Joy Oglesby and seconded by Solomon Schoonover, to appoint Sean Fee as Vice Chair. In a voice vote, the motion passed 10-0.

### **3. Parks Bond Update – Funding Reallocation of North Fork Elementary School Improvement – Quentin Pough**

Assistant City Manager Quentin Pough presented a Parks Bond Update regarding the proposed funding reallocation associated with the closure of North Fork Elementary School. He requested a recommendation from the Board and provided an overview of the proposed reallocation of funds. Mr. Pough explained that, due to North Fork Elementary School shutting down, allocated funds would be redirected to the Lauderdale Isles Landing project, which currently has a funding gap. He stated that a \$300,000 reallocation is needed for Lauderdale Isles Landing, with the remaining funds proposed to be directed to Bass Park. He also noted that a groundbreaking ceremony for Bass Park took place last week and that the City is seeking to allocate contingency funds to support the projects.

Vice Chair Fee asked several questions regarding the return of funds to District 4. Mr. Pough responded with clarification regarding how the funding would be distributed and which sites would receive the reallocated funds. Amy Jean-Baptiste also provided input during the discussion, and Mr. Pough offered additional insight in response. Board members asked further questions of Mr. Pough concerning contingency funding, long-term maintenance considerations, and whether additional funds may be needed in the future.

**Motion** was made by Vanessa Apotheker and seconded by Idan Eckstein, to reallocate the remaining balance of \$774,147 of parks bonds funding originally designated for North Fork Elementary School, which is closing at the end of the school year. Of this amount \$474,147.00 would be applied to Bass Park for contingency and construction inspection services and \$300,000 would be returned to District 4. In a voice vote, the motion passed 10-0.

#### **4. Department Update- Amy Jean-Baptiste**

Ms. Jean-Baptiste provided a presentation regarding Department Updates and Upcoming Events. She highlighted several community events, including the Sistrunk Parade, Sunday Jazz Brunch, Noon Toons, Wendy Wyland, and the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival. She also highlighted various programs and training opportunities offered by the department, provided insight into staffing levels, and discussed the number of parks and open spaces maintained by the City. Additionally, she outlined the various advisory boards that fall under the purview of this Board.

Ms. Coetzee asked questions regarding trees, and Ms. Jean-Baptiste provided clarification and additional information. Ms. Apotheker inquired about lifeguard training, specifically regarding accepted methods of payment and whether online payment options are available. Ms. Jean-Baptiste responded with details about the acceptable payment methods and current procedures.

#### **5. Inside Parks and Recreation Presentation: Laura Voet**

Laura Voet, Aquatic Center Manager, delivered the "Inside Parks and Recreation" presentation focusing on the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center (FLAC). She shared that she has been with the City of Fort Lauderdale for 33 years, outlined her various roles throughout her tenure, and highlighted volunteer work she has performed. She noted that she has served as a manager since 2004.

Ms. Voet provided historical context, discussing the City's first Olympic-size swimming pool, which opened in 1928 on Fort Lauderdale Beach and operated until approximately 1965–1967. She emphasized that the Aquatic Center is open to the public and has hosted numerous schools for training. She highlighted the facility's accomplishments, including 13 world records set at the site—three of which were set last year. She also discussed the Fort Lauderdale Casino Pool, the presence of eight swimming Olympians and 15 diving Olympians who have trained or competed at the facility, and the Center's involvement in para-swimming.

Additionally, she provided the names of professional swimmers who have trained at the Aquatic Center and discussed the various events and meets hosted at the facility. She reviewed details of the Swimming Team and Diving Team programs, the

upcoming American Cup scheduled for April, and presented information from the World Aquatics 2026 calendar. Ms. Voet also addressed Parks and Recreation operations, including staffing, program operations, and the facility's use for police, fire, and military training.

**6. New Business - Joy Oglesby**

Chair Oglesby introduced the item for discussion. Vice Chair Fee asked questions regarding the revitalization of buildings at a park. Ms. Jean-Baptiste responded by providing information on the project and stated that she would provide an update as the design phase progresses.

Ms. Apotheker inquired about the lights under Andrews Bridge. Ms. Jean-Baptiste provided clarification regarding updates to the project and identified who completed the work.

Chair Oglesby also discussed the City's Spring Break message.

**7. Adjournment- Joy Oglesby**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 P.M.

[Minutes prepared by JBurnham, Prototype-Inc.]