

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
PARKS, RECREATION AND BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
100 N. ANDREWS AVENUE
CITY HALL – 8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Alex Collazo	A	4	1
Ruchel Coetzee	P	4	1
Caleb Gunter, Chair	P	5	0
Deborah Rosenbaum, Vice Chair	A	3	2
Charlie Leikauf	P	5	0
Mary Peloquin	P	4	1
Marianna Seiler	P	4	1
Zillah Tarkoe	P	5	0
Tangerean Moore	P	4	1
Brett Patterson	P	5	0
Idan Eckstein	P	4	1
Joy Oglesby	A	3	2
Barbara Magill	P	3	0
Ronald Goff	P	1	0

Oct 2022 - Sept 2023

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

Staff

Enrique Sanchez – *Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation*
Stephanie McClary – *Senior Administrative Assistant*

Others

Dennis Ulmer, *Resident*
James LaBrie, *Resident*
Robert Spagnola, *Resident*
Carla Blair, *Recording Secretary, Prototype-Inc.*

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gunter led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the February 22, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Barbara Magill, to approve the minutes. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously 11-0.

Chair Gunter introduced Ronald Goff, a new Board member who previously served.

1. Department Update

Enrique Sanchez, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, announced the first three projects under the Parks Bond went out to bid late last year and the solicitation period closed the middle of February. He noted the bidders were vetted and a winning vendor was determined, and the award will be issued near the end of April. He stated the first three projects are for Riverside Park, Hortt Park, and Bayview Park. He noted Mills Pond is a larger project and they are going through permitting prior to solicitation. He anticipates going to solicitation in late summer or early fall. He reviewed the St. Patrick's Day festival and noted there were mixed reviews and traffic concerns.

Ms. Magill described the South Beach parking lot setup when the AIDS Walk was held and suggested a similar one for future events.

Mr. Goff asked about the bond issue in Bayview Park. Mr. Sanchez stated it will be for drainage, lighting, concessions, ADA, and playground improvements.

Ms. McClary confirmed public comments for the item.

Mr. James LaBrie introduced himself as a 20-year resident of Poinsettia Heights and Vice President of the Poinsettia Heights Civic Association. He spoke about the Parks Bond and the \$12M Joint Use Parks Program. He said there has been zero progress. He asked the Board to add the Joint Use Parks Program to their monthly agendas and to take an active oversight role of the program. He recommended the Board receive monthly updates on project plans, timelines, expenditures, delays, and associated mitigation strategies for delays. He also asked for more community input in all design, planning, and decisions regarding the Joint Use Parks Program.

Mr. Sanchez noted they need to develop plans for approval by the School Board. He noted one school that was not part of the original bond, so the recreational license agreement needs to be amended. He confirmed he met with the School Board approximately four weeks ago and the amendment to the recreational license agreement was scheduled for May. He acknowledged the Parks Bond is moving slower than anticipated. He noted they have already updated LED lights in the flag football fields and parks.

Mr. Robert Spagnola, resident, asked if there was a target date for the Joint Use Parks for Sunrise Middle.

Mr. Sanchez stated it is farther along and he believed a meeting would be scheduled shortly with AECOM, the HOA, and the school to discuss what is feasible within the available budget.

Mr. LaBrie asked about the delay in resurfacing tennis courts at Dillard K-12. Mr. Sanchez said they have 15 park resurfacing projects in the pipeline and there are only two vendors working in the area. He noted the vendors are 6 months behind on all projects.

Mr. LaBrie said the Board needs to be on top of these issues and he noted they worked hard to secure the money for the schools, many of which were declared park deserts.

Ms. Tarkoe asked about the process for reviewing projects and described the process often used in her industry.

Mr. Sanchez confirmed they have a Project Management Team and do receive regular updates from AECOM. He confirmed AECOM is the overall project manager.

Ms. Magill recommended prioritizing in the event of significant delays.

Mr. Sanchez explained they are prioritizing the long list for Sunrise Middle.

Mr. Eckstein stated heard from the community there is either an issue with project management or communication. He asked Mr. Sanchez his perspective.

Mr. Sanchez acknowledged the process is not moving as fast as they would like. He described the timeline and the impact of the Covid interruption. He said they have 30% plans for both Holiday Park and Carter Park and 100% for Mills Park. He noted they are seeking federal and state grants to help pump up the budget.

Mr. Eckstein asked if all the information is online. Mr. Sanchez said the information can be accessed at www.ftlparksprojects.com.

Mr. LaBrie reiterated the Joint Use Parks were designated for park deserts. He suggested the smaller parks would have a greater impact than the larger parks.

Mr. Sanchez said the Joint Use Parks are part of Phase 2 and Sunrise Middle was pushed up in the priority list.

Chair Gunter asked for an update about Coral Ridge Isles. Mr. Sanchez said the update was the neighborhood did not want it and District Commissioner asked for the item to not move forward.

Discussion ensued about Joint Use and park deserts. Mr. Sanchez listed the five new school parks, North Fork, Thurgood Marshall, Westwood Heights, Rock Island, and Stephen Foster, that would be opened during non-school hours in the future.

He noted signage has been ordered and they are scheduling final logistics talks with the school Principals. He confirmed the school parks would close at dusk.

Ms. Seiler recommended updating the website once the school parks are open.

Ms. Coetzee suggested adding a general planning timeline for each project to the website.

Chair Gunter asked if the budget request for increased park rangers was approved. Mr. Sanchez said yes.

2. Parks Rules and Regulations Discussion

Chair Gunter introduced the item and invited feedback.

Mr. Sanchez noted some outdated items in the canine beach section, including updated hours and permit no longer required. He recommended redirection to the website for the correct hours and deleting #8 in this section.

Chair Gunter recommended a discussion on the recommended changes and to provide a list to staff for further research and review. He noted the Board will not unilaterally change the rules.

Discussion ensued about service dogs and exceptions and formatting of the section.

Ms. Magill spoke about Section 4.8 and noted it may need to be changed since there was alcohol being served by the hotels on the beach. Chair Gunter noted additional special events that permit drinking on the beach. Ms. Seiler recommended adding language about exceptions of consuming alcohol on the beach.

Ms. Seiler stated the language needs to be clarified. She said 4.7 already covers the special events and hotels.

Discussion ensued about the section. Mr. Sanchez stated they can propose a more clear sentence.

Ms. Coetzee asked about sleeping in the park. Mr. Sanchez stated sleeping in the park is not a violation but sleeping on a picnic table or bench is enforceable.

Ms. Moore asked about cigarette butts. Mr. Sanchez stated the City passed on ordinance that it is illegal to smoke cigarettes or vape on beaches and within parks. He referenced Section 9. He said all park rules signage include a sticker about no

smoking or vaping. He said all the playgrounds have no smoking or vaping signs with the ordinance number included.

Chair Gunter asked about golf carts in parks. He referenced Section 5.7 about motorized vehicles and parking on turf. Ms. Seiler noted Section 5.8 requires the vehicles to have a tag.

Discussion ensued about guns. Chair Gunter said the state passed a law that supersedes any local ordinance to prohibit carrying guns. Mr. Sanchez added he can check with legal but was pretty certain it was not enforceable. Ms. Seiler noted it must be licensed.

Ms. Magill recommended pedal-assist or electric bike language needs to be added under motorized vehicles. Discussion ensued about minibikes, motorized scooters, and additional e-mobility devices.

Chair Gunter asked the Board members to email Ms. McClary with recommended additions and modifications for further discussion.

Ms. McClary noted there were public comments for the item.

Mr. Dennis Ulmer, resident, spoke about the release of balloons in the recreation center. He distributed a document of pictures he took. He noted those renting the space often do not clean up because the City was no longer requiring rental deposits.

Mr. Sanchez confirmed they do not longer collect deposits. He noted the agreement includes an option to charge the credit card of the rental customer if the place is left trashed.

Ms. Moore asked if it was illegal to release balloons in the air. Mr. Ulmer said, in Florida, it is illegal to release more than 10 balloons and a bill was introduced to make it illegal to release any amount.

Ms. Seiler asked to finish the list discussed at tonight's meeting. She noted dog hours on the City website, deletion of 8, Sections 4.7, 4.8 and 5.8, balloons in the rental agreement, and further research about weapons.

Mr. Leikauf asked about an update from Colliers. Mr. Sanchez encouraged the Board to send any piece of property to him and Colliers would research it.

3. **Adjournment**

Motion was made by Idan Eckstein and seconded by Marianna Seiler, to adjourn the meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously 11-0.

Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board
March 22, 2023
Page 6

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

[Minutes prepared by TBaclawski, Prototype-Inc.