

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
PARKS, RECREATION AND BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
FIRE STATION # 2
528 NW 2ND STREET
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Vanessa Apotheke	P	1	0
Ruchel Coetzee	P	1	0
Idan Eckstein	A	0	1
Alex Collazo	P	1	0
Sean Fee	A	0	1
Ronald Goff	P	1	0
Colette Keno	A	0	1
Don Mizell	A	0	1
Marta Reczko	P	1	0
Solomon Schoonover (arrived at 6:05 pm)	P	1	0
Anna Vratsinas (arrived at 6:08 pm)	P	1	0
Patricia Zeiler	P	1	0
Joy Oglesby, Chair	P	1	0
Janet Moreira	P	1	0

Oct 2025 - Sept 2026

As of this date, there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 9 would constitute a quorum. A quorum was present.

Staff

Carl Williams – *Director of Parks and Recreation*
 Amy Jean-Baptiste, *Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation*
 Marc Isaac – *Parks Bond Project Manager II*
 Leona Osamor- *Grants and Special Projects Administrator*

Others

Nicole Day, Recording Secretary, Prototype-Inc.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Oglesby led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the August 27, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Alex Collazo and seconded by Ronald Goff, to approve August 27, 2025, meeting minutes. In a voice vote, the motion passed 11-0.

1. Nominations for the Election of Vice Chair. (Joy Oglesby)

Nominations for Vice Chair were received. Each nominee provided remarks and responded to questions from the Chair. The Board engaged in discussion regarding the nominations.

Motion was made by Solomon Schoonover and seconded by Ronald Goff, to nominate Marta Reczko for Vice Chair of the Parks Recreation and Beaches Board. In a roll vote, motion passed.

2. Department Update (Amy Jean-Baptiste, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation)

The Board received a department update. Director Williams discussed the recent departmental reorganization, noting that a new City Manager has been in place for six months and has restructured City operations from nine departments to sixteen. Director Williams outlined how the Parks, Recreation, and Beaches Department is organized and what it manages, including the transition of Sanitation services to the Public Works Department. Director Williams also introduced the newly established Sustainability Department and described its functions and upcoming initiatives.

Board Member Collazo inquired about the park bonds, and Director Williams explained how the new department will oversee them and detailed reporting structures. Director Williams also noted recent changes to the Marketing Division and its reporting alignment. An organizational chart was presented to the Board.

During discussion, Board Members asked questions regarding departmental leadership, staffing, and the organizational structure. Director Williams explained that staffing will include a mixture of current and new personnel, with a focus on strengthening core functions. Questions were raised about upcoming presentations, the gym, and the transition of the Sanitation Division, to which Director Williams and Deputy Director Jean-Baptiste provided clarification, noting that staff realignment is underway. Board Member Zeiler inquired about communication with the City Commission, and Director Williams expressed confidence in the City Manager's direction. Deputy Director Jean-Baptiste highlighted the City's recent success at the Parks and Recreation Association Conference, where four awards were received, and both she and Director Williams commended the Board for their continued engagement and support.

The Board then discussed the Tunnel Top Plaza Closure, which remains closed, with updates to be provided as they become available. Board Member Coetzee requested project renderings, and Deputy Director Jean-Baptiste confirmed she would email them. The Jimmy Evert Tennis Center is scheduled to reopen on October 2, 2025, with a dedication ceremony honoring Ms. Evert on December 8 to mark the grand reopening.

Director Williams provided an update on the Fort Lauderdale Beach Park project, noting that the basketball courts will be relocated and the gym is part of the bond project. He confirmed the current budget at \$500,000, though Chair Oglesby noted the figures are still proposals. Questions from Board Members focused on project sequencing, funding for pickleball courts, and overall timelines. Director Williams explained that details are still being finalized and clarified that City Commissioners will decide on alternative plans. He also discussed features such as removable picnic tables and noted that shade structures are not currently included.

Further discussion covered design alternatives and project elements, noting that differences between options were reviewed and that certain considerations, such as barrier walls, will be addressed later.

To conclude, Deputy Director Jean-Baptiste highlighted upcoming community events, including the FHSA State Diving and Swimming Championships and the Light Up Lauderdale holiday festivities.

3. Exclusive Children's Play Areas (Carl Williams)

Director Williams provided an update on the ordinance for age-specific play areas, noting that new signage will be installed in three phases and is expected to be completed by January, with two signs per playground. Enforcement may involve police discretion.

Discussion took place about how the ordinance and signage would apply in specific parks, whether there should be designated time parameters, why the signage rollout is being completed in phases, and how the number of signs per playground was determined, as well as how limited park entry points may affect enforcement and placement.

4. Parks Bond Update (Marc Isaac)

Parks Bond Project Manager II, Marc Isaac, provided an update on the parks bond project, reviewing the history of key milestones, funding sources, and bond allocations, as well as how funding was identified. He presented a revised site plan, along with aerial and eye-level views, and explained the planned changes to the

project layout. Board Member Coetzee asked what the space would include, and Mr. Isaac explained the intended uses.

Board Member Oglesby asked whether the design could fit in the available space and about the project timeline; Mr. Isaac confirmed the space is adequate and that definitive timelines are still being finalized. Board Member Reczko asked whether the project is design-build, how the designer will be selected, and about parking; Mr. Isaac clarified it is not design-build, discussed the solicitation process, and reviewed parking requirements and layout. In response to Board Member Coetzee's question about playground amenities, Mr. Isaac confirmed the existing playground will be replaced.

Director Williams added that this is a signature project, significant progress has been made, and the necessary funding is currently in place.

5. New Business (Joy Oglesby)

Board Member Collazo raised concern about not being informed of an unveiling event at the beach. Director Williams clarified that the event is not being handled by Parks, while Deputy Director Jean-Baptiste said she would follow up with Strategic Communications to confirm details. Board Member Oglesby introduced new Board member Alex Nazar, who expressed enthusiasm about joining. The Board discussed the importance of being notified about events that may involve them. Chair Oglesby also asked about dog waste bag stations, and Director Williams confirmed funding is in place to provide them at all parks. Board Member Vratsinas suggested signage to encourage quieter behavior in park spaces, which the Board briefly discussed. Lastly, Board Member Collazo announced he will be leaving the Board and shared his appreciation for the experience.

6. Adjournment (Joy Oglesby)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 P.M.

[Minutes prepared by JBurnham, Prototype-Inc.]