

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2019 – 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	P	2	0
Amber Van Buren	P	7	1
Brucie Cummings	P	6	2
Caleb Gunter	A	5	1
Carey Villeneuve	P	4	1
Charlie Leikauf	P	7	1
Jo Ann Smith	P	7	1
Karen Polivka	P	8	0
Marianna Seiler	A	6	2
Martha G. Steinkamp	P	7	1
Mary Peloquin	P	1	1
Michael Flowers Jr.	P	6	2
Robert Payne	A	5	3
Roy Grimsland	A	7	1
Tangerean Moore	P	1	1

Oct 2018 - Sept 2019

As of this date, there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 9 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Phil Thornburg, *Parks & Recreation Director*
 Carl Williams, *Parks & Recreation Deputy Director*
 Glen Hadwen, *Sustainability Manager*
 Luisa Agathan, *Assistant to City Manager*
 Leona Osamor, *Senior Administrative Assistant*
 Marla Donald, *Senior Management Analyst*

Public Attendees

Ken Krasnow
 Herb Levin
 Beatriv Levin
 Brooke Berkowitz
 Bradley Arendt

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 Jo Ann Smith and seconded by Charlie Leikauf, that the minutes of June 26, 2019 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Department Updates

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that the new Fall/Winter Playbook has been released and should be received in the mail shortly.

Carl Williams informed the board about upcoming events including Jazz Brunch, Rockin' at Provident Park, Carter Park Jamz and Fit Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Williams invited everyone to come out and enjoy these events.

The board was informed by Mr. Williams that with the approaching storm, the Parks and Recreation Department is ready to activate POD – Point of Distribution sites at Snyder Park, Mills Pond Park, Riverland Park, Beach Community Center and Carter Park as deemed necessary.

2. Parks Bond – RFP Update

Director of Parks and Recreation Mr. Phil Thornburg informed the board that the RFP for the parks bond is currently out for bid and would be due back towards the end of September 2019. Mr. Thornburg suggested that one of the current parks board members sit on the RFP review panel committee to assist in reviewing proposals but emphasized that this task would be one that is time consuming since each proposal may be lengthy in content. Mr. Thornburg also suggested to the chair to bring this topic before the board at the next meeting and have a motion passed to determine who would sit on the panel.

3. Real Estate

Ken Krasnow of Colliers International, the City of Fort Lauderdale's real estate advisor made a presentation on the goals and progress to date. Mr. Krasnow informed the board that some of their goals included gathering input from the community on potential properties, developing a working list of properties that fall within the areas of need, identifying additional properties in underserved areas but most of all to increase the overall accessibility percentages to parks. Mr. Krasnow confirmed that to date there has been positive progress made particularly with the development of an acquisition process that allows the City Manager to have the authority to execute a Letter of Intent (LOI) for potential properties that are available.

4. More Flavor Less Plastic Campaign

Glen Hadwen Sustainability Manager with the Public Works Department made a brief presentation on the City's "More Flavor Less Plastic Campaign". Mr. Hadwen stated that the campaign was created to help with the elimination of single-use plastic straws and even more so with educating people on the dangers and effects especially as it relates to wildlife and the environment. Mr. Hadwen informed the board that the City has been proactive by passing an ordinance banning the sale and distribution of single-use plastic straws and beginning July 2019, businesses may only provide plastic straws upon customer request. Mr. Hadwen also stated that beginning January 2020, plastic straws may not be sold or distributed (exceptions include medical use, prepackaged beverage like juice boxes and select facilities). As part of the campaign Mr. Hadwen stated that businesses as well as individuals can participate in the "Less Plastic Pledge" and the first 200 businesses to complete the pledge would become a Greening Edge Leader and receive a free window cling along with recognition on the City's website.

5. Annual Survey Results

The 2018 Annual Neighbor Survey results was presented to the board by Marla Donald. Ms. Donald confirmed to the board that the survey had been conducted annually for the past 7th consecutive years by the ETC Institute. Ms. Donald stated that the data was a result of information collected via mail, telephone and the internet. Ms. Donald further stated that overall the satisfaction with city services increased significantly with the top three city services being identified as Overall flow of traffic; Maintenance of streets, sidewalks and infrastructure; and How well the city is preparing for the future. Ms. Donald further stated that there was a positive rating as it relates to parks and recreation and overall the City of Fort Lauderdale scored 8% above average sized U.S. cities based on the services provided.

6. Green Space

Board member Alex Collazo made a brief presentation to the board about the possibility of the City acquiring a piece of property located at 1820 NE 17th Way which currently is the home to the Fort Lauderdale Spanish Seven Day Adventist Church. Mr. Collazo stated that about 10 years ago there were discussions held regarding the interest of attaining the property since at that time it was up for sale but unfortunately there was no funding available to proceed with such venture. Mr. Collazo noted that in addition to the fact that the property has lots of green space it also has lots of parking and access to the river.

7. Board Comments

Chairperson Karen Polivka welcomed the newest members of the board Mary Peloquin, Tangerean Moore and Alex Collazo and allowed them to formally introduce themselves since it was the first time the board had officially met during a regularly scheduled meeting since their appointments.

Board member Bruce Cummings inquired about the details surrounding the 50-year lease approved between the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Florida Panthers. Mrs. Cummings expressed great dissatisfaction in the way the process evolved and questioned why the matter did not come before the board or why community input was never collected. Mrs. Cummings further stated that she was even more upset to understand that some of the pine trees would be removed from the leased area at the park in addition to the City agreeing to pay the Florida Panthers approximately \$800,000.

8. Communications to the Commission

There were no communications to the Commission.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.