

EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Thursday, December 16, 2021, 6:30 P.M.
CITY HALL, 8th Floor Conference Room
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Members	June 2021 – May 2022		
	Attendance	Present	Absent
Dr. Allen Zeman, Chair	P	5	0
Amy Ellowitz, Vice Chair	P	5	0
Heather Brinkworth	P	5	0
Ruchel Coetzee	A	1	4
Yolanda B. Francis	A	3	2
Leah Polhemus Hopkins	A	0	5
Tina Jaramillo	A	3	2
April Jeff	A	1	4
Colleen Lockwood	P	3	2
Tomislav Lukic	P	4	1
Lisa May	P	3	2
Vickie Melus	A	2	3
Christopher Relyea	P	5	0
Betty Shelley	P	3	2
Lillian Small	P	2	3
Rory Sponsler	P	4	1
Dr. Michele Verdi-Knapp	A	3	2
Moises Acosta	A	3	1
Denia Perloff	A	2	2
Suzanne Dean	P	3	0

Staff

Zoie Saunders, Chief Education Officer, City of Fort Lauderdale
 Enrique Sanchez, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation
 Debbie Rosenbaum, Vice Chair Liaison, Parks and Recreation
 Carla Blair, Prototype, Inc.

Guests

Michael Billins, Principal, Thurgood Marshall Elementary
 Jennifer Kashdin, Principal, Harbordale Elementary
 Jennifer Spillane, Poinsettia Heights Civic Association
 James Labrie, Poinsettia Heights Civic Association
 Robert Spagnola, Poinsettia Heights Civic Association

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Dr. Allen Zeman, Board Chair.

Attendance and Roll Call, 21 appointed members; 10 needed for quorum

Board Chair's Minute

Chair Dr. Zeman reported the Board is at the final phase of Joint Use Parks. The City of Fort Lauderdale has committed \$11 million to building Joint Use Parks, which is a win-win for the schools, residents, and the City. He noted the \$11 million is 5% of the \$200 million Bond and the relationship between the City and County is worth a lot more than \$11 million. Broward County Schools is the #1 employer in Fort Lauderdale; in neighborhoods where school grades go up a letter grade, the average real estate value goes up \$100,000. He stated they are all on the same team, there are differences of opinions about how some of the money might be allocated, but they are trying to do good.

Joint Use Parks Proposal

Chair Dr. Zeman advised the Board is going to find a way to make a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board as to the right way to allocate these funds. They will hear from citizens, and Homeowner's Association representatives, as they get into details about what makes sense to the Board, and what adjustments would look like if needed. If there is a motion tonight, the City County Working Group might be asked to rethink some things. He asked the Board to think about how they should ask the City County Working Group to think about some alternatives that have been prepared by them already. There was a cost break out, a very transparent process, all the way down to the items at each project site, and those cost figures are something he would recommend everyone to look at and consider, because if there are some adjustments, the more informed the Board would be about alternatives they would like the Group to look at. He expects every member of the Education Advisory Board to attend the next meeting, so they can vote on a final recommendation that will go to the Parks and Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board a week later

Mr. Relyea questioned if there is any risk to the \$11 million by asking for an alteration this late in the game.

Chair Dr. Zeman replied no. The risk comes if someone thinks structural changes are needed. One risk is that the cost of construction went up at least 20% since the Bond was approved, and sometimes the last 20% does not get done based on the sequence in which it was asked, rather than the last 20% that might be a recalibration on the list. There is risk and he would not want to go past January. He thought they should ask the Working Group to look at the numbers for the second scenario and come back with that option and they could look at a third, fourth, or fifth scenario. The Working Group is a valuable resource. He questioned if anyone is a member of the Parks and Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board.

Ms. Rosenbaum replied she is the Vice Chair.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated the advantage is they have a liaison on the Parks Board and communication in process and understanding of the debate at this meeting can be relayed directly. He asked if the Parks and Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board approved any changes in the Master Plan.

Ms. Rosenbaum replied no.

Chair Dr. Zeman commented there was about \$200 million in the Master Plan, and about 20% of that has gone through without any changes. He asked Ms. Saunders to provide a summary of the work done over the past 27 months. The fact the costs have been released by item for each of the 15 projects is remarkable, which means they know the cost of every piece, it is 100% transparent.

Ms. Saunders explained her intent would be to provide context and open this up for conversation. She noted none of the numbers have changed, everything has been consistent with what has previously been seen. As revisions are made that may be necessary to the final proposal, they want to make sure they are doing due diligence with the Education Advisory Board. This is an opportunity to provide input; they want to hear from Board members and community members. Those considerations are important for them to consider as they finalize the plan and hopefully move this forward in January. The first meeting she had with the Broward County Public School Real Estate Department was June 2019, when guiding principles were established and vetted to the Parks Advisory Board. Then a Communication was submitted to the School Board and City Commission to ensure everyone understood the directions for this project. A Joint Working Group was put together, which was comprised of City staff and staff members from Broward County Public Schools, and there were Principal representatives from every grade. This Group conducted an Asset Inventory of all the amenities on City-owned parks and on school properties. The Working Group spent a lot of time developing a scoring methodology they felt was fair, and that assessed the viability of the Joint Use Park along with the benefit to the school and was a measure for the community need based on the definition of the park desert. Public input meetings with the community were conducted to share what was being considered. This proposal was presented to the Education Advisory Board in August, at which time additional input was received from the community, particularly the Poinsettia Heights community, who had some concerns of the scope being proposed, specifically with changes in Bond dollars compared to the initial list that was published. There were subsequent meetings with that Neighborhood Association, and they recently went to the Parks Advisory Board to share more background on the process and how they came to this point to get their input. As Chair Dr. Zeman indicated, they asked the Education Advisory Board to review the proposal in its entirety and to provide recommendations. Cost estimates are provided in the information presented. Requests have been received from other communities for additional needs, particularly from Walker Elementary School to extend the life of that park. She wants to do a deeper dive when talking about guiding principles and some of the strategic considerations because that is the input they are looking for today.

In response to Chair Dr. Zeman, Ms. Saunders stated they received an important lead tying some of the original scope from the initial Parks Bond from Walker Elementary School to make sure they can play basketball in the evenings. She thought if there was an opportunity for more money, every community would ask, but those are what she brought forward.

Chair Dr. Zeman commented there is a \$700,000 difference between what was in the Master Plan at Sunrise Middle and what came out of the Working Group, and he thought the lights for Walker Elementary School were \$250,000, so the total they are aware of is \$950,000: \$700,000 to Sunrise Middle and \$250,000 to Walker Elementary School.

Ms. Saunders stated it was more about the priority, not the cost, they are looking at what amenities are critical and then the cost estimates. One of the guiding principles was the Need Assessment, which would drive the recommendation of investment levels with the understanding that needs may have changed since the Master Plan in 2016. Another belief was if a deeper level of planning with the School Board was required, and it is understood there would be new insights as other properties are explored that might not have been considered. There was also a goal of opening as many viable Joint Use Parks as possible. This Board also came up with the term, "Geographic Equity", which is the concept they would invest more where the needs were greater. The scoring was intended to provide an objective measure to equalize opportunities for neighborhoods with varying levels of participation. The Need Assessment, as they scored the park deserts, factored in any investments since the 2016 Master Plan, whether that was done through Park Bond dollars or another funding source. There were many conversations around high ticket items, specifically regarding turf and lighting. They are not recommending these for new projects due to cost impact for the overall proposal. Given the level of conversation around the proposal, particularly input received for Sunrise Middle, they recognized there may be a need to revisit the guiding principles. The purpose of today's input is to gather those considerations from this Group. Tradeoffs are made anytime when they try to bring together this many projects in one proposal, and as a Working Group, they try to be intentional about how the tradeoffs and compromises are made, knowing every site could benefit from so much more. She reinforced their perspective as a Working Group and stated every project is special. She thanked the neighborhood Associations that have been involved and Principals who are committed to the project.

Chair Dr. Zeman recognized Principal Michael Billins from Thurgood Marshall Elementary, Principal Jennifer Kashdin from Harbordale Elementary, and guests from the Poinsettia Heights Civic Association. He asked Principal Kashdin to talk about the project at Harbordale.

Principal Jennifer Kashdin, from Harbordale Elementary, stated they were recently added to the proposal to open their playground facility to the community, which would allow them to put in additional equipment for the students, which is limited with their resources.

Principal Michael Billins, from Thurgood Marshall Elementary, indicated the biggest thing for him is safety, as they are located at a busy intersection. A playground is needed, and the basketball court needs resurfacing. There is a large field on the northwest part of the campus that could be a track or nature trail. They really need this opposed to wanting it. He noted their school moved up one letter grade. During the nine years he has been there, every day kids are jumping the fence to find a place to play and his concern as a Principal, is that once he allows them on the property it is a liability situation.

Chair Dr. Zeman congratulated Principal Billins for moving up a letter grade. He mentioned there is \$200 million in the Parks Bond and many projects may not be done. There is 20% less money because the cost of constructing the parks has gone up 20%. The criteria they are going for is geographic equity and he questioned if the Board wanted to ask the City Commission for more money through the Parks Bond.

Ms. Brinkworth questioned if that would open it up to other people on the list to make a case for something additional they want and feel is necessary for their projects.

Chair Dr. Zeman replied it could. They are looking at this through an equity lens, but it is still about the best things that would make the biggest difference. The objective is to do what is best with the equity investment and there is a political lens as well. There is a list of projects the City put together and told everyone that was what they were going to do. There are many arguments, and he did not think it would be wise to survey again.

Mr. Relyea stated they do not want to open a pandoras box. He is not a fan of revising guiding principles after two and a half years.

Ms. Saunders advised that the reality is they are at a point where they are at a critical crossroad, and they presented a proposal that was not getting support.

Chair Dr. Zeman asked everyone to imagine being a City Commissioner and Walker Elementary School was supposed to get lights in the original plan. The Working Group says they are not going to give Walker Elementary School the lights because it is not on the initial plan, and they come back and ask on what criteria do they not get the lights. They would be an equity investment and these lights are critically important, maybe some data was missed. It is not changing the criteria or guidance; it is saying the community did not share the need as much at the right time. This is about gathering more data and using the same guiding principles. The \$11 million has already been allocated and if Walker Elementary School is going to get another \$250,000, they have to ask the Working Group if they can find some economic ways. In this case, it is important to recognize the synthetic turf field at Poinsettia Heights is a 4% revision, it is not huge and the lights at Walker Elementary are 2%, so it is a total of 4%. One way to think about this is to ask if the Board wants to undo the good work by the Working Group or if they should go to the Parks Board and they go to the Commission and say this is good, they might deserve the extra \$950,000.

Mr. Relyea thought asking the line item to be put back again is very different than asking for the pandoras box situation and resetting guiding principles.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated the idea of asking for the whole requirement sets a standard and says one of the things an elected official likes to do, which is to make everyone happy.

Ms. Rosenbaum would like to do an analysis of all the City parks. She did not see an issue with the Education Advisory Board coming to the parks and asking for a little more funding.

Chair Dr. Zeman advised that work was done. The Working Group started with a map and identified all the park deserts within the City. He asked Mr. LaBrie the value of things presented in the Master Plan for Sunrise Middle and Poinsettia Heights.

James Labrie, Poinsettia Heights Civic Association, commented that Poinsettia Heights is a magnet school, and residents believe improvements continue to help make it attractive to not only people who live in the neighborhood, but to the rest of the students who are drawn in and attend the school. The Principal is new and working very hard and it is anticipated the school will go from a "B" to an "A" within another year. An attractive school attracts more people, and the students will perform better academically.

Chair Dr. Zeman questioned what they would use if this were done in accordance with the Master Plan, the synthetic turf, the chiller pool, etc.

Mr. Labrie thought a swimming pool chiller, playground, and track would draw more people during the weekends. Currently, the area is dirt and not used by the community. Repurposing the tennis courts and picket ball courts was very successful and people play there on the weekends all the time. They would also like to have a pavilion built that would serve as somewhat of an outdoor community center for their park desert neighborhood.

Jennifer Spillane, Poinsettia Heights Civic Association, commented that their neighborhood is transitioning from people who have been there since the 1970's to people with younger children. The kids do not have any place to go, particularly the teenagers. There are many walkers in the neighborhood, but because they are between 15th and Federal Highway, they are a drive thru neighborhood, and they are working with the City to install speed bumps to slow traffic. If people had a safe place to walk, she thought it would spread, because everyone could use it.

Robert Spagnola, Poinsettia Heights Civic Association, indicated there is a unique situation at Poinsettia Heights with the two schools; Poinsettia Heights Elementary is a magnet school and Sunrise Middle is a magnet school for both Montessori and Cambridge.

Mr. Lukic stated there is not a Cambridge program at Sunrise Middle. They offer several classes, but students do not receive any kind of supplemental transcript.

Mr. Spagnola commented it is difficult for a middle school to become an "A" school. In looking across the State and analyzing numbers, elementary schools go from "A" and then the schools drop down a letter grade or two, then go back up during high school. Sunrise Middle School is making very good process toward becoming an "A" school and they are competing with private schools; the campus needs to be attractive. The school has been neglected as has Bennett Elementary. Money is starting to come into the school, and they are starting to upgrade, allowing the school to be more competitive. He understands they have a soccer team and track team, and those two activities go a long way to educating a child with a long-term goal in education. From a community standpoint, it gives them a place to focus, they have no real focus in the community.

Enrique Sanchez, Deputy Director of Parks, stated he walks five to ten miles a day. Currently, in Poinsettia Heights, their parks are basically the streets, and the streets are use as a cut thru for many people.

Ms. Rosenbaum indicated she is a swimmer and is familiar with what is going on with Carter Park; it is a phenomenal facility.

Mr. LaBrie stated Carter Park is a City Park, which they do not have in Poinsettia Heights. He mentioned a question was posed about going back and asking for more money.

Chair Dr. Zeman thought the consensus of the group is that it is not a bad idea.

Mr. LaBrie mentioned one of the handouts is a document prepared by AE Com, the consulting group working with the Parks and Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board.

Ms. Saunders clarified the document is not from AE.com, all of this was done internally by staff, and they are cost estimates. What is included is how they came up with the \$1 million and different ways they thought they could deliver on those priorities; there is a separate list.

Mr. LaBrie advised at the December 1, 2021 Parks and Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board, a document was presented by Joseph Web, the consultant for AE Com, which talked about the total of \$200 million. Basically, there are five buckets of money, \$11 million for Joint Use Parks, \$2 million for dog parks, \$30 million for purchase of open space in underserved areas, and \$14 million in future projects, for a total of \$57 million. Take that away from \$200 million and that leaves \$143 million for improvements in parks across the City; all the parks get a lot of money and Poinsettia Heights gets nothing because they do not have a City park. Additionally, the \$30 million mentioned is for the purchase of open spaces in underserved areas. He asked a Commissioner about this last night and he was not aware of any money going towards purchasing land in Poinsettia Heights that would be turned into a park. All residents are asking for is \$1.7 million in the Joint Use project.

Chair Dr. Zeman explained the \$1.7 million was under the belief they could do a full-size synthetic turf field and a factual basis is with \$1.41 million, so they could put in the biggest possible synthetic turf field and wrap-around track, a walk around park, tear down old handball courts, and add a chiller. This is a cost estimate, and they will all change across the 15 projects. He questioned if it is reasonable to ask the Working Group to work on the \$11+ million and \$950,000, then come back and show the Board what the option would look like. Currently, there is a request from community organizations, Walker Elementary School, Dearborn Elementary School, and Poinsettia Heights Civic Association near Sunrise Middle. Walker Elementary School wants lights at night so they can play basketball and Poinsettia Heights has made a strong case that they want a synthetic turf field. They can get the biggest possible synthetic turf field for \$400,000 more and lights for Walker Elementary School are \$250,000. For \$650,000 they could request everything the Working Group did and the two other things with additional data using the same criteria. He questioned if that should be one option to be brought back before the Board in January.

Motion by Mr. Relyea, and seconded by Ms. Dean, to ask the Working Group to look at the list again and bring back the details of the \$11.65 million recommendation that includes \$400,000 for Sunrise Middle and \$250,000 for Walker Elementary School. The **motion** passed unanimously. (11-0)

Chair Dr. Zeman stated this is the \$11 million plus \$650,000, which gives Poinsettia Heights what they were promised; it costs less because they cannot do the whole thing, so it is \$400,000 for Sunrise Middle and \$250,000 for Walker Elementary.

Mr. Sponsler mentioned slides from the City proposal and Sunrise Middle has a \$725,000 decrease. He questioned if the Board was asking for money to be put back in.

Chair Dr. Zeman replied yes. The \$725,000 would have been for a full-size synthetic field, but it will not fit, and they have to build an 85/55 max, which is \$410,000 and roughly \$11 million. The option is about an \$11,650,000 option.

Mr. Sponsler questioned how the Principal at William Dandy feels about losing everything.

Ms. Saunders indicated there have been many conversations with the Principal and Working Group and it was mutually decided that was not an ideal location for a Joint Use Park. They had another meeting this week to make sure and they can certainly look around because it is important to make sure they are given one more option.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated that does not involve the Education Advisory Board, it is City staff confirming.

Mr. LaBrie mentioned William Dandy and noted Oswald Park is just across the street is getting \$3.2 million in the Park Improvement Plan, and he thinks that balances out.

Ms. Saunders commented it is important to mention strategic decisions they should consider that still maintain the guiding principles. Requests have been received for almost every project; this is an important project particularly at the high schools. The concern is if it is opened to the community without having turf in the interior, it could be dangerous for athletes if the field is damaged. They have entered into a contract between the school and neighborhood at Stranahan to say they are going to open this because they trust the community; they want the track and know the community will not damage the field. If the field is damaged, access will be restricted.

Chair Dr. Zeman asked for another option to discuss at next month's meeting, so members can be prepared if they say no to extra money.

Ms. Brinkworth thought they should look at needs versus wants. For her, Walker Elementary School is a need and turf at Sunrise Middle is a want. She thinks Sunrise Middle can have a great project without having turf and in looking through the equity lens. With everything Sunrise Middle is getting, she would cut the turf field because they are getting track resurfacing, a chiller, and a new entry way. They are getting access they did not have before, and she questioned how much use that will get because school is in session until late in the afternoon and at this time of the year it gets dark early. The Board needs to think about the guiding principles, equity, and not everyone is going to get exactly what they want, but they should look at the need.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated the City County Working Group came up with \$1 million for the requirements of a grass field, not synthetic. He asked if one option she would like to see is the \$11 million plus \$250,000 for lights at Walker Elementary School, or if the \$250,000 should be taken out of other projects, so it is still an \$11 million plan.

Ms. Brinkworth thought they should consider what difficult decisions and recommendations they need to make based on guided principles if there is not an appetite or option to get additional money to the \$11 million already assigned.

Chair Dr. Zeman believed they talked about asking the Working Group to come back with an option to find \$250,000. They have the \$11.65 million that will be one option next month. He asked if she was proposing \$11.25 million with the lights at Walker Elementary School.

Ms. Brinkworth advised she was happy to propose that.

Chair Dr. Zeman indicated that the City told Poinsettia Heights they were getting a synthetic turf field.

Ms. Brinkworth believes she asked a couple meetings ago if what was proposed during the Bond could be changed and she was told that it could.

Chair Dr. Zeman advised the City Commission has the right to deviate from the Master Plan and for the first \$40 million they have not. If you want to describe this as a want rather than a need, there is still a political lens, which is when the Commission agreed to pay the \$200 million back over 30 years.

Ms. Brinkworth stated she understood from what was discussed, they were not going to get track resurfacing from what they were told in the original proposal and now they are. In her mind, there must be some give and take, and it is about what can fit on the property.

Chair Dr. Zeman asked if she was talking about \$11.25 million where they get the \$1 million the Working Group recommended and Walker Elementary School gets \$250,000 for lights, or if she was talking about \$11 million with the Working Group finding \$250,000 within the current plan.

Ms. Brinkworth questioned if they were also going to look at \$11.25 million and then \$11 million.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated that depends on the wisdom of this Board and if they want to have one plan and put everything else within the \$11 million budget, or if they want \$11.65 million or \$11.4 million where they do the Sunrise Middle turf, but no lights at Walker Elementary School. The other option is \$11.25 million and no turf, or \$11 million with both and then they must find \$650,000 in cost reductions; this needs to be decided quickly.

Ms. Brinkworth advised she would like to hear what other Board members had to say before making a motion.

Ms. Dean mentioned there is a discrepancy between the detailed cost estimates compared to the Working Group recommendation for this proposal about Walker Elementary School.

Ms. Saunders stated there are many cost estimate scenarios. Walker Elementary School is including lighting in this list that were not included in the initial proposal. North Fork Elementary included \$300,000 to create access to water and a learning lab for them to access. The numbers are correct, and they are working with various scenarios.

Vice Chair Ellowitz indicated that Poinsettia Heights residents are saying they do not have any parks in their community, and they are looking at crime in these areas, but Walker Elementary School needs lighting because crime and safety is an issue to students and community members.

Ms. Small advised that Walker Elementary School needs lights, which were on the Need Assessment because crime is all over the place.

Chair Dr. Zeman clarified the lights for Walker Elementary School were taken out of the proposal and there is an active discussion to get them back.

Ms. Shelley felt the same as Ms. Small and emphasized lights are needed to prevent crime.

Chair Dr. Zeman clarified lights for Walker Elementary School were in the 2016 Master List.

Mr. Lukic commented that Sunrise Middle is the only project that has \$120,000 set aside for project management, none of the other schools have project management as a cost.

An unidentified male explained as he was coming up with the cost estimate, all the other schools had project management built into them; Sunrise Middle was done separately. Most are simple in scope, it is refurbishing ports, swapping out playgrounds, fencing, and/or purchasing site furnishing. They do not need to pay a consultant thousands of dollars to do those, they work with the Principals and community. The geography of Sunrise Middle is low, and they want to make sure they have the right drainage, so they need real design consultants to make sure they are not creating a swamp. It was calculated at about 15% to pay experts.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated Croissant Park is \$2.42 million with no program management cost and Lauderdale Manors is \$1.856 million with no program management cost.

Mr. Lukic advised that he attended Sunrise Middle for three years and currently teaches Math and Science within the Magnet Program, runs the Future Doctor's Club, and substitutes for other teachers, including the gym. He also tutors Math and Science students. It was mentioned that people are attracted to the Magnet school by the facility. He does parent tours and speaks with new students and the parents are most concerned about academics and safety. He has not had one parent ask if their child will be able to run on the field. The main question is how academics are going to impact their child moving onto high school and their success there. As a Magnet school, most students come from outside the City of Fort Lauderdale, but there are students coming from as far as Coral Springs. Students in the Progressive Program, which is the non-Montessori Program, are from the City of Fort Lauderdale; however, they do not come from the Poinsettia Heights community, they come from further west. After school those students are not going to walk a mile or two to use the park, they are going to use what is put in their community. He has spoken with Bennett Elementary parents and many of the immediate community do not send their children to Sunrise Middle. Regarding test scores, because of Covid, the Magnet Program has been hit hard. Before, the cutoff was 3's on standardized testing to let students in and this year that was dropped to 2's and as a teacher, which is affecting diagnostic scores and potential outcomes for school grades. As far as needs versus wants, he firmly believes if something is done it must be done right. The pool is a wonderful amenity at Sunrise Middle and its infrastructure needs to be supported. He thinks adding a chiller to the pool would make a huge difference to the infrastructure already present and bring it up to par. The same thing with the track, they already have a track, which is used after school for school practices and community

walkers. Why have a smaller version of a field just because it was originally put into the plan. If they want to meet the need then they must meet the actual need provided.

Mr. Spaganola commented that parents want to know their children are being educated as a whole and part of that is outside facilities. A lot of what they are asking is for the school and not for the community. They want Sunrise Middle to be a shining star for their neighborhood and for Broward County Schools.

Mr. Lukic stated there are currently outdoor infrastructure for students to use and they do not use it.

Mr. Spaganola argued this is not the same conversation they had with the Principal.

Chair Dr. Zeman stated they all have different perspectives and all of them will be respected.

Ms. Brinkworth mentioned playground requirements and noted the prices are probably based on what is normally done for a City park. She questioned if that has been run through what is permitted on school property. The playground at George English Park has equipment that cannot be utilized by students during the day because it does not meet the requirements the School District has to follow. She questioned if that conversation has been had and if those numbers fluctuate based on what is allowable at the elementary schools.

An unidentified male stated that has been taken into consideration because many of requests regarding the playground are resurfacing and the shade; each of those are equal to the cost of the playground.

Ms. Brinkworth asked if Bennett Elementary School is currently a Joint Use Park with a new playground and new surface courts. She expressed concern with walking across Sunrise Boulevard.

Ms. Saunders stated that went into the Need Assessment, but they also incorporated that there is a park adjacent, and it still came out as an important project; it is the highest investment in any of the new Joint Use Parks. She noted they added the Citywide need for athletic play.

Chair Dr. Zeman replied yes, it is designed for elementary age kids

Ms. Saunders advised the City invested about \$350,000 into that campus with the playground, courts, and resurfacing tennis courts at Sunrise Middle, which factored into their evaluation of a park desert. While there is not a City park in Poinsettia Heights, they included access and walking distance to a new City park, which was included when they did a Need Assessment for other properties. They did realize there is not access to Holiday Park from Sunrise Middle, which is why they recommended \$1 million.

Ms. Rosenblum mentioned that Holiday Park has a new track and upgraded turf fields.

Ms. Brinkworth questioned if the park at Bennett Elementary is getting utilized because it was a park desert. She did not know if the community saw that space activated.

Motion by Mr. Lukic, seconded by Ms. Dean, to have an option of \$11 million plus \$250,000 for lights at Walker Elementary School. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (11-0)

Chair Dr. Zeman commented the budget would be \$11.25 million and these are options to bring back to the January meeting. This is \$11.25 million, which is the \$11 million recommended and adding the \$250,000. That is one motion, and it will be brought back to the January meeting as an option for discussion.

Mr. LaBrie commented that everyone wants lights; they want lights at Sunrise Middle so they can use the park at night. When it is dark, they cannot swim and cannot use the playground at all.

Mr. Spagnola asked if they lost the turf field at \$11.25 million.

Chair Dr. Zeman replied yes.

Mr. Spagnola questioned if someone from outside the community is making decisions for their community regarding losing the turf field.

Chair Dr. Zeman advised those are not decisions, only elected officials can make decisions in the City. This is the Board having an option to consider next month that has an \$11.25 million price tag that includes \$250,000 for Walker Elementary School with the rest of the plan left intact. This is totally pre-decisional; they are creating a menu of what they want to see.

Mr. Sponsler questioned what other neighborhoods in the City of Fort Lauderdale are receiving \$0 from Joint Use Parks besides the neighborhood William Dandy serves and the neighborhood he lives in.

Ms. Saunders clarified this project can only have Joint Use Parks where schools are located.

Mr. Sponsler commented that he pays taxes but does not have the advantage of Joint Use Park Bonds. Besides the communities that William Dandy serves and besides Palm Aire Village West, what neighborhoods in the City of Fort Lauderdale will receive no benefit from any of this being discussed.

Chair Dr. Zeman requested a map at next month's meeting to show where projects are located. He thinks it would be most productive for someone to think about a motion that

is within the budget that accommodates some of the other needs that have come up. He thinks that would fulfill their responsibility as a Board.

Mr. Relyea mentioned the \$11 million and suggested looking at the numbers for any other items on the itemized list that are currently superfluous and questioned if that money can be repurposed towards the Sunrise Middle turf field.

Motion by Chair Dr. Zeman, seconded by Ms. May, that the \$11 million includes the synthetic turf field with the size that fits for an extra \$400,000 for Sunrise Middle. There was no second.

Chair Dr. Zeman questioned if the Board also wanted them to find another \$250,000 for lights at Walker Elementary School.

Mr. Relyea replied yes.

Chair Dr. Zeman commented that they will find some things that add the \$650,000 to take out, so the \$400,000 to Sunrise Middle and the \$250,000 to Walker Elementary can be added back in. The Working Group is the only Group that can do a responsible job of that because they have 27 months of knowledge in 18 different dimensions to do that. He asked if he was restating that in a fair way.

Mr. Relyea replied yes. He thought it was the Board's responsibility for recommending a policy option of being fiscally responsible to have what would amount to a more efficient use of the \$11 million.

Motion by Mr. Relyea, seconded by Ms. May, for the Working Group to bring an option to find \$650,000 out of the \$11 million to reduce costs, so they can fulfill what was promised in the Master Plan. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (11-0)

Chair Dr. Zeman clarified they have \$11.65 million, \$11.25 million, \$11 million with both things added and \$650,000 taken out.

Motion by Ms. Brinkworth, seconded by Mr. Sponsler, to find within \$10.94897 the \$250,000 for lights at Walker Elementary School. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (11-0)

Chair Dr. Zeman mentioned there is a lot of talk about equity and questioned what two projects have nothing to do with equity. It turns out there is \$650,000 for two elementary schools in Fort Lauderdale. He questioned how that passes the equity lens. It was noted that Sunrise Middle has students from all over the City and it is their biggest middle school for residents in Fort Lauderdale. He questioned if they need to have that as an option and bring it back for review.

Ms. Kashdin commented they are very diverse and there is no playground space.

Ms. Brinkworth commented the equity lens is about park deserts within the City. The purpose of the Park Bond is not to bring a benefit to the school, it is to bring a benefit to the community. If those communities are park deserts, they fit and if they are not, staff needs to look at that.

Chair Dr. Zeman advised this fails the equity test flat out. Putting money in east Fort Lauderdale schools does not have any rationale from an equity lens. This is the pure form of equity they have under-invested in parts of the City for a long time. They have done things that have disadvantaged people in two-thirds of the City for decades and they need to invest in them in non-proportional ways because of the way things have happened in the past. He pointed out there are two east Fort Lauderdale schools, one not as affluent as VSY, but they have a very affluent population, affluent parents, and a robust PTA, and they are going to spend \$375,000 at that school to do something and it does not pass anyone's definition of equity.

Mr. Relyea stated the two schools combined are 6%, so it is either a big deal or not. He defended the school he knows best, which is Harbordale, and that amounts to 3%; 97% are going to schools categorized one way and 3% is going to schools categorized another way.

Ms. Lockwood was 100% in agreement. They are talking about Joint Use Parks and anything they can do on a continuing basis to shift the needle structurally to address the massive inequity across a 100-year-old educational institution that has not served the students equitably, especially given the Governor's press conference yesterday, she is all for.

Motion by Ms. Dean, seconded by Mr. Sponsler, to see if they can allocate some of the VSY money to other projects to keep things within the \$11 million and try to address the lights at Walker Elementary School. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (11-0)

Chair Dr. Zeman mentioned the motion is \$11 million top line and asked if she wanted \$250,000 away from the \$375,000 or \$375,000 out of VSY.

Ms. Dean replied \$250,000.

Mr. Lukic asked if they could prioritize the projects the City and community find interesting while looking at money Sunrise Middle currently has, which would be track, the turf field, and putting the pavilion on hold. Let's see how the itemized list would look without some of those expenses and redirect them.

Motion by Mr. Lukic, seconded by Ms. Dean, for the \$11 million with \$650,000 for a synthetic turf field, and only pick \$350,000 of other things, so they come to \$1 million. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously. (11-0)

Chair Dr. Zeman thanked the Board for keeping things simple, six options will be brought back next month; he would like to come to a resolution. He asked members to bring their own ideas and noted the criteria is in Ms. Saunders' briefs. Options will be voted on at the next meeting in addition to voting on four months of Minutes.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: September 30, 2021 and October 27, 2021

Chair Dr. Zeman postponed Approval of the Minutes to the next meeting.

Closing: - None.

Adjournment

Chair Dr. Zeman adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by C. Guifarro, Prototype, Inc.]