

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
CITY HALL, 8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2013 – 6:30 P.M.**

Cumulative Attendance

| Board Members | Attendance | Oct 2012 - Sept 2013 | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| | | Present | Absent |
| Bruce Quailey, Chair | P | 5 | 0 |
| Brad Hubert, Vice Chair | P | 5 | 0 |
| Joseph Bellavance | P | 5 | 0 |
| Tommy Knapp | P | 3 | 2 |
| Charles Love | P | 2 | 0 |
| Larry Mabson | P | 4 | 1 |
| JoAnn Medalie | A | 3 | 2 |
| Robert Payne | P | 4 | 1 |
| Karen Polivka | A | 1 | 1 |
| Betty Shelley | A | 4 | 1 |
| Angela Ward | A | 3 | 2 |
| Richard Zaden | P | 3 | 2 |
| Shirley Smith | P | 5 | 0 |
| Larry Nielsen "Ree" | P | 1 | 0 |

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 present for the meeting.

Staff

Phil Thornburg, Director

Carolyn Bean, Administrative Assistant

Roll Call

Chair Quailey called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll was called and all stood for the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Zaden, seconded by Mr. Mabson, to approve the February 27, 2013 minutes as amended. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Department Report

Bruce Quailey introduced Carolyn Bean as new Administrative Assistant, replacing Stacey Daley, who took a promotion within the Parks and Recreation Department and also introduced Lee Nielson "Ree" as the newest member to the advisory board.

2. 2013 Lauderdale Air Show - Update

Director Thornburg gave an update on the 2013 Lauderdale Air Show, the Thunderbirds and most military will not be present at the show this year due to budget cuts. Show still on for April 20th and April 21st. Director Thornburg advised of a possible reduction in event hours from a 4 hour event to a 2 hour event.

Richard Zaden questioned if there were any additions to the events to the air show, Director Thornburg advised no., most likely a scaled down show.

Shirley Smith questioned if there would be any Fireworks, Director Thornburg advised no.

Bruce Quailey questioned if there was a charge for the Air Show, Director Thornburg answered no.

Director Thornburg also gave an update on the Tortuga Beach Festival, April 13 – April 14, 2013. There will be a shuttle system in place similar to the Boat Show, mainly from Downtown. Guesstimating 25,000 to 30,000 people.

Lee Nielson questioned if Tortuga was a City event or a private event. Director Thornburg advised this is a private event put on by Chris Stacey from Nashville, TN.

There was an overall concern for the turtle season during the Tortuga event. Director Thornburg advised this is a "Save our Oceans" awareness event, and there would be precautions in regards to the sea turtles.

3. Use of Parks by Sports Teams

Bruce Quailey questioned the use of Parks, how do we prioritize the use of the different parks? How do you solve the problem over who gets priority use? Bruce was at the opening of Hortt Park and Commissioner Rogers inquired about priority use in the parks. A handout was distributed by Director Thornburg regarding Fields and number of hours our fields are permitted. An additional handout regarding Scheduling Priorities for Field Usage was distributed with the agenda, which has been in use for quite a few years.

Director Thornburg advised that Floyd Hull has their own agreement due to the fact that the stadium was built by a lot of volunteers. Baseball and Football have

their own agreement with the City, meaning they have priority. City doesn't deal with permitting during their season.

Ree Nielsen questioned the 60% residency rate is a factor in determining priority use. Director Thornburg advised that the City maintains a 60% residency rate. Audits are conducted by checking team rosters to ensure 60% residency requirement is met. If the residency requirement is not met, the teams priority rate would do down and their fee would go up.

Joseph Bellavance questioned use of fields at Carter Park. Director Thornburg advised that you have to have a permit to use any of Bermuda fields. The Park Rangers do their best to enforce the permits, but its tough.

Guest speaker, Mark McCormick, former Board Member spoke about the condition of the fields, and the difficulties running a league for youth soccer due to the field limitations and constant moving of practice/games to different fields.

Charles Love, questioned if the City was gaining park land or losing park land. Director Thornburg advised that the City has gained parkland but mostly neighborhood parks, nothing to support new fields.

Tommy Knapp mentioned that more and more kids are utilizing the fields, but there is no more space to develop any new fields. Mr. Knapp questioned if there is a potential to switch the fields to artificial turf so they can be used year round? Director Thornburg advised he thinks the artificial turf is definitely a solution. The challenge is financing the cost. Each field is aprox \$600,000.00.

4. Determination of Passive/Active Parks

Bruce Quailey questioned the determination of a passive park and an active park and if there were any passive parks that could be made active by adding lights and fields. Director Thornburg advised that passive parks typically do not have a lot of activities. Director Thornburg advised the problem with adding lights is typically the neighborhoods adjacent to the parks. Director Thornburg advised that for the past 3 years Parks and Recreation Department has requested lights for Riverland and Warfield Park as Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), however, due to the Budget, those requests have been not been approved.

Mark McCormick, previous Parks Board member, spoke as a guest speaker. Mr. McCormick started travel soccer a few years ago, which has grown to one of the largest rec groups in Fort Lauderdale, also involved in the development of Hardy Park and a few other park developments. Discussed several fields, example section of Mills Pond, which could be developed as additional field space. Riverland Park, could be developed with lights. Contested that not everyone is fitting into the field rotation, soccer not fitting in, even though they have more kids than baseball. Mr. McCormick requests when funds are available, the funds

should go to soccer. Explained difficulty in playing soccer on the fields after baseball and football uses them and the poor condition they are in. Mr. McCormick stated that any sport that wasn't here in 1950 has a problem with field priority. This makes running a program difficult when you constantly have to switch fields. Questioned when the last Park Bond was issued. (Director Thornburg advised almost 20 years ago). Requested a motion to push for a parks bond. Advised that pick up is a huge problem. Suggested we should fence in the fields to protect them from the pick up games. Need to look at what a City Sport and a Non City Sport is and how the priority is determined. Need to make a list of all "low hanging fruit". Thanked the board for their commitment to the Board.

Ree Nielsen questioned if the Parks Bond was the only viable option. Mark McCormick advised no, there are other options, just needs to be apart of a comprehensive plan. Not coming from higher level, therefore not getting accomplished.

Guest Speaker, Sean Fee, previous board member. Commended the staff for working hard. Travel soccer gets field space but explained his daughters travel soccer field got bumped to 6 different fields, makes it difficult. Believes there is a lot of issues and a lot of field space that could be developed to help. Advised Board needs to ask more questions and be more involved.

Bruce Qualey commented on the fact that there are no county parks within the City of Fort Lauderdale limits. Encouraged members to speak to county commissioners. Discussed Birch State park, although there are environmental concerns. Board advised of environmental concerns and did not see any option for change.

The Board requested to see a sketch of the lights requested through CIP at the next meeting.

It was agreed to discuss a needs/wants priority list at the next meeting.

5. Board Comments

There were no comments by the Board.

6. Communications to the Commission

There were no Communications to the Commission.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

