

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019 – 6:30 P.M.
CITY HALL – 8TH FLOOR
100 N. ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Amber Van Buren	P	3	1
Bruce Qualey	P	4	0
Brucie Cummings	P	3	1
Caleb Gunter	P	2	0
Carey Villeneuve <i>(Newly Appointed)</i>	P	1	0
Charlie Leikauf	P	4	0
Debby Eisinger	A	2	2
Jo Ann Smith	P	4	0
Karen Polivka	P	4	0
Marianna Seiler	P	3	1
Marie Huntley	P	2	2
Martha G. Steinkamp	P	3	1
Michael Flowers Jr.	P	3	1
Robert Payne	P	3	1
Roy Grimsland	P	4	0

Oct 2018 - Sept 2019

As of this date, there are 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 9 would constitute a quorum. It was noted that a quorum was met for the meeting.

Staff

Carl Williams, *Parks & Recreation Deputy Director*
Leona Osamor, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

Public Attendee

Jenni Morgon
Wally Eccleston

Roll Call

Vice-Chair Karen Polivka called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. 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 Brucie Cummings, that the minutes of January 23, 2019 be approved. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed

unanimously.

1. Department Update

Deputy Director Carl Williams informed the board that the new playbook is currently being distributed and noted that the back cover of the book helps in informing residents and reminding them of the upcoming parks bond special elections taking place on March 12, 2019.

Carl Williams informed the board that he will be providing a synopsis of the Parks and Recreation Budget either at the March or April 2019 parks board meeting.

The board was also informed that the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex will be closing in April 2019 to begin renovations.

[Carey Villeneuve arrived at 6:35 p.m.]

[Charlie Leikauf arrived at 6:37 p.m.]

[Jo Ann Smith arrived at 6:37 p.m.]

2. Board Comments

Board member Bruce Cummings inquired as to whether a committee will be formed to oversee the process if the parks bond passes. Deputy Director Carl Williams confirmed that a committee will be formed and further stated that the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory board would act as the said committee to oversee the proposed parks projects. In addition, Mr. Williams also stated that community input will also be a major and important element in the process for all projects identified but for the most part the process of approval will remain the same whereby a recommendation by the board will be sent to the City Commission for their final approval on all proposed projects and its expended amounts.

Board member Jo Ann Smith inquired as to whether each park would be benefiting from the parks bond and Deputy Director Carl Williams in his response stated that as of the last rendering of suggested projects, each park was identified to receive a benefit even if it is a small upgrade such as ADA improvements.

Board member Jo Ann Smith voiced her disappointment with her South Middle River Home Owners Association where she had asked to speak on the upcoming Parks Bond special elections and the board voted not to allow her to do so. Jo Ann Smith stated that she inquired about the reason for their decision and was told by the board that it was because they won't be receiving anything from the parks bond. Jo Ann Smith further stated that this was the reason she had just inquired about whether each park would benefit from the bond. In response, Deputy Director Carl Williams stated that the initial list of suggested projects was obtained from the City's Master Plan that was completed back in 2016. Mr. Williams further stated that the City is aware that the list of suggested projects is not set in stone and would need to be revisited since

several years have passed and priorities have changed.

[Martha G. Steinkamp arrived at 6:43 p.m.]

Board member Roy Grimsland informed the board that he was surprised to see the number of persons that he has met and conversated with over the last few weeks that were not aware of the upcoming parks bond vote. Mr. Grimsland further stated that as a frequent patron at Holiday Park where there are always large amounts of adults utilizing the facility, the City should place focus on those users if it intends to get the support it needs to pass the parks bond.

Board member Roy Grimsland also inquired as to how the City is going about the process of informing the residents about the upcoming special elections for the parks bond. Deputy Director Carl Williams in his response stated that the marketing firm that the City has contracted to promote the parks bond has informed them that the idea of the current marketing strategy is not to disseminate the information too early since often time the recipients either lose the flyers or toss them because the event is still far away. Mr. Williams further stated that the Parks and Recreation Department has been setting up a table at all the department's upcoming events to help in disseminating information about the parks bond.

[Caleb Gunter arrived at 6:44 p.m.]

Board member Carey Villeneuve stated that he was pleased with the huge banners that the City had installed at Holiday Park to help promote the topic of the parks bond.

Board member Martha G. Steimcamp inquired with public attendee Wally Eccleston on how the marketing firms were able to get her cell phone number to consistently send her text messages about the upcoming parks bond. Wally Eccleston responded that this information is all public records that were not acquired illegally.

5. Communications to the Commission

Motion was made by Marianna Seiler and seconded by Martha G. Steinkamp in support of the request made by Vice Mayor Ben Sorensen, for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to oversee the process of the parks bond projects and its expenditures. The board is eager to proceed in this existing structure. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

6. Public Comment

Public attendee Wally Eccleston informed the board that he was present to answer any questions relating to the upcoming parks bond as he was apart of the team from Friends for a Safer Greener Fort Lauderdale that have been informing residents and promoting the upcoming parks bond. Mr. Eccleston stated that the public's response

to the parks bond has been very responsive and positive thus far as many residents are eager to see the improvements that would essentially come from the approval of the parks bond. Mr. Eccleston also informed the board that he had several yard signs, flyers and other informational material that he can distribute to members of the board so that they can share with family, friends, neighbors, civic and home owners' associations.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.