

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
PARKS, RECREATION AND BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
FIRE STATION # 2
528 NW 2ND STREET
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Vanessa Apotheker (left at 7:18 pm)	P	6	0
Ruchel Coetzee	A	5	1
Idan Eckstein	P	4	2
Sean Fee, Vice Chair	P	5	1
Christine Fanchi (arrived at 6:20 pm)	P	1	0
Nazir Lavji	P	4	1
Steven Woytko	P	3	0
Solomon Schoonover	P	5	1
Anna Vratsinas	A	4	2
Patricia Zeiler	P	4	2
Joy Oglesby, Chair	A	5	1
James Saunders	A	0	1

Oct 2025 - Sept 2026

As of this date, there are 12 appointed members to the Board, which means 7 would constitute a quorum. A quorum was present.

Staff

Amy Jean-Baptiste, *Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation*
Norelli Liguori, Senior Administrative Assistant

Others

Nicole Day, Recording Secretary, Prototype-Inc.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Fee led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of March 25, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Solomon Schoonover and seconded by Vanessa Apotheker, to approve March 25, 2026, meeting minutes with corrections. In a voice vote, the motion passed 7-0.

April 22, 2026

1. Introduction: New Board Member-

*This item was heard after item #3

2. Public Comment –Sean Fee

Vice Chair Fee opened public comment

Rex Nichols, an architect and civic board chairman, urged the Board to consider a new vision for the Beach District, expressing concern that it currently caters more to tourists than residents. He highlighted issues including the lack of restroom facilities, impacts of large events and traffic, and the need for environmental improvements such as dune restoration. Mr. Nichols encouraged the Board to elevate its approach and focus on creating a beach experience that better serves the local community.

Vice Chair Fee closed public comment

3. E-Bike Ordinance – Adham Naiem

Adham Naiem, Division Manager with Transportation Mobility, provided a detailed overview of a proposed ordinance to prohibit and regulate e-bikes and micro-mobility devices within parks and adjacent public areas. The ordinance would prohibit use on park pathways, sidewalks, promenades, and turf areas, while allowing limited use on roadways, with an emphasis on reducing reckless behavior and improving safety.

He explained that the ordinance is being developed in coordination with an upcoming state statute, which will require users to reduce speed to 10 mph within 50 feet of pedestrians and will support a data-driven approach through statewide crash data collection and a task force report.

Board members asked questions regarding where devices would be permitted, enforcement, and impacts on existing uses such as Riverwalk and Segway tours. Mr. Naiem clarified that parks would have full prohibitions in designated areas, with allowances on roadways, and that exceptions may be made for existing operations.

Discussion also included enforcement strategies and the need for education, with suggestions for coordinated efforts with Police and schools to ensure public awareness and compliance. Mr. Naiem emphasized that the ordinance aims to balance safety with legitimate transportation use, while allowing for adjustments based on future data and outcomes.

Christine Fanchi – provided information to the Board about her profession and her insight

4. Parks Bond Program Implementation Plan - Colette Satchell

Colette Satchell, Director of Capital Projects, presented the Parks Bond Program Implementation Plan, developed over the past two months and scheduled for presentation to the City Commission on May 5. She explained that the plan is intended to guide the execution and financial management of bond-funded projects and to streamline delivery through construction.

She noted that Mr. Isaac, Senior Project Manager, has been leading and supporting the Parks Bond initiative over the past several years.

The presentation included a history of the Parks Bond, an overview of the department established in 2025 to advance the program, and detailed information on projects and parks by district, including land acquisitions as of December 15, 2025. Additional topics included the Lauder Trail master plan, funding tranches and expenditures, completed projects by district, grant-funded projects, phasing criteria, and anticipated construction timelines from FY 2026 through FY 2029, along with next steps for implementation.

Ms. Satchell noted that the Park Bond budget amendment presentation will be considered by the City Commission on May 5. She discussed change orders and the use of contingency funds, as well as the role of the Park Impact Fee Fund in supporting projects.

Ms. Satchell also identified a cost estimate gap for which additional funding is being requested and provided an update on project funding status.

5. Park Bond – Budget Amendment – Colette Satchell

* This item was heard with item number 4

6. Department Update - Amy Jean-Baptiste

Ms. Jean-Baptiste provided an update on upcoming events and programs, including the 2026 Speedo Event, Viernes Musicales Concert Series, Arts and Craft Fair, Mayor's Chess Challenge, Studio 701 Open House, Sunday Jazz Brunch, Relay for Life, Carter Park Jams, Great American Beach Party, Memorial Day Ceremony, and Sips, Sounds, and Splats. She also discussed an upcoming Lockhart Park interest meeting.

**7. Inside Parks and Recreation Presentation:
Parks Division with Mark Almy**

Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board

April 22, 2026

Mr. Almy, presented an overview of the Parks Division and its operations. The presentation highlighted the collaborative team structure and provided insight into the division's daily responsibilities, including entryway maintenance, painting park structures, irrigation installation and repairs, and median renovations.

Staff explained that services such as mowing, edging, hedge trimming, and tree trimming are performed in-house, while some median maintenance is contracted. Additional responsibilities include conducting park inspections and audits, maintaining clean and legible signage and little libraries, and ensuring playgrounds and open spaces are well maintained. The division also handles trash removal, upkeep of picnic tables, and ballfield maintenance, emphasizing overall cleanliness and functionality of park facilities.

8. New Business –Sean Fee

None.

9. Adjournment –Sean Fee

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

[Minutes prepared by JBurnham, Prototype-Inc.]