

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2019 – 6:30 P.M.
CITY HALL – 8TH FLOOR
100 N. ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Amber Van Buren	P	5	1
Bruce Quailey	P	6	0
Brucie Cummings	P	5	1
Caleb Gunter	P	4	0
Carey Villeneuve	P	2	1
Charlie Leikauf	P	5	1
Jo Ann Smith	P	5	1
Karen Polivka	P	6	0
Marianna Seiler	P	5	1
Marie Huntley	A	3	3
Martha G. Steinkamp	P	5	1
Michael Flowers Jr.	P	4	2
Robert Payne	P	4	2
Roy Grimsland	P	6	0

Oct 2018 - Sept 2019

As of this date, there are 14 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum. It was noted that a quorum was met for the meeting.

Staff

Commissioner Heather Moraitis
Phil Thornburg, *Parks & Recreation Director*
Carl Williams, *Parks & Recreation Deputy Director*
Leona Osamor, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

Public Attendees

Lee Bacall
Mark Cantor
John Neelson
Mary Ann Nielsen
Stephanie Toothaker

Roll Call

Chairperson Karen Polivka called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll was called, and all stood for the pledge of allegiance. It was determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Roy Grimsland, that the minutes of March 27, 2019 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Parks Bond Process

Phil Thornburg, director of the Parks and Recreation Department updated the board on the status of the recently approved Parks Bond process. Mr. Thornburg stated that there have been several meetings held thus far with various city officials including the City Manager and Finance Director, to finalize the process in which the funds from the bond would be drawn down. The board was informed that the resolution declaring the City's official intent to reimburse itself from the proceeds of the general obligation bond was approved at the last City Commission meeting. Mr. Thornburg also reminded the board that they will be playing a key role as caretakers of the bond projects as the City moves further along in the bond process. Mr. Thornburg further stated that eventually joint meetings will be set up between the board and the City Commission as the process progresses with the goal of collecting feedback, determining the way things are proceeding and addressing any issues or concerns that may arise.

2. Park Rule Changes

Phil Thornburg reviewed and discussed the proposed changes to the City's Park Rules and Regulations Ordinance with the members of the board.

Motion was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Charlie Leikauf in support of the proposed changes to the City's Park Rules and Regulations Ordinance. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

3. Lockhart Stadium Update

City Commissioner Heather Moraitis along with Stephanie Toothaker, representative of the Miami Beckham United, provided the board with an update on the Lockhart Stadium Project. Ms. Toothaker stated that the Miami Beckham United group recently entered into an agreement to build and operate a state-of-the-art soccer training facility, a world class professional 18,000 seat soccer stadium and a soccer-centric community destination. Ms. Toothaker stated that since the initial conceptual plan was developed, a professional site survey and an asbestos study has been completed on the stadium. The board was informed that through the completion of the site survey, it was discovered that currently the stadium sits on top of the City's utilities and the decision was made to slightly shift the design of the stadium, so it no longer sits in that position to avoid any possible complications should an emergency issue arise with the City's utilities. The board was also informed that the decision was made to also give up one of the professional fields and give it back to the community for the purpose of designing a second mini 3,000 seat stadium that would be used for purposes such as football and lacrosse games. Ms. Toothaker further stated that her

team is working along with the City in designing all the community assets which is currently in the planning stages.

Commissioner Moraitis informed the board that she had completed some community outreach throughout district one but would also like to obtain additional feedback from other sources especially since this would be considered a regional park. Commissioner Moraitis further stated that the concept of an additional mini stadium came about through feedback from the various dialogues with the School Board. Commissioner Moraitis also informed the board that one concern currently being discussed is with regards to the lighting of the fields. It was noted that although there would be lighted fields, those situated closer to the path along the runway would not be as well lit as other typical lighted ballfields but was also still too early to determine the look of that overall appearance. The board was also informed by Commissioner Moraitis that another aspect currently being discussed is whether to include an aquatics space in the phase 1 design in addition to the community center, jogging/walking path, playground, dog park and splash pad. Commissioner Moraitis also stated that part of the design plan would be to highlight some history at the stadium and confirmed that a bid was also received from the Historical Society to complete that aspect of the project. Commissioner Moraitis further stated that currently the City is working with Ms. Toothaker and her team to complete a comprehensive agreement by the end of May 2019.

[Martha G. Steinkamp arrived at 6:48 p.m.]

4. **Park Renaming**

Phil Thornburg informed the board that the City of Fort Lauderdale was proposing to rename an acquired parcel of land located at 2681 Riverland Road to “Riverland Preserve” based on the results of the survey conducted from the neighborhood outreach.

Public Comment

Public attendee Mark Cantor voiced his support in having the parcel of land renamed to “Riverland Preserve” and for the protection of all the endangered species that currently exist on this special piece of property.

Public attendee Lee Bacall, secretary of the Riverland Preservation Society voiced his support in the property being renamed to “Riverland Preserve” due to its uniqueness and diversity that it contains.

Motion was made by Amber Van Buren and seconded by Brucie Cummings in support of the proposed name change for the parcel of land located at 2681 Riverland Road to “Riverland Preserve” and for City staff to also explore ways to protect its natural environment. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

5. Department Updates

Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation Carl Williams informed the board that on Saturday May 25, 2019 the City will host the 2019 Great American Beach Party with the Blood, Sweet and Tears band headlining the show.

Mr. Williams also reminded the board that the next board meeting scheduled to take place on May 22, 2019 will be a joint meeting with the Budget Advisory Board.

The board was informed by Mr. Williams that during the upcoming FY2020 budget process, the Parks and Recreation Department will be taking a leaner approach and focusing more on areas that have been challenging operationally such as the wave wall at the beach. Mr. Williams further stated that the department will be making a request for a masterplan for the more than 1,000 plus lights throughout the city, a street crew and vehicle to maintain the lights and lastly a plan to upgrade the lights to LED.

Mr. Williams presented long serving board member Bruce Qualey with a commemorative crystal plaque for his years of continuous service and dedication while serving on the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board.

6. Board Comments

Board member Jo Ann Smith informed the board that she would be overseeing the volunteers for the upcoming Great American Beach Party and if anyone would like to volunteer or knew of any others that would be interested to please contact her.

7. Communications to the Commission

There were no communications to the Commission.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.