

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.**

Virtual Meeting

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Alex Collazo	A	1	1
Brucie Cummings	P	2	0
Caleb Gunter	P	1	1
Carey Villeneuve	P	2	0
Charlie Leikauf	P	2	0
Darren Heitner	A	1	1
Deborah Rosenbaum	P	2	0
Gale Butler	P	1	1
Greg Martin	P	1	
Jo Ann Smith	P	1	1
Karen Polivka	P	2	0
Marianna Seiler	P	2	0
Mary Peloquin	P	2	0
Robert Payne	A	0	2
Tangerean Moore	P	2	0

Oct 2020 - Sept 2021

As of this date, there are 15 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*
Leona Osamor, *Grants Administrator*
Luisa Agathon, *Sr. Assistant to the City Manager*
Thomas Green, *Sr. Project Manager*
Laura Voet, *Aquatic Complex Manager*
Theodore R. Levin, *Fort Lauderdale Police Detective*
Stylianee Hayes, *Fort Lauderdale Police Detective*

Guest Speakers

Joseph Webb
Mark Blanchard
John Crumpton
Maria Rivera
Pamela Adams
Ken Krasnow
Brooke Berkowitz

Roll Call

Chairperson Karen Polivka called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 October 28, 2020 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Department Updates

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that construction on the Coontie Hatchee and Hortt Park playground will be completed in approximately two weeks.

Mr. Williams informed the board that the City recently moved the vaccination site from Holiday Park to Snyder Park.

The board was informed by Mr. Williams that the Florida Panthers will begin fencing off the project area around the War Memorial Auditorium within the coming weeks.

Mr. Williams informed the board that the ribbon cutting ceremony for Bennett Elementary school playground will be held on February 5, 2021 beginning at 9:30 am.

2. Parks Bond Update

Mr. Joseph Webb of AECOM informed the board that the Parks Bond website has been successfully launched and the first virtual public engagement exercises will commence on February 1, 2021. Mr. Webb stated that the goal of the public engagement was to recognize the needs and priorities of the community and to gather input for the improvements proposed for each park in the City before the final projects are developed.

Mr. Webb informed the board that the program website www.ftlparksprojects.com will serve as the central repository for all project information and will remain active through the duration of the process to ensure transparency as the program progresses from the planning stage to design and then construction. Mr. Webb stated that the program website will also include virtual rooms to provide a safe, accessible, and efficient engagement process. The virtual rooms will simulate an in-person meeting through a 3D platform with a series of stations of information and an engagement portal to provide feedback.

The board was informed by Mr. Webb that once the initial public engagement phase is completed, the AECOM team will look to develop a proposed, phased development program based on the following criteria:

- Identified signature projects
- Community consensus on the park development program
- Equitable distribution of projects across the City
- Potential for grants or leveraging bond funds
- Efficiency of design, bidding, and construction
- Balance of design intensive projects with simpler, quick win projects

Mr. Webb stated that there is a total of \$30 million dollars that has been allotted for land acquisition with \$7.5 million per commission district and targeting properties in service area gaps.

Public Comment

Mr. Robert LeGros informed the board that there was a great need for more pickle ball courts within the City and focus should be placed on existing paved surfaces such as roller hockey rinks and tennis courts since the cost is much more economical to convert them into pickleball courts.

Mr. Stephen Williams inquired about the four signature projects under the parks bond and Mr. Webb confirmed that the four signature projects are Tunnel Top Park, Holiday Park, Carter Park and Lockhart Park.

Mr. Philip Klein informed the board that he is in full support of more pickle ball playing courts.

3. Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center (FLAC) Project Update

Mr. Thomas Green, senior project manager with the City of Fort Lauderdale presented a comprehensive overview of the project stakeholders and project scope to the members of the board. Mr. Green confirmed that the major tasks of the project included the resurfacing of the training pool, replacement of the competition pool, diving pool, teaching pool, bleachers and support building, installation of a 27- meter dive tower, parking lot improvements, new restroom building and observation deck, sports lighting and scoreboard, and the rebuilding of the south building.

The board was informed by Mr. Green that the current project timeline for the erection of the 27-meter dive tower is March 2021 with a project completion of August 2021. Mr. Green stated that the City received an unsolicited proposal to design and build the south building and negotiations are currently on going for a comprehensive agreement that will be a separate contract from the Aquatic Complex Renovation. Mr. Green stated that if the decision is made to move forward with the south building project, the anticipated demolition timeline will be April 2021 with an anticipated completion date of May 2022.

4. **Proposed Parks – (NW 6th St. and 1700 N. Andrews Ave.)**

Mr. Ken Krasnow of Colliers International presented to the board a proposed park acquisition being considered at NW 6th Street that would be an extension to Lincoln Park. Mr. Krasnow also presented another proposed park acquisition at 1700 N. Andrews Ave.

Motion was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Brucie Cummings, in support of acquiring proposed park acquisition site at NW 6th Street in District 3. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Deborah Rosenbaum and seconded by Charlie Leikauf, in support of acquiring proposed park acquisition site at 1700 N. Andrews Ave. in District 2. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed in favor with 10-Yes's and 1-No.

Carey Villeneuve – Yes

Brucie Cummings – No

Charlie Leikauf – Yes

Deborah Rosenbaum - Yes

Gale Butler – Yes

Greg Martin – Yes

Jo Ann Smith – Yes

Karen Polivka – Yes

Marianna Seiler – Yes

Mary Peloquin - Yes

Tangerean Moore - Yes

5. **Litterbug Bounty Proposal**

Detective Stylianee Hayes and Theodore R. Levin in follow-up to a request made by the board on the feasibility of a litterbug program made a presentation and provided an overview of the current police operational structure for officers assigned on the beach. Detective Hayes confirmed that presently the force is short staffed and trying to proceed with the development of a litterbug program is not feasible at this time due to a lack of staffing, funding and enforcement needed to run a successful program. Detective Hayes confirmed that the Fort Lauderdale beach covers an extremely large area and officers' main priorities are to deal with calls surrounding emergency calls on triages and crimes.

Detective Devin informed the board that currently there is no specific citation that could allow for the issuance of a fine but rather only a Notice to Appear (written arrest) where a written arrest would be issued for a person in violation of disposing a cigarette bud and if the citation is not paid then a notice for their arrest would be issued. Detective Stylianee followed up by confirming that unless the City issues an ordinance that says if someone litters the cigarette bud on the beach there will be a fine, it will be difficult to enforce as there is no civil penalty.

Motion was made by Carey Villeneuve and seconded by Charlie Leikauf, in support of the City creating a civil ordinance to create a civil fine for littering on the beach. In a voice vote, the **motion** failed to pass with 9-No's and 2-Yes's.

Charlie Leikauf – No
Deborah Rosenbaum - No
Gale Butler – No
Greg Martin – No
Jo Ann Smith – No
Karen Polivka – No
Marianna Seiler – No
Mary Peloquin - No
Tangerean Moore - No

Brucie Cummings – Yes
Carey Villeneuve – Yes

6. Board Comments

Chairperson Karen Polivka informed the board that she would be officially term-limited before the date of the next meeting and thanked the other members of the board for all the years she was able to serve in this capacity.

7. Communications to the Commission

There were no communications to the commission.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.