

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
CITY HALL, 8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014 – 6:30 P.M.**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Oct 2013 - Sept 2014	
		Present	Absent
Bruce Quailey, Chair	P	3	0
Joseph Bellavance	P	3	0
Steven Buckingham	P	1	0
Karen Doyle	P	1	2
Collette Keno	P	2	0
Charles Love	A	1	2
Larry Mabson	A	1	2
JoAnn Medalie	P	2	1
Larry Nielsen "Ree"	A	0	3
Robert Payne	P	3	0
Karen Polivka	P	3	0
Richard Scanlan	P	2	1
Betty Shelley	P	3	0
Angela Ward	P	2	1
Michael West	P	3	0
Richard Zaden	A	2	1

As of this date, there are 16 appointed members to the Board, which means 9 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 PM. Roll was called and all stood for the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Karen Doyle, seconded by Betty Shelley, that the minutes be approved as corrected.

It was noted that on p.3, paragraph 1, Bruce Quailey also suggested Schlitterbahn be invited back to present to the board and answer questions concerning the waterpark project.

It was also noted that on p.3, paragraph 2, Joseph Bellavance did not put up yellow tape across the dock at Lewis Landing Park. (Sentence deleted)

In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Department Report

Director Thornburg mentioned to the board that Tortuga Music Festival announced two additional big name acts to their concert lineup. We have a meeting scheduled with them within the next couple of weeks to see how they are doing operationally.

Director Thornburg advised the board that Schlitterbahn is building a new slide in Kansas City. The slide is going to be the tallest waterslide. Director Thornburg advised that at this time he does not feel Schlitterbahn would be ready to present to the board, as they are still working with FAA. If/when the project moves forward, we can have them present to the board at that time.

2. Park Rangers Sgt. Monica Ferrer

Director Thornburg introduced Sgt. Monica Ferrer. Sgt. Ferrer replaced Gerry Roberts to take over the Park Rangers. One of the main goals for the Park Rangers is to train them to know when to call the police and when not to call the police. Sgt. Ferrer addressed the board and advised she has been with the City for 11 years. As a police officer, she worked with the Homeless Outreach for 2 years. Sgt. Ferrer advised that she thinks that Parks and Recreation and the Police Department have established a good team. Sgt. Ferrer will focus on more training for the Park Rangers. Sgt. Ferrer advised the board that there are currently 8 full time and 7 part time rangers divided into 3 districts over 2 shifts.

Bruce Quailey asked Sgt. Ferrer what they should do if they see someone suspicious in the park. Sgt. Ferrer advised to call the non-emergency number at the police department 954-828-5700.

Angela Ward asked if staffing levels has increased or decreased over the years. Director Thornburg advised that staffing levels have decreased. At one time, Rangers were a 24/7 operation.

A discussion was made regarding if the board should request the addition of more park rangers during the budget process. Director Thornburg advised that the budget season should start up within the next couple of months and if the board would like a history of the rangers and/or a comparison of the

number of parks over the years, we would gather those records and present it to the board.

3. Successful Public Places

Director Thornburg advised the board that he recently attended a session in West Palm Beach where they completed an exercise evaluating parks. Some of the key factors in the evaluation were, 1) are people in the park?, 2) is there a mix of females/males in the park?, 3) is the park easily accessible and close to public transit? Director Thornburg passed out an example rating sheet and advised the board to look at some parks, complete the park evaluation and sent to us. It was suggested by the board that the surveys be entered into Survey Monkey for easy electronic access.

Bruce Quailey suggested that the board be issued new ID cards to have while conducting the evaluations.

4. Board Comments

Betty Shelly advised the board that she had received a phone call just before Christmas from Mark Almy, Parks Supervisor, regarding approval of the boundless playground.

Steve Buckingham mentioned that he has not noticed a lot of recycling cans around the City. Director Thornburg advised that the City's goal is to be much more sustainable. Director Thornburg advised that the City just purchased a recycling truck. In addition, the City received a grant from the County which we used to purchase recycling cans for all of our parks. We have a part time employee, Janet Townsend, who handles our recycling efforts. Director Thornburg mentioned the new Windmills at Mills Pond Park.

Angela Ward advised that the mirrors installed at Holiday Park are working out great for the dancers. Ms. Ward questioned if there was something in the works for new signs at the Holiday Park entrance. Director Thornburg advised that we are working with the Performing Arts Center to purchase new signs.

Director Thornburg commented on Mrs. Birch who presented to the board last meeting. Carl Williams, Deputy Director, is working with the licensing board. It seems they have backed off on the requirements and it looks like we may be able to do it without much disruption to the neighborhoods. Before anything is implemented we will bring it back to the board.

A discussion was made regarding whether parks should be assigned or not. It was agreed that staff will email the list of Parks to the board before the next meeting.

5. Communications to the Commission

There were no Communications to the Commission

6. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.