

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
PARKS, RECREATION AND BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
528 NW 2nd STREET
FIRE STATION – ADMINISTRATION FLOOR
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Alex Collazo	P	7	1
Ruchel Coetzee	P	5	3
Caleb Gunter, Chair	P	8	0
Deborah Rosenbaum, Vice Chair	P	5	3
Charlie Leikauf	P	8	0
Mary Peloquin	P	6	2
Marianna Seiler	P	7	1
Zillah Tarkoe	P	8	0
Tangerean Moore	P	6	2
Joy Oglesby	P	6	2
Idan Eckstein	P	7	1
Barbara Magill	A	5	1
Norby Belz	P	1	0

Oct 2022 - Sept 2023

As of this date, there are 13 appointed members to the Board, which means 7 would constitute a quorum. A quorum was present.

Staff

Carl Williams – *Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation*
Stephanie McClary – *Senior Administrative Assistant*
Patricia SaintVil-Joseph – *Assistant City Attorney*

Others

Commissioner John Herbst, *District 1*
Joseph Webb, *AECOM*
Carla Blair, *Recording Secretary, Prototype-Inc.*

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gunter led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the August 23, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Ruchel Coetzee, to approve the minutes. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously 12-0.

1. Department Update

Carl Williams, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, mentioned the Jazz Brunch will be held on October 1. The Big Toy and Truck event will be held on October 7 at

Holiday Park and will feature the city vehicles. He noted it is fun event for younger kids. The upcoming Carter Park Jamz will be held on October 20. He announced the Halloween events including LauderBOO on October 21 and Nightmare in the Park the following week, both in Carter Park. He also mentioned the Old School Reunion at the end of the month in Carter Park.

Mr. Williams noted they are close to having their first signature bond project completed, which is the Tunnel Top project. The ribbon cutting date will be forthcoming, but likely in December.

Ms. Peloquin asked when the public art would arrive. Mr. Williams said he does not know at this time, but he will follow up. Ms. Peloquin described the artwork, which is a stainless-steel conch shell.

Chair Gunter introduced Commissioner Herbst, who recommended communication to former Mayor Jack Seiler, who came up with the idea for the project.

Ms. Seiler asked about the actual tunnel. Mr. Williams said he does not have the details on that project, but he can find out.

Mr. Leikauf asked if the Tunnel Top will be open by the end of November for Christmas in Las Olas. Mr. Williams said it will likely be done.

Mr. Williams said they issued notices to proceed through the bond process for three parks.

Commissioner Herbst said the Lockhart Community Park has been years in the making and he welcomes the Board's feedback.

2. Lockhart Stadium Updates

Mr. Joseph Webb, AECOM Program Manager, introduced himself to the Board and provided background on the project. He began his presentation by reviewing the agenda. He discussed the Site Research; FAA Restrictions; Conceptual Site Plan; Community Center; and Restroom and Maintenance.

Mr. Collazo asked if the Community Center will be used in conjunction with the games at the stadium. Mr. Webb replied that is still up in the air, but the desire is to maintain the community park function.

Mr. Webb continued his presentation by reviewing: Splash Play Area; Playground; Dog Park Area; Pickleball Courts; Preliminary Cost Estimates; Preliminary Development Schedule; and Next Steps.

Ms. Peloquin asked about the walkways. Mr. Webb said they are currently

concrete. Ms. Peloquin suggested a softer material. Mr. Webb noted how other materials often degrade quickly in South Florida, but they could consider asphalt with portions of concrete. Discussion ensued about materials and maintenance.

Chair Gunter asked if the community has been involved in process for the pickleball courts. Mr. Webb said the plan was formulated in June 2021 and the only change has been the substitution of the pickleball courts. He said what is distinct about the location is its location in an industrial area, He noted there is no residential located within immediate walking distance to the park. He noted people will drive to the park for the amenities.

Ms. Oglesby asked if a basketball court can be considered. Mr. Webb said they do not want to slow down the design so they can get it out to bid. He said they can consider additional amenities once the park is built.

Mr. Williams said the pickleball courts will have a real shade element. Mr. Webb agreed that shade will have a huge impact. Commissioner Herbst noted pickleball is an all-day activity.

Mr. Leikauf said some of the pickleball courts have been taken over by tournaments. Mr. Williams said if there are unauthorized tournaments, his office should be contacted. Ms. Seiler said that is why she asked about pickleball rules.

Mr. Belz asked if all the greenery will be grass and not turf, other than the courts, because there are a lot of greenspace.

Commissioner Herbst said it is a blank slate so it will take a while to get a mature tree canopy on the site. Mr. Webb said it will be a challenge but there be greenery, shrubs, and trees.

Mr. Belz asked if the pickleball shade will also be water resistant. Mr. Webb said it will be partially open to allow air flow.

Mr. Webb returned to the presentation and reviewed the Preliminary Cost Estimate slide. He noted there is an upcoming voluntary mediation session with Miami Beckham. He stated the escalation is challenging with the rising construction costs. He continued the presentation by summarizing the Preliminary Development Schedule.

Mr. Collazo asked about the approval process with the City Commission. Commissioner Herbst said they have to set dates for mediation first and described the issues to be discussed with Miami Beckham. He further described the comprehensive agreement.

Ms. Tarkoe asked about Freedom Park. Commissioner Herbst said once they move

the team to Freedom Park they will likely use the existing stadium to attract women's soccer. He spoke about the parking challenge.

Ms. Oglesby asked Commissioner Herbst to continue to push so they are not responsible for items they have not agreed to. Commissioner Herbst said he believes to sticking to the contract and he has asked Miami Beckham to honor their obligation to the City. He clarified why they are opting to go to mediation.

Ms. Seiler said this is what they have been looking for.

Motion was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Vice Chair Rosenbaum, to move forward to the Commission.

Mr. Collazo asked about the satellite courts and football fields. Commissioner Herbst said they built fields on the back that can accommodate 24 games.

Chair Gunter asked if there is any discussion on the motion.

Ms. Seiler asked about if the motion may be used in the mediation. Assistant City Attorney SaintVil-Joseph asked Ms. Seiler if she has a conflict. Ms. Seiler replied that the conflict is her dad, Mr. Seiler, who is leading the mediation.

Ms. Seiler withdrew her motion.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Rosenbaum and seconded by Charlie Leikauf, to move forward the plans, as presented, to the Commission. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously 11-0. Ms. Seiler abstained.

Commissioner Herbst said it has been a long time coming and thanked everyone.

Mr. Williams confirmed the presentation is on an upcoming City Commission agenda and the Board minutes will be shared as well.

Assistant City Attorney SaintVil-Joseph clarified that staff would prepare a memo and will explain how it was presented to the Board and the recommendation.

3. **Adjournment**

Motion was made by Idan Eckstein and seconded by Joy Oglesby, to adjourn the meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously 12-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 P.M.

[Minutes prepared by TBaclawski, Prototype-Inc.]