

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.  
CITY HALL – 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR CHAMBERS  
100 N ANDREWS AVENUE  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312**

**HYBRID MEETING**

**Cumulative Attendance**

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

**Oct 2021 - Sept 2022**

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

**Staff**

Carl Williams, *Recreation Deputy Director*  
Patricia SaintVil-Joseph, *Assistant City Attorney*  
Leona Osamor, *Grants Administrator*

**Public Attendee**

James Labrie

**Roll Call**

Chairperson Caleb Gunter called the meeting to order at 6:30p.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 September 22, 2021, be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**1. Department Update**

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that the Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting the following light up series of events.

- Light Up Lauderdale (Get Lit) – Thursday November 11, 2021, from 6:00 – 8:30p.m. at Esplanade Park.
- Light Up the Galt – Thursday November 18, 2021, from 6:00 – 10:00p.m.
- Light Up the Beach – Tuesday November 23, 2021, from 5:30 – 8:30pm.
- Light Up Sistrunk – Friday December 3, 2021, from 5:00 – 9:00pm.
- Light Up Carter Park – Saturday December 11, 2021, from 3:00 – 7:00pm.

**2. Joint Use Parks**

Director of Parks and Recreation Phil Thornburg gave a quick overview of how the Joint Use Park functions. Mr. Thornburg stated that essentially the Joint Use Parks was established for those parks that are located on the school board properties. Mr. Thornburg further stated that as the City went through the process of the Master Plan, a list of parks was identified where the City currently had facilities on school board properties and for some additional school board properties to be used as parks. Mr. Thornburg stated that once the parks bond was passed, the reason why those school board properties were not included in the virtual input list was because the properties do not belong to the City and the plan was to work with the school board and the schools to come up with a plan and then go to the neighborhoods along with the schools to conduct community output.

Mr. Thornburg informed the board that although there are a couple sites that may look like it's mainly a school, the city does utilize those sites in the evenings and on weekends. Mr. Thornburg referenced the Sunrise Middle School with the tennis courts and Virginia Young Elementary where these sites are only accessible when the schools are not in session.

Mr. Thornburg stated that there was approximately 11 million dollars that was identified in the parks bond for parks on school properties to either be improved or for the development of new ones. Mr. Thornburg stated that staff from the city along with staff from the school board came together to establish a matrix of criteria on how best to utilize the funding. Mr. Thornburg further stated that during this process, there were some schools that were identified in the initial master plan where funding was reduced for various reasons while some stayed the same, others received additional funding, and some that didn't have any initial funding but ended up getting funding.

Mr. Thornburg informed the board that although no final decisions have been made as it relates to the changes in the funding amounts for each site, a recommendation

would be sought from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as well as public input prior to it being finalized.

Mr. Thornburg confirmed that currently there are ten identified joint use sites with another four potential sites to be added namely Thurgood Marshall Elementary, Rock Island Elementary, Harbordale Elementary, and Dillard Elementary.

### **Public Comment**

Public attendee Mr. James Labrie, member of the Poinsettia Heights Civic Association member posed a few questions to Mr. Thornburg for clarification but in addition wanted to make it clear that he does not agree with the city proposing to reduce funding from the Sunrise Middle School where \$1.7 million dollars was initially allocated for use or for any other school sites that are being considered for reduced funding since this is the reason the residents and voters fought to be able to get the funding needed for the necessary improvements.

### **3. Riverland Park Playground**

This item was removed from the meeting agenda.

### **4. Board Comments**

Board member Mary Peloquin stated that she has received complaints from a couple of Coral Ridge residents regarding the Coral Ridge Park where individuals have been illegally driving onto the grass and doing donuts on the property and wondered whether the City could install some type of gate to stop this issue. Deputy Director for Parks, Enrique Sanchez stated that they are aware of the matter as the individuals responsible have been taking down the chains that are in place but will be looking into finding other methods for making this more difficult to accomplish.

Board member Mary Peloquin also inquired on whether there was anything that could be done to remove the abandoned boat at George English Park that continues to sink deeper into the water. Mr. Carl Williams stated that the department was working closely with Marine Patrol but will follow up on the issue.

Board member Mary Peloquin inquired with the other members of the board on whether they want to consider any other options in terms of communications to the commission regarding the One Stop Shop. Board member Brucie Cummings responded by informing the board that the One Stop Shop location is not zoned as a park but rather commercial property. Ms. Cummings further stated that the city according to the mayor is concerned that the site location may become a homeless problem if it doesn't explore a private partnership for the site.

Assistant City Attorney, Patricia SaintVil-Joseph informed the board that the City Manager and City Attorney are still working on providing a proposal to the City Commission for consideration and until that occurs, she would advise the board to wait. Mr. SaintVil-Joseph also informed the board that regardless of what is

proposed, it must be negotiated and there may be a comprehensive agreement or there may not and in addition, the Commission would still have to determine whether to designate the site as park land.

Board Chair Caleb Gunter stated that the site location where the Tunnel Top Park is to be developed is also not zoned as a park. Director of Parks and Recreation, Phil Thornburg responded by informing the board that the Parks Department is currently working with the Sustainable Development Department to develop a list of those areas that need to be rezoned. Mr. Thornburg further stated that in the case of Tunnel Top Park, that site location is the property of FDOT and don't want to speak for them but believes it may not get zoned as a park.

Board member Brucie Cummings inquired on whether there has been any further discussion on getting cigarette butt holders on the beach. Vice-Chair Deborah Rosenbaum responded by stating that in her honest opinion, the beach would have to be littered with several cigarette receptacles if you really wanted to keep the beach clean. Mr. Thornburg encouraged the board to utilize their contacts in Tallahassee to push for legislation to restrict it in parks and at the beach, but the bottom line is to allow the Cities to have home rule to enforce the laws.

Board member Carey Villeneuve stated that as the City and AECOM go through the different design stages of improvements to our parks if the city can come up with a comprehensive plan for dealing with iguanas as the problem is getting worse.

**5. Communications to the Commission**

There was no communications to the Commission.

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.