

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.**

Virtual Meeting

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Alex Collazo	P	2	1
Brucie Cummings	P	3	0
Caleb Gunter	P	2	1
Carey Villeneuve	P	3	0
Charlie Leikauf	P	3	0
Darren Heitner	P	2	1
Deborah Rosenbaum	P	3	0
Gale Butler	P	2	1
Greg Martin	P	2	0
Jo Ann Smith	P	2	1
Marianna Seiler	P	3	0
Mary Peloquin	P	3	0
Robert Payne	P	1	2
Steffi Paskow <i>(New)</i>	P	1	0
Tangerean Moore	P	3	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

Chris Lagerbloom, *City Manager*
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*

Public Attendees

Chad Thompson
Cory Olson
Kevin Curry
Arianne Glassman

Roll Call

Vice-chair Caleb Gunter 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 Jo Ann Smith, that the minutes of January 27, 2021 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center (FLAC) Project Update

City Manager, Chris Lagerbloom presented a brief recap on the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center (FLAC) project to date. Mr. Lagerbloom stated that the FLAC project along the way has essentially turned into three individual projects. Mr. Lagerbloom stated that initially the solicited bid included the replacement of the competition pool, dive pool, dive tower and the general guts of the aquatic center. Mr. Lagerbloom further stated that the project is surrounded by an east and west building as well as a north and south building.

Mr. Lagerbloom informed the board that the North building was contemplated in the initial solicitation largely because it was where the grandstands were located. Mr. Lagerbloom stated that along the way, the City received two unsolicited proposals, one for the south building and one for the east and west building that would be for the Swimming Hall of Fame.

The board was informed by Mr. Lagerbloom that the unsolicited proposal received was based on the design recommendation that it would make much more sense to make any repairs to the south building prior to the installation of the new pool decking. Mr. Lagerbloom stated that early on, the City commission wanted to renovate the locker room or enhance what was already there and not to build new. However, after the building was looked at and the new Florida statutes building codes were considered, to build more than 50% plus 1% in improvement, it would have required changes to comply with new elevation and wind code requirements. Mr. Lagerbloom further stated that it became evident rather quickly that it would be more economical for the City to build a new building with the new building codes than to retrofit a very old building.

Mr. Lagerbloom acknowledged that a request for 7 million dollars towards the project was made previously and approved but as the project continues to move forward it presents some challenges especially as it relates to building on a man-made peninsula and there are some additional subgrade work that has to be done to make this locker room a reality.

Mr. Lagerbloom stated that he didn't think funding this particular part of the project with the use of park impact fees would be eligible since there was already a locker room on site but stated that he believed this would be a good opportunity to utilize park bonds funding to close the funding gap. Mr. Lagerbloom explained that the City Commission was aware of the funding gap and was in support of him coming before the board to request an additional 3.5 million dollars towards the project.

Mr. Corey Olson, Operations Manager with the Hensel Phelps team continued with the presentation update that included several images of the project designs throughout the various phases of the project and showcased current aerial shots of the work in progress.

Mr. Chad Thompson, General Superintendent with the Hensel Phelps team also participated in the presentation and explained to the members of the board how the three projects were currently phased and ongoing.

Senior Project Manager with the City of Fort Lauderdale, Thomas Green stated that if the project can move forward with the South Building, a May timeframe is being targeted for a comprehensive agreement with a hopeful completion date of July 2022.

Motion was made by Greg Martin and seconded by Deborah Rosenbaum, in support of allocating 3.5 million dollars to fund the cost of building the south building at the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed in favor with **10-Yes's** and **3-No's**.

Caleb Gunter – Yes
Charlie Leikauf – Yes
Darren Heitner - Yes
Deborah Rosenbaum – Yes
Greg Martin - Yes
Jo Ann Smith – Yes
Marianna Seiler – Yes
Mary Peloquin – Yes
Robert Payne – Yes
Tangerean Moore - Yes

Alex Collazo – No
Carey Villeneuve – No
Steffi Paskow – No

Board members Alex Collazo and Steffi Paskow wanted to go on record by stating that the motion was on the floor before the board was able to engage in a full discussion to determine alternative solutions.

2. Board Chair Nominations

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that since the former chair to the board Mrs. Karen Polivka was term limited from the position, nominations for a new chair must be held and voted upon.

Motion was made by Charlie Leikauf and seconded by Alex Collazo, in support of nominating Caleb Gunter as the new chair of the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed in favor with **13-Yes's** and **2-No's**.

Alex Collazo – Yes
Brucie Cummings - Yes
Caleb Gunter – Yes
Carey Villeneuve – Yes
Charlie Leikauf – Yes
Darren Heitner – Yes
Deborah Rosenbaum – Yes
Gale Butler – Yes
Greg Martin – Yes
Jo Ann Smith – Yes
Marianna Seiler – Yes
Steffi Paskow – Yes
Tangerean Moore - Yes

Mary Peloquin – No
Robert Payne – No

Mr. Williams explained to the board that since Caleb Gunter has now been nominated as chair, the position of vice-chair would need to be voted upon as well.

Motion was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Mary Peloquin in support of nominating Deborah Rosenbaum as the vice-chair on the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

3. Las Olas Oceanside Park System

Fort Lauderdale Beach Open Spaces Coordinator, Mrs. Arianne Glassman informed the board that she oversees the marketing, branding, and programming for the three and soon to be four beautiful new parks on Fort Lauderdale Beach. Mrs. Glassman stated that she has been working with the City of Fort Lauderdale's Beach improvement district for the last eight years and for the last six years she has been producing the Friday Night Sound Waves concert series on the Fort Lauderdale Beach.

Mrs. Glassman stated that "The LOOP" which stands for the Las Olas Oceanside Park was the branded logo designed to interconnect the four individual parks along the beach. Mrs. Glassman also stated that work is being done on formulating a basis with an acronym called F.A.M.E. which stands for Family, Active Adults, Millennials and Everyone and all events that take place at the four parks will fit into one of the aforementioned models or a combination of the models. Mrs. Glassman further stated that she was working on growing four major events over the next four years, which includes Fur the Love Pet Fest, the first to be successfully launched last weekend.

The board was also informed by Mrs. Glassman that work is being done to put on a kite festival for the month of May that will tie into the Fort Lauderdale Air Show and will be partnering with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and Broward County Schools.

Mrs. Glassman stated that Flipany in partnership with the City of Fort Lauderdale has formed a fiduciary whereby as a non-profit they are able to seek funding through various sponsors where the dollars can be donated through Flipany and programming implemented by them as well. Mrs. Glassman stated that she was happy to report that just under thirty thousand dollars was raised within the last two months through sponsorships from American Express, Target, and Ocean Spray that has afforded us to offer free fitness classes to the community.

Mrs. Glassman encouraged everyone to visit the website at www.theloopflb.com to view all of the current fitness programs available. Mrs. Glassman stated that one of the programs being sponsored by Ocean Spray beginning March 9 consists of an 8-week free walking group with up to forty participants per week along with a Monday evening class called “In Motion” that will consist of a 12-week cardio hit challenge.

Mrs. Glassman informed the board that American Express is sponsoring a program called “Express Yourself” where residents can register to try out five free classes per month to help participants discover what they really enjoy.

The board was informed by Mrs. Glassman that Target’s sponsorship will be targeting the kids and essentially filling the gap between out of school times and concert times by providing two hours of a free group moderated playtime conducted by Flipany’s play instructors. Both Ocean Spray and Target will be present on-site providing gift cards, healthy drinks, and snacks.

Mrs. Glassman informed the board that during the first Saturday’s of the month, there will be a more at the market feature showcasing local businesses within our communities, arts, and live music. Mrs. Glassman also stated that during the second Saturday of the month there will be healthy cooking and nutrition demonstrations geared towards seniors and children while the third Saturday will involve a partnership with the City’s beach sweep where trash to treasure art exhibits and interactive art experiences will be done.

The board was informed by Mrs. Glassman that this Saturday another program being launched involves a partnership with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Food and Wine Festival and Visit Lauderdale that will bring out all the local celebrity chefs throughout the City who would shop at the local market to get their fresh produce to prepare a cooking demonstration that will be filmed and taped live and pushed out through the Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote our parks.

4. Department Update

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that the City’s spring camps will be launched on March 22, 2021 but on a much smaller registration level than in the past

due the current Covid-19 protocols.

Mr. Williams informed the board that the month of February was being observed as the Public Engagement month via the Parks Bond Project website whereby feedback from the residents and neighbors were being collected. Mr. Williams stated that feedback can still be submitted and encouraged everyone who hasn't done so to do so and reminded everyone to also share this information with others.

The board was informed by Mr. Williams that an Art Exhibit is currently being showcased at South Side Cultural Arts Center through May 2021 and encouraged everyone to visit.

Mr. Williams informed the board that he wanted to recognize the newest members on the board and asked that they introduce themselves to everyone.

5. Board Comments

Mr. Greg Martin, a new member to the board introduced himself and stated that during 1991 and 1992 he worked for the City's Parks and Recreation Department where he ran the Special Events Department at Carter Park formerly Sunland Park at the time. Mr. Martin stated that he was honored to be a part of the board as he has such a great passion for the parks. Mr. Martin informed the board that currently he is into the commercial real estate business but stated that there is a great opportunity to continue to build and maintain on the great recreational programs that we currently have.

Mrs. Steffi Paskow, also a new member to the board stated that she had a dream to live in Fort Lauderdale and couldn't be more in love once she moved to the City about four years ago. Mrs. Paskow stated that once she moved and became involved in playing tennis and other recreational activities, she realized she didn't want to stay on the sidelines and had to get involved. Mrs. Paskow stated that she is an entrepreneur providing services as a sales consultant by helping small to medium size companies grow their business. Mrs. Paskow also stated that she was excited to get to know everyone better and looked forward to serving on the board.

Board member Marianna Seiler inquired whether the City has made its final decision as it relates to tennis courts being converted to pickle ball courts particularly at the George English Tennis Center. Mr. Williams responded by stating that the current pickle ball discussions were solely regarding the hockey rink pads and not the actual tennis courts. Ms. Seiler recommended that communications be sent to the tennis coaches to disengage in sharing false and incorrect information to the public regarding this matter as it is causing many residents to be in an uproar over what they interpret as a final decision.

Board member Brucie Cummings stated that she was down at the Farmers' Market on the beach last weekend which had a great turn out but could only find one trash can that was completely full and spilling over and recommends that the City look into adding more trash cans to the area.

Board member Mary Peloquin inquired on the timeline in which neighborhoods can expect to receive information on the feedback received from the community input or what is being proposed to take place at the parks. Mr. Williams stated that from his understanding, once all the information is collected, the feedback would be analyzed and presented to parks, the board, and the City Commission.

Board member Carey Villeneuve stated that he would like to see added to the parks bond website, a tracker of some sort that will keep an up-to-date account of how monies that have been air marked or allocated to a specific park are affected when projects incur cost over-runs and funds have to be repurposed or pulled from other projects. Mr. Villeneuve stated that his reason behind this request is to be able to track which park projects will be ultimately affected. Mr. Villeneuve stated that for example as in the case with the 10.5 million dollars that have since been approved towards the FLAC project, which projects will now be affected because of this decision?

Board member Alex Collazo inquired on how accurate the findings from the 2016 masterplan are in comparison to the current needs of the parks and whether it was a part of the scope of work for the project manager. Mr. Williams confirmed that this does fall under the scope of the project manager and also responded by stating that this is the reason for all the current public engagements being conducted but also stated that he believes some park sites may see changes while others won't.

Member of the board Caleb Gunter inquired on whether it would be possible to have a representative from AECOM present at each meeting moving forward to answer the many questions that are being asked by the members of the board. Mr. Williams responded by stating that he will try his best to answer all questions asked but stated that to have someone at every meeting may incur additional costs outside of their current contract.

6. Communications to the Commission

There were no communications to the commission.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.