

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2018 – 6:30 P.M.  
CITY HALL – 8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
100 N ANDREWS AVE  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312**

**Cumulative Attendance**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Amber Van Buren	P	2	0
Bruce Quailey	P	8	1
Brucie Cummings <i>(reinstated)</i>	P	1	0
David Itskovich	A	5	4
Debby Eisinger	A	7	2
James Jordan	P	7	2
Jo Ann Smith	P	7	2
Karen Polivka	P	9	0
Marianna Seiler	P	7	2
Marie Huntley	P	5	1
Paul Davidson	P	9	0
Robert Payne	A	3	1
Roy Grimsland	A	6	3

**Oct 2017 - Sept 2018**

As of this date, there are 13 appointed members to the Board, which means 7 would constitute a quorum. It was noted that a quorum was met for the meeting.

**Staff**

Carl Williams, *Parks & Recreation Deputy Director*

Leona Osamor, *Administrative Assistant*

Marla Donald, *Senior Performance Analyst*

**Roll Call**

Vice-Chair Karen Polivka 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 Jo Ann Smith and seconded by Marianna Seiler, that the minutes of June 27, 2018 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**1. Department Update**

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that the “Summer Jamz” concert in culmination with the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual David Deal Playday held at Carter Park on August 19, 2018, was very well attended and received by everyone in attendance.

The board was informed by Carl Williams that the mural paintings project on the south beach restrooms is near completion and encouraged everyone to stop by and view the progress made thus far on this project.

Carl Williams informed the board that the installation of the gazebo at Holiday Park has been completed.

Carl Williams also informed the board that as of August 21, 2018, the 30-year lease with the Swimming Hall of Fame and the 27 million dollar project for the facility’s renovation were approved.

**2. Neighborhood Survey Presentation**

Marla Donald, Senior Performance Analyst made a presentation to the board on the results of the City of Fort Lauderdale’s Annual Neighborhood Survey. Marla encouraged everyone to check out the full report on the City’s website and to share the information with family, friends and neighbors.

**3. Board Comments and Discussions**

Board member Brucie Cummings informed the board that she had received some complaints from patrons regarding the pickle ball courts over at Holiday Park. Brucie stated that the complaints stemmed from the way the games are being conducted. Brucie stated that initially games were played in groups of 4 players and the losing players would have to leave the courts thus allowing for two new players to start a new game with the winners. However, Brucie further stated that patrons are now upset because there are players who would hand pick the next players to play with and not allowing for random players that are interested and waiting to participate in a game. Vice-Chair Karen Polivka made a suggestion to the board that the City should consider designating 2 of the pickle ball courts as rotation courts in an attempt to alleviate the patron concerns shared by Brucie Cummings.

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that patrons can also play indoor pickle ball games in the War Memorial Auditorium.

Board member Marie Huntley inquired about whether the City currently offered any pickle ball leagues for teens or youth groups since during the recent summer camp break she had many teens that played and enjoyed the growing sport to the point of where a tournament will now be conducted at the L.A. Lee YMCA.

Board member Brucie Cummings inquired about the recently implemented procedures at the South Side Cultural Arts Center where City staff informed her and other attendees during their neighbor meeting that parking passes and liability insurance coverage would be required by all attendees. Carl Williams stated that the new procedures was essentially a decision made by the City's Risk Department but informed the board that he was still working with the Risk Department in hopes of coming up with a better solution. Board member Amber Van Buren suggested that the City implemented the use of a waiver that would be signed in lieu of having to obtain liability insurance.

Board member Brucie Cummings also inquired about the reason why parking passes are required while attending their neighbor meeting at South Side Cultural Arts Center when they are basically the only patrons at the facility during that time. Carl Williams stated that he understood the frustration of the patrons but that to his understanding, funding was acquired from the Parking Department to build the parking lot and all funding collected from the parking passes would be used to repay the acquired funds used for the parking lot project.

Board member Brucie Cummings stated her displeasure in the fact that the parking lot in question which is located along the tennis courts on SW 7 St. was actually supposed to be used for the purpose of allowing patrons to lounge. Brucie Cummings further inquired about the total cost of the land which currently houses the parking lot and Carl Williams advised that he would follow-up on this inquiry.

Board member Brucie Cummings informed the board that she had also received an inquiry from someone interested in finding properties throughout the City of Fort Lauderdale to house bee hives and help rejuvenate the bee population. Vice-Chair Karen Polivka recommended that the City could look at options such as the bee hives located at the Museum of Science and Discovery and possibly make it into an educational site as well.

Board member Bruce Quailey apologized for the last minute change in the Thorguard presentation due to a scheduling conflict with one of the presenters but assured the board that the presentation has been rescheduled for the September board meeting.

Board member Bruce Quailey also stated that he would like to see the City move forward in banning the use of plastic straws which have become increasing difficult for the lives of all the wildlife animals. Board member Marianna Seiler suggested to the board that the best way to move forward with such a ban would be to beat the lobbyist before they brought it before the State.

Board member Amber Van Buren inquired about whether or not the parks board had

any input into the recent changes where Special Events now falls under the purview of the City Manager's Office versus the Parks and Recreation Department. Carl Williams confirmed that the decision was made by the City Manager who has the authority to make such structural changes as deemed necessary.

**6. Communications to the Commission**

**Motion** was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Bruce Qualey that the board recommends the City of Fort Lauderdale ban the use of plastic straws. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.