MINUTES
BROWARD COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION
April 6, 2023, 2:00 p.m.
Secret Woods Nature Center – Julia Hall Meeting Room
2701 West State Road 84, Dania Beach, Florida, 33312

I CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Chair John Fiore.

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

Members:

Cliff Berry	Peter Grady	Barry Webber
Mark Ercolin	Spencer Taintor	
John Fiore	Clive Taylor	

Staff:
Jay Sanford, Staff Liaison, Broward County Parks & Recreation Division
Monica Florestal, Broward County Parks & Recreation Division

Guests:
John Faul, Hallandale Beach Police Department
Matt Gioielli, Broward Sheriff's Office
James MacEntee, Pompano Beach Power Squadron
Matt Masi, Lighthouse Point Police Department
Louis Mastandrea, Hillsboro Beach Police Department
Travis O'Neal, Fort Lauderdale Police Department
David Turner, Wilton Manors Police Department

III PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mark Ercolin made the motion to approve March 2, 2023, meeting minutes and Peter Grady seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

V CORRESPONDENCE: Wilton Manors has formally requested a 20% increase in the number of aggressive hours allocated to them through transfers. Additionally, it has been communicated via email that another contract has been granted to them, resulting in a corresponding increase of 20% in their weekend hours.

VI OLD BUSINESS: NONE

VII NEW BUSINESS:

Broward County: Mr. Sanford stated that Mr. Fiore requested the past two years of quarterly statistics reports for the EMLEG program, which was provided. The reports indicate that the number of contacts remained consistent over the two years, but there were only 10 accidents in Fort Lauderdale in 2021, which is positive as it meets expectations. In previous years, Mr. Sanford had to justify a decrease in accidents, but this year there was no need to do so. Additionally, there was a significant increase in contacts for BSO, with almost 800 contacts from 2021 to 2122, but a

significant drop in contacts in Fort Lauderdale from 2600 to 1200, which may be due to staff training. Across the County, there were a total of 10,181 contacts in the past two years.

Broward Sheriff's Office: Chair Fiore met with Sergeant Matt Gioielli from the Broward Sheriff's Office. Broward County comprises two-thirds of the Everglades, which is now primarily patrolled by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). The BSO has requested three things, including an increase in reimbursement for patrol, to $52 an hour, which was previously raised to $51. Additionally, there is a need for better equipment such as outboards and night vision goggles, which would be beneficial for offshore operations and aiding the Coast Guard. The speaker agrees with the need for equipment but also emphasizes the importance of funding patrol hours. They suggest finding a balance between funding for equipment and increasing patrol hours to ensure effective coverage of the area.

City of Fort Lauderdale: Peter Grady recently met with Sergeant O'Neill, who has been in his position for one year and has made significant changes to the department. Sergeant O'Neill has hired seven officers, bringing the department to full staffing, and has authorized four other officers to run the boat. He believes that with the new officers and the grant, their numbers will increase significantly. Sergeant O'Neill is fully supportive of the upcoming training class. Overall, the meeting was productive, and Mr. Grady was commended for their work and encouraged to continue providing updates on the numbers.

City of Hallandale Beach: During a visit to Hallandale Beach, John Fiore, and the police chief discussed the implementation of new speed zones in the Intracoastal Waterway and the effective control measures taken in the finger canals. The police chief was commended for his efforts in ensuring safety in the area. The conversation was cordial and enjoyable. Overall, it was noted that Hallandale Beach had done an excellent job in maintaining safety and control measures in the area.

Town of Hillsboro Beach: Cliff Berry met with the Town of Hillsboro Beach Police Department. The Hillsboro Beach Police Department has a 3.2-mile waterfront and a similar length of roadway. They have one vessel, a 25-foot Contender with two 225hp Mercury engines with 3000 hours of usage. They have 16 fully trained officers who are all trained and have attended the advanced class. They have no labor problems and are fully staffed. Last year, they used 100% of their hours, and they put their own people out for 1200 hours. They used all the aggressive and other hours that were offered. They have signs on the water that tell people their speed, which is a good thing for new boaters who may not know what they're doing wrong. The sign will flash and tell you if you're going too fast. They think it's technology well spent and something to look at going forward. The Hillsboro Beach Police Department has put in for Marine law enforcement training, and this cycle is for the basic level.

Jay Sanford stated the Hillsboro Beach Police Department received an additional allocation of aggressive hours last year. The grant has specific guidelines on how funds should be utilized, with designated dollars earmarked for certain purposes. For example, the money allocated for night vision goggles can only be used for that purpose and not for other items. Training hours should be used for training, but the department is free to pursue additional training beyond what's

provided. The budgeted training funds are capped at $1,000 per person, which can cover various training courses.

City of Hollywood: During a meeting between Penny Cutt and Officer Will LaPierre, the city's enhanced marine law enforcement grant application was discussed. Officer LaPierre has been the only officer on marine patrol for one year, responsible for maintaining four patrol vessels and the derelict vessel program. The marine patrol currently has one full-time officer, one sergeant, and one lieutenant. The city is requesting $67,064, which is 12.5% of the marine funding for advanced patrols and to send three officers to marine law enforcement classes. Last year, they used 93.73% of their grant funding. Officer LaPierre explained that marine patrols are carried out by sergeants, school resource officers, and other trained officers, with about half his time spent on the water and the other half on administration. The new lieutenant is requesting an additional marine patrol officer, as they used to have four officers. Penny recommends funding the Hollywood application and hopes they can add at least one more officer to the marine patrol unit soon.

City of Lighthouse Point: Spencer Taintor never had the opportunity to speak with the Chief as he had intended. Nonetheless, the Mr. Taintor is still very interested in meeting with a representative from the organization next month to discuss some matters of mutual interest.

Pompano Beach Power Squadron: During a meeting between Doug Beals and the Power Squadron, they discussed the organization's educational program, which offers boating safety and navigation courses. The Power Squadron has requested a grant of $30,775, which is $2,300 less than last year, due to the decrease in print media prices. The program includes online and in-person courses, taught by volunteer instructors who recertify every four years. The courses cover topics such as basic coastal navigation, anchoring, and inland navigation, and include recent changes to life jackets and kill switches approved by NASBLA. The program also includes community awareness campaigns through local publications and targeted online marketing. The grant funds will be used to maximize marketing efficiency and ensure the successful promotion of the program. Doug enthusiastically recommends approval of the Power Squadron's grant request.

City of Wilton Manors: Mark Ercolin met with Sergeant Turner who has requested a grant of $33,154 for the Island City, which is surrounded by water on all sides, including the Middle River and canals. The grant amount is the same as last year, and they can use it at 80 to 90% efficiency. The Island City has seven staff members who can deal with the boats, and the boats and phone chat looked good during the weekend. The Island City is meeting and greeting people on the water and producing a catalog for people with human-powered boats and recreational vessels that use power boats.

MAC Recommendation to County Commission for Funding of FY 23/24 EMLEG Program: Discussion was had on five funding options presented by Mr. Sanford. Mr. Ercolin made a motion to adopt the fourth funding option which includes standard hours at a rate of $51 per hour and standard law enforcement classes. Mr. Berry seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with the exception of Vice-Chair Webber who stated he votes for the rate to be $52 per hour.

Discussion was had about funding the equipment request from the Broward Sheriff's Office. Mr. Ercolin made a motion to not fund the engine request and it was seconded by Mr. Taintor. The

motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ercolin made a motion to fund two of the night vision goggles and it was seconded Mr. Berry. The motion passed unanimously with the exception of Mr. Taintor who voted against the motion.

VIII CHAIR'S REPORT: During the meeting, it was discussed that the TAC classes would be held at the Hillsborough Club this year but not next year due to an increase in hotel room rates from $125 to $250 a night. The Pompano Beach Power Squadron has graciously offered to host the meetings in the future, and their past assistance was acknowledged and appreciated. On the topic of seawall height requirements, there was a second article in the Sun Sentinel, and it was noted that the county has funded every boat ramp facility but may need to consider funding requests from cities to raise seawalls and boat ramps to meet the new requirements. It was mentioned that this could potentially be expensive, and it's important to keep in mind for the future. The enforcement of these requirements is expected to begin in a few years.

IX DANIA BEACH MAB REPORT: Dania Beach has a new mayor, and they now have a fully staffed Dania Beach Marine Advisory Board. The board is working with legislators at the county and city levels to facilitate and speed up the derelict vessel program.

X POMPANO BEACH MAB REPORT: NONE

XI LIAISON'S REPORT: The attendance records were presented during the meeting. It was reported that the Hugh Taylor Birch State Park dock is damaged, and they are working with the manufacturer and other parties to obtain bids for repairs. Unfortunately, the damaged area is between the first and second sections, effectively closing the entire 250 feet. The location is problematic as many boats back out of the Coral Ridge Yacht Club and spin around in that area. The cause of the damage was significant, likely from a yacht. However, the State Park does not have a timeline for repair.

XII MAC MEMBER COMMENTS:

It was asked if any cities would be interested in hosting the summit. It was noted that the group has not had a summit due to COVID-19, and this would be their first post-COVID summit. The summit used to be held in January, but it was suggested that they consider holding it in September.

Jay Sanford stated that during the meeting, it was noted that there is a new member, Julie Greenfield, who was not able to attend. She was recommended by Suzanne Cutrone. Two members, Kelvin Haines, and Doug Beals, need to be reappointed, and efforts are being made to do so before their automatic removal in June. There are currently seven vacancies, including one for Commissioner Bogan, and that Commissioners Ryan, Rich, and McKenzie do not have representation on the Marine Advisory Committee. The commissioners have been contacted regarding the vacancies, and Commissioner Ryan is reportedly looking to get more people on the Committee. It was discussed during the meeting that full hours would be funded at $51 for the upcoming fiscal year. An agreement will be set in place to allow BSO to purchase two sets of night vision goggles primarily for use on the airboat, but they can be used elsewhere as needed.

XIII ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Fiore.