MINUTES
BROWARD COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION
April 4, 2024, 2:00 PM
Plantation Heritage Park
1100 S Fig Tree Lane
Plantation, FL 33317

I CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:03 PM by Chair John Fiore.

II ROLL CALL: Roll was called; a quorum was present.

Members:

Jerry Baer	John Fiore	Amanda Noon
Doug Beals	Peter Grady	Jo Stanley
Cliff Berry	Julie Greenfield	Clive Taylor
Mark Ercolin	Kelvin Haynes	Barry Webber
	David Ide	

Staff:
Jay Sanford, Staff Liaison, Broward County Parks & Recreation Division
Cheri Gagné, Broward County Parks & Recreation Division
Lisa Totten, Broward County Parks & Recreation Division

Guests:
David Turner, Wilton Manors Police Department
Chris Troiano, Fort Lauderdale Police Department
John Faul, Hallandale Beach Police Department
Matt Masi, Lighthouse Point Police Department
Louis Mastandrea, Hillsboro Beach Police Department
Bernadette Roelofs, Hollywood Police Department
Alexander Chang, Hollywood Police Department
Matt Gioielli, Broward Sheriff's Office
James MacEntee, Pompano Beach Power Squadron

III PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mark Ercolin made the motion to approve March 7, 2024, meeting minutes and Kelvin Haynes seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

V CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Sanford stated we had a BSO hours transfer letter where we transferred 20% of the daytime hours to aggressive for all their zones. The same done for Wilton Manors.

VI OLD BUSINESS: NONE

VII NEW BUSINESS:

EMLEG FY 22/23 Quarterly Statistic Reports.

Mr. Sanford stated that we have Quarterly Statistic Reports from last fiscal year. We only had 3 accidents, which is a testament to the people sitting here today, the law enforcement that we have out there. As the EMLEG program has progressed we have seen a steady decline in the accidents and a steady rise in contacts. Mr. Sanford stated that we appreciate everybody out there who are making contact with the boaters and definitely seeing a decrease in accidents helps to justify what we are doing.

MAC Member Reports and Additional Information from Applicants on FY 2024/2025 EMLEG Applications.

Chair Fiore had a question about the vehicle, because he was not able to be there for the February meeting. He asked what budget it was going to come out of the budget for next year. Mr. Sanford stated that it is going to be paid for out of this year's budget. We had some budgetary savings, it's going to be purchased from this year's budget. Mr. Sanford stated that he hopes to have the vehicle prior to the summer and that we will be pulling out of the marina at that time. Chair Fiore asked where the Committee Members would park or be picked up. Mr. Sanford stated the Committee Members will have the choice of meeting him at 38th Street where the boat will be kept or the truck will have a crew cab so we can all go together if the members want to park for free. If we have to pay for parking the County will cover the parking. Ms. Greenfield asked if we have informed the marina. Mr. Sanford said that the marina asks for 30 day's notice if there is a deposit. Since we did not give a deposit, the marina said we can take the boat at any time. They still do not have a mechanic at the marina, which is one of the issues. We have to take it someplace else for service anyway. Where it is going to be kept is under cover, so it will be a bit easier to maintain the boat's cleanliness.

Broward Sheriff's Office – Jo Stanley: Ms. Stanley said she had a wonderful trip with Sergeant Gioielli and Deputy Ponevac on Monday morning. They discussed their requirements and needs. Ms. Stanley recommends their request is approved. One this that did come up was about the distribution of the hours, especially in the eastern jurisdiction, for after 5:00 PM funds versus when they really need to be out there in the morning hours for the fishing charters. Mr. Sanford stated he did see that in her report but while most of the fishing charters are on the water more regularly and are register in Broward County, they are a small portion of the recreational boating community. Mr. Sanford noted that fishing charters are generally professional captains and are considered commercial operations and that the EMLEG is to help those people that may only be on infrequently and may need help more frequently. Ms. Stanley stated that was just an example and that after 5pm there are also a lot of recreational boaters. Mr. Sanford stated that they can start aggressive hours as early as 2pm. They backed that up to 2pm recognizing that sometimes those aggressive shifts do have to start a little earlier. Ms. Stanley stated that the additional night vision sets are clearly needed. Mr. Sanford advised that Sgt. Gioelli mentioned that after the small plane crash in the Everglades, it was fortuitous that they had those. They did not have the total mounts, but it at least gave them

the opportunity to have a fighting chance when they are out there trying to find people. Luckily, they had them on hand for that incident. Mr. Sanford stated that we all see the value to that and as it progresses next year, we will see how they work in the saltwater side. For the Everglades incident it was the right tool for the job. Chair Fiore stated that there have been instances with BSO and Fort Lauderdale where an accident occurred at night just offshore on the inlets and they were the ones that were able to respond along with the Coast Guard, but those are just another great tool for them to be able to find somebody that has flipped over on the inlet.

City of Fort Lauderdale – Jerry Baer: Mr. Baer spoke with Sergeant Travis O'Neill a couple of times about the application, and he recommends that it be approved. Everything seems to be thought out correctly. The Grant Manager, Dayna Bhaggam has been doing this for years and everything seems to be thought out correctly. Mr. Sanford stated that Fort Lauderdale is the second biggest agency they have behind BSO, so it is very important that they have these resources available. Mr. Baer did not go out on the boat with them. Chair Fiore mentioned that when you go out and ride with them you learn a lot looking at their perspective of what they're seeing out there, so he recommends that if he has that opportunity, it is definitely worth taking.

City of Hallandale Beach – Miguel Orasma: Mr. Sanford stated that Mr. Orasma sent him an email and advised that he did meet with them and was very impressed with what he saw in Hallandale and was in favor of approving their application. Sgt Faul stated Mr. Orasma went out on the boat with them. Mr. Sanford stated that now Mr. Orasma has a better understanding of what Hallandale is facing with derelict vessels that they never had to deal with before. Mr. Orasma recommends full funding as well.

Town of Hillsboro Beach – Peter Grady: Mr. Grady met with Captain Puglesi, they do a great job, 98.5% usage, 14 officers, every officer is trained to use the boat. They just repowered the boat in September, they have 700 hours on it. The boat is running good. We funded some dredging for their dock to get in and out a couple of years ago, that is still working fine. They do not have anyone going to the classes this year, because everyone has already attended it, but next year they have two new people coming on board. Mr. Sanford stated that would be for the advanced class next year. Mr. Grady stated they have four speed limit signs and a discussion was had about the signs.
Mr. Grady stated they do a great job thinks we should support them.

City of Hollywood – Clive Taylor: On Wednesday, March 13, Mr. Taylor met with Hollywood P.D. at the Habor Town boat ramp. They have two units, one is a beach unit, the other one is the marine unit and they are interchangeable. When they picked him up they had a new person, who was training. They are always cross-training. Then they went to Whisky Creek. They had made arrangements for a sea tow and a police boat to meet there. Mr. Taylor described the towing of the derelict vessel. There were three boats left, and two of them are supposed to get new motors and go to the Bahamas they should be gone within two weeks. The last one is under FWC, they are going to take that one out. Then they went on further south and entered North Lake and there's only two legal boats anchored. The rest of them are gone. They really cleaned it up. Then they went to the marine docks, the fuel docks and Mr. Taylor spoke to a Seargeant at length and they were asking how that project was going. Mr. Sanford stated that we approved them for Phase 1, but they won't get the money until October. Mr. Taylor noted that is needed there, because it's kind of a mess.
Mr. Taylor approves them getting the money.

Mr. Taylor also wanted to mention Hollywood P.D. vessel inventory:

-2020 Fluid 880 (8.8 Meter) center console RHIB powered by twin 225hp Honda outboards, and they have another one on the way.
-2005 Intrepid 30' open fisherman powered by twin 250hp Yamaha outboards.
-2015 Carolina Skiff 20' open fisherman powered by 90hp Yamaha outboard.

Mr. Taylor stated that none of the boats were purchased with Grant funds and none of the equipment was funded for boating safety education. Mr. Sanford recalled that one of the Intrepids was bought with EMLEG, but that was approximately 25 years ago.

City of Lighthouse Point – John Fiore: Chair Fiore met with the new Chief and also talked on the phone with the former Chief, who is now the new City Manager. One of the officers took him out on their new Fluid Patrol boat, beautiful boat and new engines, and went out to the inlet and he commented that it was really rough out there, and they turned around and came back to the dock, so he really did not see anything up and down the intercoastal. It is his understanding that they were short staffed that day and they really couldn't spend the time because they have not only the whole length of the city on the intracoastal waterway, they have a lot of canals that weave in and out of the city. They are pleased with their new boat, they can pull along side of another fiberglass boat and not have to worry about putting all the fenders out or damaging it. Also they are able to recover a lot of dogs because it's a lot easier to pull them up on to the Fluid. Chair Fiore stated that they have been very good with patrolling the waters and he would definitely recommend that they be funded again next year.

Pompano Beach Power Squadron – Doug Beals: Mr. Beals attended the March Pompano Beach Power Squadron meeting and met their education officer, treasurer, and also their new Commander, James McEntee. They were friendly, informative and very enthusiastic about Boating Safety and Public Education. The recurring theme he heard was "if they are not training the public, they are not growing." Mr. Beals heard that from a few of their officers. Basically, if they don't continue to grow and teach and reach the public, there are fewer and fewer Power Squadron units and they ae less represented when they're absorbed into a bigger void. Right now they're on the southeast of Florida, and they're doing very well. This year's grant request is for $31,400 and is roughly $850 more than last year due mostly to increased prices for shipping. He got that from the treasurer.

In 2023 the Power Squadron and the National Power Squadron enhanced the ABC Safe Boating Course, in particular the Florida section emphasizing children's safety, watercraft laws and federal boating regulations. The final exam has 50% more questions targeting kid's safety and 10 additional questions for federal boating rules. Courses offered include an online course, a 1-day condensed course on Saturdays aimed at families, and a comprehensive 6-week course that meets on Tuesday nights, 6 to 8 times per year – that's how many times the main course is offered. There are advanced USPS courses offered in specialties including celestial navigation, basic coastal navigation, anchoring and inland navigation. Instructors are all volunteers and recertify every 4 years. There are no paid staff. Their training officer recently came back from a conference in Orlando, where he gained additional advanced certification. Another part of their program is community outreach via EMLEG funded ad campaign in local Broward publications and targeted online marketing. The Sun Sentinel is estimated to reach six to seven thousand households. "The Pelican," Google, Facebook, Instagram, e-mail blasts and word-of-mouth from course grads help spread the word. A Boat Show booth, community events, and The Pompano Nautical Flea Market and virtual / in-person

classes enhance awareness. Broward Safe Boating Guides are handed out and a promotional "Are you Legal to Boat?" handouts are given to the public.

PBPS course materials cost approximately $53. EMLEG grant funds give Broward students a $40 subsidy for the ABC textbook as an incentive to take the course. The Squadron Education Department monitors the effects of their advertising and marketing dollars to ensure effectiveness with online tracking and student polls. They want to continue to be able to move marketing dollars around within the Grant Funds in order to ensure successful marketing and maximize expenditure efficiency.

They also do things that are more visible, they do courtesy boat inspections and public outreach. Mr. Sanford adds that they are also hosting the classroom portion of this year's basic law enforcement class for the Tactical Advantage Consultants (TAC), which we appreciate.

Mr. Beals enthusiastically recommends approval of the Pompano Beach Power Squadron grant request.

Chair Fiore inquired how many people went to the classes this year with our funding? James McEntee mentioned that Mr. Sanford may have that number. Mr. McEntee stated that they have a lot of residents also who do not take the funding. When they register it is offered, but a lot of times they do not take the subsidy. Chair Fiore asked how many total they have educated. Mr. McEntee stated it was over 200 students last year, but definitely not all took the subsidy. Mr. Sanford stated that 97 people took the subsidy last year, and that's when it was $35. This year it is going to be $40, because the price of the books went up. Mr. McEntee said kids would be $10 with the subsidy and then their parents would be $15. Mr. Sanford added that it is required training for anyone born after January 1, 1988, if you are going to operate a boat in Florida, you have to have the boater safety course, and this is a good way to do it. Mr. Beals mentioned that the state issues a certificate for people that complete the ABC course a hard copy, plastic ID card for boating safety. A discussion was had as to whether that would become mandatory.

<u>City of Wilton Manors – Mark Ercolin</u>: Mr. Ercolin spoke with Sergeant Turner earlier this week. They had a good conversation. Mr. Ercolin did not go on the boat this time because the Dusky was being fixed for the bilge pump, but it's the first time the bilge pump had to be fixed in 5 years. The boat seems to be functioning quite nicely otherwise. Although he did not ride on the boat this year, he has been on previous years and he can assure the committee that Wilton Manors is still a mostly waterfront property, they are known as the Island City. They have asked for $34,416 and that's more than $4,000 than the previous years and that's because they added up the increase in the per hour, per diem, for officers, so that's been put in there. They do a good job, they use over 80% of their EMLEG funds, and they are virtually always out on the water, they have 5 officers presently available to them, and they will soon have 2 more and are going for the legal training this year. Mr. Sanford agreed that they have a couple that are going into the basic class. Mr. Ercolin further stated that they are mostly out on the water when they need to be. Most of their traffic these days according to Sgt. Turner are less mechanical vessels and more the paddlers. Mr. Ercolin highly recommends them.

MAC Discussion and Recommendation to County Commission for funding of FY 24/25 EMLEG Program

Mr. Sanford stated that he prepared five different funding options this year.

Funding Option 1 is exactly what everybody asked for. So that means that we would not be funding classes for BSO. Fort Lauderdale would only have two people. Hillsboro would only have two people, and Hollywood would be getting paid more than everybody else.

Funding Option 2 is exactly what they asked for on their hour commitments, fully funding for the classes, putting back the $6,000 for BSO to use for the training of their officers, and funding everyone at the current rate of $51. Mr. Ercolin inquired if that is the amount they would use if they had been given everything. Mr. Sanford informed that the only real change to this is that Ft. Lauderdale realized that because they are now fully funded – they have all the officers in their unit, they have officers scheduled during times that are EMLEG, and they recognized that they are never going to use all their EMLEG numbers, so they ask for what they think they can reasonably use. If you look at Fort Lauderdale, specifically, they are asking for less hours than we would typically give them. The nice thing about EMLEG funding is that, if the money is not spent, it just goes back to EMLEG. There is no harm in giving them more than what they ask for, because we do not lose the money, it can only be used for EMLEG funding. This keeps a healthy reserve in the EMLEG.

Funding Option 3 is everything they asked for, plus an increase to $52 an hour. Again, that is because Hollywood asked us for $52 an hour, nobody else asked us for an increase. As a reminder, this year is $51 for all four quarters. Last year, we did $51 for the last three quarters, and we did that based on a request from the BSO where we increased everybody up from $49 to $51. Option 3 is $52, with what they asked for, but fully funding the classes.

Funding Option 4, this is standard hours, full class funding, but paid at the current rate of $51 an hour. So you can see, because we are giving them full funding, and the hours increased for the City of Fort Lauderdale, up to their normal allotment that's why Option 4 is higher than Option 3, and the totals. Ms. Greenfield inquired if it should be the same as Option 2. Mr. Sanford replied that no, because Option 2 is what they asked for, and Option 4 is fully funding their hours – more than what they asked for. So that's why it went up.

Funding Option 5 is giving everybody everything at $52 an hour.
Mr. Beals inquired why we are giving the other agencies the same amount if only one agency asked for $52 an hour. Mr. Sanford stated that he does not believe that one officer deserves to be paid more than another officer when they are doing the same job. He has a hard time paying one organization $52 an hour to be on the water if all the other organizations are getting paid $51.
Mr. Sanford stated that it was up to the Committee.

Mr. Grady inquired why classes are being funded if they do not want to send people to the classes. Mr. Sanford advised that the funding is for training, not specific for the TAC classes. Mr. Grady noted that Hillsboro Beach said they are not sending anyone this year and asked if they money will be there should they find another program they want to attend. Mr. Sanford stated this would be for next year, when they have two people going to the advanced class, and should they hire a third person, and want to send them to the advanced class. Mr. Sanford confirmed that if no one goes to the classes the money rolls back into the account.

Mr. Ercolin stated that this is a good time to explain to some of the newer folks that regarding $51 versus $52, the individual policeman does not get that money, it goes into the big coffer. Mr. Sanford confirms that that amount is paid to the organization, not paid to the officer. If the officer is getting paid their normal rate of pay to do EMLEG, and they are only getting paid, for example, $49 an hour, we still pay $51 to the organization. If the detail rate that the organization is paying the officer is $57, we are covering $51, the organization is covering the rest. Because this is the Enhanced Marine Law Enforcement Grant, what we are trying to do is put more police on the water at the times the recreational boater is most likely going to be on the water. Every organization will pay to have officers on the water during regular times, even some of the smaller organizations because they will have to put somebody on the water when it is not on aggressive. This is to put that extra person on the water, it is not just to fund the officer that is already scheduled at that time. Mr. Ercolin wants the others to understand that if we keep it at $51 we are not taking away from the officers. Mr. Sanford confirmed that that we are not taking money away from the officer, we are just reducing the amount that we are giving to the organization to offset the cost. Chair Fiore added that if the employee cost, is for example, $35 or $40 an hour, the additional money goes for fuel for the boat and things like that. Mr. Sanford stated that we do not determine how they distribute the money in their budget once they receive it.

Ms. Greenfield inquired as to why some of the other options there is an increase for Fort Lauderdale in the hours if that is not what they have asked for. Mr. Sanford stated that these hours are standard hours for the zone. A zone is funded for 8 hours on Saturday and 8 hours on Sunday. A half zone is half of that. The 400 hours go towards aggressive for a full zone and 200 hours for a second zone. If all we fund is what Fort Lauderdale asked for, but if they do not use the hours, that money rolls back into our budget and we can allocate those funds out next year. However, if we only give them what they asked for, and something happens, they could potentially run out of funding for the program earlier than we would like them to. We would like to afford them the opportunity, if they have the officers, to be on the water every Saturday, Sunday, during the week and holidays. Ms. Greenfield is surprised that they would not have asked for the additional hours. Mr. Sanford stated that this is a tradition going back some time and that we know they are not going to use all of their hours and they are not getting penalized for it. Any dollars not spent this year come back. Ms. Greenfield states she is trying to think of the utilization, because at the last meeting they were looking at what the percentage was, so this might punish them if we give them more hours than they asked for, and then they do not use them. Mr. Sanford said it is more of an encouragement than a punishment. If they have people already scheduled during those hours, it does not mean we would not like to see more. If we give them enough hours and they find someone that really wants to be on the boat more, it doesn't hurt us to have another person on the water. Chair Fiore added that, if those ours are sitting there not being used by them, they are not being allocated to anybody else, because the program only allows for so many hours per day. Mr. Sanford stated that the fact that they asked for less hours should not put them in a situation where they would have to decline to the boat out because they do not have the hours and would suggest to fully fund the program at whatever option is decided.

Vice Chair Webber wanted to address the $51 or $52 an hour. He supports $52 since we are in an inflationary period right now. We already experienced a situation where we made an increase before the end of the fiscal year and we want to avoid that. In his view, whatever option is chosen it should be one that has a $52 an hour.

Chair Fiore inquired how much money is available for budgeting this year for the program. Mr. Sanford advised that we have a little over $1.3 million. Chair Fiore inquired if that was rollover from past years. Mr. Sanford stated that is unused, unallocated funds and that is what we have to spend - not including what is not spent this year. Typically, we end up with approximately 70% usage across the board if we average everybody together. And with more boats being registered, we still have funds coming in. A discussion was had about going through a mid-year increase. Mr. Sanford stated they were averaging about 3 years before every increase. We are in the second year of $51.

Vice Chair Webber made a motion to approve Option 5, Ms. Stanley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sanford confirmed the hourly rate was increased to $52 an hour, and everyone will be fully funded with a full compliment of classes to use. Mr. Sanford reminded everyone that this year is the basic class and next year is the advanced class.

VIII CHAIR'S REPORT: NONE

IX DANIA BEACH MAB REPORT: Mr. Taylor reported they had a meeting on March 20. They had a full quorum. One of their goals is to present their past recommendations to the City Council, which is now three years old. Their next meeting is April 17.

X HOLLYWOOD MAB REPORT: Ms. Greenfield reported that they have a new dock master. They are almost fully staffed but are still looking for night support as of last week's meeting. They are writing a couple of letters to the Commissioners, one is about derelict vessels, the other is regarding a ban on rainy season ban on fertilizer and weed killer. Tampa and parts of Miami-Dade are also doing this. The ban would not be only for waterfront properties. They selected September 14 for their third annual kids fishing tournament.

XI POMPANO BEACH MAB REPORT: NONE

XII LIAISON'S REPORT: Mr. Sanford reported that the waterway cleanup went very well. They went up the river and found trash and helped get that out. People were interested in what they were doing. The new dock crew rest area that they are putting in at Bradford Marine looks like a nice area to host. Regarding attendance, Mr. Sanford reminded the members that they can miss four meetings a year and then you're off, or three meetings consecutively. If necessary, dialing in is an option. Our next meeting will be in Plantation Heritage, on May 2, first Thursday of the month. We will be going over some items that are going through legislation at that point. After May we will have the summer adjournment. Then we start back up on the first Thursday in September at Plantation Heritage Park at 2:00 PM. Plantation Heritage Park is not available in October, but the Marine Industries Association has offered to host us at their offices.

Mr. Sanford thanked all the officers and the new Commander of Pompano Beach Power Squadron.

XII MAC MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mr. Taylor commented that around three weeks ago, east bound on the Dania Cutoff Canal, just past Harbor Town, there was a rusty barge against the rocks. Mr. Grady stated they are contractors for the county, so they are allowed.

A discussion was had regarding shirts with a MAC logo.

Mr. Berry inquired about pontoon barges (party barges) maybe using facilities that this board paid for, such as docks, to load and unload passengers. Mr. Sanford said they legally cannot do it. There are no changes to the policy, if we built it for at least 25 years it has to be used for recreational boating only. The docks and the ramps that are built with BBIP should be used solely for recreational boating.

XIII ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m. by Chair Fiore.