

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018 – 6:30 P.M.
CITY HALL – 8TH FLOOR
100 N ANDREWS AVE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Amber Van Buren	A	2	1
Bruce Quailey	P	9	1
Brucie Cummings	P	2	0
Debby Eisinger	P	8	2
James Jordan	P	8	2
Jo Ann Smith	A	7	3
Karen Polivka	A	9	1
Marianna Seiler	A	7	3
Marie Huntley	P	6	1
Martha G. Steinkamp (New)	P	1	0
Robert Payne	A	3	2
Roy Grimsland	P	7	3

Oct 2017 - Sept 2018

As of this date, there are 12 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*

Public Attendee

Patrick Bennett, *Thor Guard National Sales Manager*
Jake Swick, *Thor Guard Chief Meteorologist*
Miranda Lopez, *City Resident*

Roll Call

Chairperson Debby Eisinger called the meeting to order at 6:35 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 Bruce Quailey and seconded by James Jordan, that the minutes of August 22, 2018 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Department Update

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that the proposed water park project for the Lockhart Stadium will no longer move forward and a decision has not yet been made on what the plans would be for the utilization of the property.

The board was informed by Carl Williams that although there was a reduction made in the Parks and Recreation's Department budget as it relates to capital projects, there was still approximately \$350,000 available for immediate project improvements. Mr. Williams also stated that all the department's budget requests for items such as additional staffing and fleet vehicles were however approved.

Carl Williams reminded the board that there will be a joint meeting held on Monday October 1, 2018 at 11:00am with the Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board regarding the DC Alexander Park.

Carl Williams informed the board that effective October 1, 2018; Carriage Services who has been the City of Fort Lauderdale's long time cemetery service provider will come to an end. Mr. Williams stated that the City will now internally take on the responsibility of the cemetery operations.

Board member Brucie Cummings inquired about whether the City of Fort Lauderdale had considered the extent to which iguanas have taken over the Evergreen Cemetery. Mr. Williams in response stated that Carriage Services had contracted a vendor to have them removed but the City would be revisiting the issue once they have officially taken over the operations.

Board member Martha G. Steinkamp stated that she believes the iguana issue is compounded by the fact that the G-16 Pompano Canal which is managed by the South Florida Water Management District had hundreds of iguanas which all of a sudden had disappeared. Mrs. Steinkamp stated that she inquired about the iguanas and was told that she had to contact the wildlife agency but when contacted, she was informed that because they were not native animals there was nothing they could do to help. The wildlife agency however, provided a contact for a company that could remove the iguanas.

2. Thor Guard Presentation

Jake Swick, Chief Meteorologist and Pat Bennett, National Sales Manager for Thor Guard made a presentation to the board on the level of services they provided and various types of technology used with the company's lightning prediction and warning systems. The presentation included an explanation on the difference between lightning detection systems versus lightning prediction systems, typical lightning scenarios with real world examples, lightning sensor installation samples, how the

information is transmitted and interpreted throughout the system and types of software options. A quote was also provided to give a cost estimate of having such a system installed along the Fort Lauderdale Beach.

Chairperson Debby Eisinger recommended that the Parks and Recreation Department reach out to the City of Naples and Marco Island to gain feedback and review any policies they have implemented as it relates to the Thor Guard Lightning Prediction and Warning Systems.

Board member James Jordan recommended that at some point in the process once the matter moves forward, to possibly have a committee formed that would allow key stakeholders such as the restaurant and hotel owners on the beach to share their thoughts on the implementation of the system.

3. Board Comments and Discussions

Chairperson Debby Eisinger shared with the board, a flyer that was displayed on the window of a popular Fort Lauderdale deli called "Top Hat Deli" where the establishment pledged to go plastic-straw free.

Board member Bruce Quailey informed the board that the City of Dania Beach and the City of Hallandale Beach will commence a plastic straw ban beginning in January, 2019 along with the City of Deerfield Beach, who will commence in April, 2019.

Board member Martha G. Steinkamp stated that every so often at the City's Commission meetings, she would see the Commissioners drinking water from plastic bottles and stated that if the City was going to try and push the agenda for the banning of plastic straws then they would first have to set the standard by not using plastic bottles.

Board member Roy Grimsland informed the board that new clay was installed on the Jimmy Evert Tennis Center (JETC) courts at Holiday Park and wanted to say thank you to those involved in making this happen. Mr. Grimsland further stated that he couldn't help but commend the beautiful courts located in Pompano Beach where he had an opportunity to play after not being able to secure court spots at JETC. Carl Williams in response informed the board that this coming fiscal year, there will be CIP funds available for expenditure on restroom renovations.

Board member Roy Grimsland also informed the board that thanks to Carl Williams and his staff, bee hives will soon be installed at the Warbler Wetlands Conservation Area.

Board member Roy Grimsland also shared with the board that he was able to play a game of pickle ball indoors at the War Memorial Auditorium and thought it was a great option but would love to see the City provide more evening playing times. Carl

Williams in response informed the board that there will be some upcoming tournaments for both indoor and outdoor pickle ball games.

6. Communications to the Commission

There were no communications to the Commission.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.