

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020 – 6:30 P.M.
CITY HALL IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

Virtual Meeting

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Alex Collazo	P	4	1
Brucie Cummings	P	5	0
Caleb Gunter	P	4	1
Carey Villeneuve	P	5	0
Charlie Leikauf	P	5	0
Deborah Rosenbaum	P	2	0
Gale Butler	A	1	1
Jo Ann Smith	P	5	0
Karen Polivka	P	4	1
Marianna Seiler	P	3	2
Martha G. Steinkamp	P	4	1
Mary Peloquin	P	5	0
Robert Payne	A	2	3
Tangerean Moore	P	2	3

Oct 2019 - Sept 2020

As of this date, there are 14 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Phil Thornburg, *Parks & Recreation Director*
 Carl Williams, *Parks & Recreation Deputy Director*
 Kimberly Mosley, *Assistant City Attorney III*
 Jeff Modarelli, *City Clerk*
 Luisa Agathon, *Senior Assistant to City Manager*
 Leona Osamor, *Grants Administrator*
 Edgardo Noceda, *IT Technical Support Technician*

Roll Call

Chairperson Karen Polivka called the meeting to order at 6:34 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 Mary Peloquin, that the minutes of February 26, 2020 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. **Department Updates**

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that all City events scheduled through May 30, 2020 have been officially cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr. Williams informed the board that despite the closure of parks and facilities, the City has been working tirelessly to engage its residents and neighbors through the development of fitness activities and programming via a virtual platform.

The board was informed by Mr. Williams that the Parks and Recreation Department has been progressively working on a plan to provide some form or reduced level of summer camp programming and continue to remain hopeful that all deemed eligibility and requirements will be met.

Mr. Williams also informed the board that the parks board meetings will be resuming to its normal scheduled date and time, whereby meetings are held every fourth Wednesday of the month unless otherwise noted and that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 27, 2020.

2. **Coontie Hatchee Park and Hortt Park**

Deputy Director Carl Williams briefly discussed the current project plans for the playgrounds at Coontie Hatchee Park and Hortt Park. Mr. Williams noted that the particular agenda item was familiar to some members of the board since the matter was brought before the board a couple months prior but due to a lack of quorum, a motion could not be carried at that time.

Motion was made by Alex Collazo and seconded by Deborah Rosenbaum in support of the estimated \$364,750 project cost to renovate the playground at Coontie Hatchee Park. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Jo Ann Smith in support of the estimated \$350,000 project cost to renovate the playground at Hortt Park. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

3. **The Waverly at Las Olas**

Ken Krasnow of Colliers International made a brief presentation regarding the proposed areas of need within the City of Fort Lauderdale and the steps involved in the overall parks acquisition process to fulfill those needs. Mr. Krasnow confirmed that the City has located a waterfront property within one of the proposed areas of need, specifically the Waverly at Las Olas property located at 1016 Waverly Road, Fort Lauderdale, FL – District 2 (Sailboat Bend). Mr. Krasnow also briefly discussed the historical significance with the property and the added beauty that the 2.01 acres of land would bring to the City as a whole.

Motion was made by Jo Ann Smith and seconded by Deborah Rosenbaum in

support of the estimated \$2.625 million cost in parks bond funding to acquire the 2.01-acre property located at 1016 Waverly Road, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

4. **Board Comments/Discussions**

Board member Carey Villeneuve inquired on the status of the AECOM contract to oversee the performance of the Parks Bond and Parks Master Plan Design and Implementation Services. Director of Parks and Recreation Phil Thornburg confirmed that the contract was recently approved at the May 5, 2020 City Commission meeting and that the contract was currently being routed for all applicable signatures. Mr. Thornburg also stated that hopefully by the next parks board meeting, this step in the process would be completed.

Chairperson Karen Polivka wanted to officially go on record and welcome the newest members to the board namely Deborah Rosenbaum and Gale Butler since she was not present at the last physical meeting when they were introduced to the board.

Board member Alex Colazzo recommended that where possible, the members of the board be given an opportunity to hear a presentation on a matter to be voted on at one meeting and postpone the vote until the next meeting to allow for members of the board to conduct any research or site visits, to familiarize themselves and prepare any questions they may have prior to voting. Chairperson Karen Polivka noted that although the City makes every effort to provide backup information pertaining to items that will be voted on, sometimes certain information as in the case with purchasing or negotiating on prospective properties, it would not be feasible to delay or release certain information prematurely since it could have a negative effect in the process.

Board member Brucie Cummings recommended that the City place additional trash cans down at the beach particularly on the weekends when the trash cans are visibly beyond its maximum capacity.

Board member Brucie Cummings also inquired about whether the City had interest in considering the enforcement of no cigarette butts on the beach. Board member Carey Villeneuve agreed it was a good idea and stated that it can be done if the City is serious about pursuing that option. Chairperson Karen Polivka opted for the matter to be brought forward at a future meeting when more additional research could be done to compare current policies in place at other municipalities.

5. **Communications to the Commission**

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6. Other

Luisa Agathon, Senior Assistant to the City Manager informed the board that the City has officially acquired its first piece of property located at 4201 N. Ocean Blvd, with the use of parks bond funding.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.