

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 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 | P | 1 | 0 |
| Bruce Quailey | P | 1 | 0 |
| Brucie Cummings | A | 0 | 1 |
| Charlie Leikauf <i>(New)</i> | P | 1 | 0 |
| David Itskovich | A | 0 | 1 |
| Debby Eisinger | P | 1 | 0 |
| James Jordan | P | 1 | 0 |
| Jo Ann Smith | P | 1 | 0 |
| Karen Polivka | P | 1 | 0 |
| Marianna Seiler | P | 1 | 0 |
| Marie Huntley | A | 0 | 1 |
| Martha G. Steinkamp | P | 1 | 0 |
| Michael Flowers Jr. <i>(New)</i> | A | 0 | 1 |
| Robert Payne | P | 1 | 0 |
| Roy Grimsland | P | 1 | 0 |

Oct 2018 - Sept 2019

As of this date, there are 15 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*
Leona Osamor, *Administrative Assistant*

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 Marianna Seiler and seconded by James Jordan, that the minutes of September 26, 2018 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Introductions

Chairperson Debby Eisinger introduced herself and welcomed the newest member to the board Charlie Leikauf. All other members in attendance also provided a brief introduction and joined in welcoming board member Charlie Leikauf.

[Marianna Seiler arrived at 6:36 pm]

1. Department Update

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that the new Parks and Recreation Winter/Fall Playbook is now available and City residents should be receiving a copy by mail in the next few days.

Carl Williams informed the board about the City's upcoming Halloween Events which included Fall Fest, Riverland Trick-or-Treat, Spooky Halloween Dance Party, Fiesta Fall Carnival, Croissant Park Annual Halloween Party and Trick-or-Treat on 2nd Street.

Carl Williams also informed the board that the property located at 2681 Riverland Road had begun a rezoning process in efforts of having it rezoned as a park site. Mr. Williams also stated that as the process gets underway, there would be town hall meetings held to gain feedback from the neighborhood residents on their needs for the area.

The board was informed by Carl Williams that as a follow-up from the ThorGuard presentation at the last board meeting, the department has reached out to representatives in Marco Island and Fort Island Gulf Beach but are currently still awaiting feedback.

Carl Williams informed the board that a mass cleanup which included mowing, trimming, edging and weeding of the City Cemeteries was conducted earlier in the day and was very successful.

Carl Williams also informed the board that the Beach Redevelopment Board would like to hold another joint meeting in the coming weeks regarding the DC Alexander proposed project concepts and the agreed date for the meeting would be held on Wednesday November 7, 2018 at 2:00pm.

The board was informed by Carl Williams that the Happy Honeybee Club is going to place ten (10) bee aviaries at Warbler Wetlands once all the required documentations have been executed and processed.

Carl Williams also updated the board on the progress at the Holiday Dog Park and stated that the gazebo was installed along with a bench and some agility equipment.

2. Lockhart Stadium

Board member Martha G. Steinkamp informed the board that at a recent pre-agenda meeting held by Commissioner Moraitis, the topic of Lockhart Stadium was brought forward for discussion and it was determined that it should also be discussed with the members of the parks board. Mrs. Steinkamp provided copies of a map of Lockhart Stadium and its surrounding areas along with a summary of the feedback obtained at the pre-agenda meeting with Commissioner Moraitis. Mrs. Steinkamp stated that the feedback from the pre-agenda meeting contained a mixture of ideas including recommendations for making the Lockhart Stadium into a big park similar to the one in Pompano Park; an interactive park with exercise tracks and playground; a mixed use park with reading booths, tennis courts and a small outdoor puppet theater; a site with eateries for revenue that are similar to park and ocean café at Birch Park; an area to host festivals and a farmers market; transforming the site into a County Park; keeping the location as a sports complex to be able to host student and school activities especially for those schools without their own sporting facilities.

3. Board Comments and Discussions

Board member Charlie Leikauf informed the board that at a recent district four meeting, the Lockhart Stadium was also discussed, and recommendations were proposed for it to become the site of the New Fort Lauderdale Police Department.

Board member Martha Steinkamp also shared with the board, a printout of project wild playground exhibits made from recycled and reclaimed materials located in various parks throughout the United States including the states of Florida, North and South Carolina.

Board member Martha Steinkamp also shared another printout showing the impact of trees in urban areas and how the temperatures vary drastically when there are more trees versus having areas with no trees.

[Jo Ann Smith arrived at 7:01 pm]

Board member Karen Polivka stated that the City's number one priority for the Lockhart Stadium should be field space especially since it is so needed right now.

Chairperson Debby Eisinger stated that the Lockhart Stadium project would be a give and take situation if the Lockhart Stadium was proposed to become a County Park. Mrs. Eisinger also stated that if it were to become a County Park, the County would essentially be in control of the park with responsibilities for its maintenance and upkeep. Mrs. Eisinger further stated that events such as those hosted by City leagues for example, would be subject to admission and parking fees and approval to host such events would have to be obtained by the County.

Board member Bruce Quailey agreed with Karen Polivka's comments and further stated that as a former coach, it was always extremely difficult to acquire field space for use and at times had to take his teams out of the City of Fort Lauderdale to be able to coach his team. Mr. Quailey further stated that he supports the Fort Lauderdale Police Department but strongly agrees that the stadium should be used for field and green space.

Board member Charlie Leikauf stated that the stadium should be used for any type of multi-purpose use such as the Pompano Park facility. Mr. Leikauf further stated that he believes in the saying "build it and they will come". Mr. Leikauf also stated that adding an amphitheater to the facility would also be a great idea.

Board member Robert Payne stated that he was in favor of the stadium being equipped with multi-purpose fields but also wanted to see a swimming pool being added to the proposed facility.

Board member Marianna Seiler stated that she agrees with the Stadium location being utilized for field space especially since the results from the master plan survey revealed that the proposed area needed more green space.

Board member Karen Polivka suggested to the board that the proposed park site at 2681 Riverland Road could possibly be developed with a track that would be utilized as a site to train and host cross country meets.

4. Communications to the Commission

The members of the board unanimously agreed and asked that the City Commission bring back whatever Lockhart Stadium proposals are on the table for discussion. The board also asked that the City Commission invite the selected project consultant to conduct a presentation before the Parks and Recreation board so that the board can be involved in providing their input and feedback in the process. In a voice vote, the board unanimously agreed with the aforementioned.

The members of the board also unanimously agreed and asked that the City Commission initiate a program that would recognize restaurants and other businesses for taking steps in becoming environmentally conscious and forward thinking. The members of the board suggested that the recognition could be in the form of a sticker that would essentially be displayed at their respective establishments. In a voice vote, the board unanimously agreed with the aforementioned.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.