

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018 – 6:30 P.M.  
SOUTH SIDE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER  
701 SOUTH ANDREWS AVENUE, FORT LAUDERDALE FL, 33316**

**Cumulative Attendance**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Bill Schonlau	P	6	0
Bruce Qualey	P	6	0
Brucie Cummings	A	3	3
David Itskovich	P	4	2
Debby Eisinger	P	5	1
Dermot McQuarrie	A	4	2
James Jordan	P	4	2
Jo Ann Smith	P	4	2
Karen Polivka	P	6	0
Marianna Seiler	P	5	1
Marie Huntley	A	2	1
Paul Davidson	P	6	0
Robert Payne ( <i>Reinstated</i> )	P	1	0
Roy Grimsland	P	5	1

**Oct 2017 - Sept 2018**

As of this date, there are 14 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum. It was noted that a quorum was met for the meeting.

**Staff**

Carl Williams, *Parks & Recreation Deputy Director*  
Jorg Hruschka, *Chief Service Officer*  
Leona Osamor, *Administrative Assistant*

**Public Attendees**

John P. Wilkes  
Pamela Wilkes  
Sandy Casteel

**Roll Call**

Chairperson Debby Eisinger called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Roll was called and all stood for the pledge of allegiance. It was determined that a quorum was present.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** was made by Bill Schonlau and seconded by Roy Grimsland, that the minutes of March 28, 2018 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

### **1. Department Update**

Deputy Director Mr. Carl Williams informed the board that the Great American Beach Party will take place on Saturday May 26, 2018 from 10:00am to 8:00pm on the Fort Lauderdale Beach along A1A and Las Olas Boulevard. The event will feature live bands, a kid's zone, DJ sand castle contest, art and classic car show, life-size beach games and lots of fun for everyone.

Mr. Williams informed the board that the City will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Holiday Park Fitness Station in honor of Mr. G. Harold Martin on Friday April 27, 2018 beginning at 3:00 pm.

The board was informed by Mr. Williams that the next Parks Board Meeting will be a joint meeting with the Budget Advisory Board, which will take place on Wednesday May 23, 2018 at 6:30pm.

### **2. Volunteering Presentation**

A presentation was made by Mr. Jorg Hruschka, Chief Service Officer responsible for the coordination of volunteer services throughout the City. Mr. Hruschka briefly talked about his role and explained how he networks with other great non-profit and local organizations to get volunteers that are all passionate in wanting to make a difference in the community by volunteering their time and services. One of Mr. Hruschka's recent accomplishments included the project at the City Park Mall also known as the "One Stop Shop" building where a fresh coat of paint was used to give the building a facelift. Mr. Hruschka also noted that other successful projects coordinated include the Little Free Libraries program and the monthly beach cleanups which are all conducted by the generous support of the volunteers. Mr. Hruschka encouraged everyone to volunteer wherever they can and also for persons to suggest ideas for other community volunteer projects especially the ones that are most passionate to them.

### **3. Park Renaming Proposal**

Mr. Williams informed the board that a park name change proposal was submitted by resident of Fort Lauderdale Mr. David Itskovich to have the Merle Fogg Park renamed to Terry Stiles Park.

### **Board Discussions**

Board members discussed the reasons why the park name should not be changed and also why it was initially proposed to be changed. However, after further discussions it was determined that the Merle Fogg Park lacked a proper recognition

and historical marker displaying who Mr. Merle Fogg was and his contributions made to the development of the City of Fort Lauderdale. Board members however, unanimously agreed that Mr. Terry Stiles definitely did play a big part in the development of the City of Fort Lauderdale but also believed that a special recognition should be dedicated possibly in collaboration with other private entities to honor him. Board members suggested possibly honoring him by renaming a major street or naming a future new park in his name.

**4. Marathon Swimmer Diana Nyad – Historic Preservationist Markers**

Chairperson Debby Eisinger informed the board that a request was made to have a historical marker honoring marathon swimmer Diana Nyad installed at the entrance of the Fort Lauderdale Beach, south of the intersection of A1A and Las Olas Boulevard. Ms. Nyad was publicly recognized for her greatest accomplishment in becoming the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida without a shark cage at the age of 64.

**5. Board Comments**

Mr. Bruce Qualey informed the board that he has been in communication with representatives of Thorguard and have invited them to come to the June meeting to make a presentation on their Thorguard Lightning Prediction and Warning Systems.

Board member Karen Polivka suggested that the City consider piggy backing off the idea of placing informational ads similar to the ones that are published in the back of the Fort Lauderdale Magazine as a way of sharing and dissemination of information to the public.

Chairperson Debby Eisinger suggested the idea of having the City have a section on their website that would say “Did you know...?” and under this section provide some historical information which could include topics on the history of historic buildings or a bio about a person that was a pioneer in the community so that residents and visitors alike can learn more about the history of Fort Lauderdale. Chairperson Eisinger also suggested that this publication could be done on a monthly basis.

Board member Jo Ann Smith informed the board that during the St. Patrick’s Day Events, Broward County awarded the Emerald Award to the Woman’s Club and Stranahan Park for the Outstanding Achievement in Naturescape and Landscaping.

**6. Public Comments**

Public attendee Sandy Casteel spoke before the members of the board and provided some clarification on the historical process, how it works and some of the things that can be accomplished with the help of the historical board.

Public attendee John P. Wilkes welcomed the members of the board for hosting

their first meeting at the newly renovated South Side Cultural Arts Center. Mr. Wilkes introduced himself to the board and provided a brief history on the developments over the years as it relates to South Side and highlighted on some of the goals for the near future. Mr. Wilkes also took a moment to give a special thanks to the front desk staff at South Side Cultural Arts Center who had all done such a great job in getting everything organized before the building was officially opened and for their continued great service that they continue to provide.

## 7. Communications to the Commission

**Motion** was made by Mr. David Itskovich and seconded by Mr. Bill Schonlou to rename the Merle Fogg Park to Terry Stiles Park. **Motion** failed with 10 No's and 1 Yes.

Summary of voting results were as follows:

Bill Schonlou – No	David Itskovitch - Yes
Bruce Quailey – No	
Debby Eisinger – No	
James Jordan – No	
Jo Ann Smith – No	
Karen Polivka – No	
Marianna Seiler – No	
Paul Davidson – No	
Robert Payne – No	
Roy Grimsland – No	

**Motion** was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Karen Polivka to prepare an application for a historical marker to be made in honor of Mr. Merle Fogg and installed at the Merle Fogg Park. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Bruce Quailey to approve the request to have a historical marker honoring marathon swimmer Diana Nyad at the entrance of the Fort Lauderdale Beach, south of the intersection of A1A and Las Olas Boulevard. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

## 8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.