Minutes
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting – January 5, 2024, 7:30 a.m.
Long Key Nature Center, 3501 S.W. 130th Ave., Davie, FL 33330

Board Members Present

Michelle Brown	Javier Lasaga	Daniel Mulieri (Chair)
Christina Clifford	Lawrence Martin	Howard Nelson
Terry Danger (Vice-Chair)	Marty McNeil	Kristen Reineke

County Staff in Attendance

Cyndy Baker	Trevor Fell	Jill Thompson
Linda Briggs	Monica Florestal	Dan West
Katherine Burnell	Meoshi Jackson	Erik Westberg
Chris Deal	Nadine Levy	Kelli Whitney

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Board) meeting was called to order by Chair Daniel Mulieri at 7:37 AM. Roll was called.

Approval of Minutes: Vice-Chair Terry Danger MOTIONED for approval of the December 2023 minutes; Marty McNeil seconded. MOTION carried.

Announcements: None

Parks Manager Update: Kelli Whitney, Parks Manager

Kelli Whitney, Parks Manager, provided a brief overview of Long Key Natural Area and Nature Center highlighting how archeology, history, and ecology converge.

Long Key was once an island in the Everglades, inhabited by Native Americans for thousands of years prior to the arrival of Europeans in Florida. After the draining of the Everglades, settlers moved into the area around Long Key, establishing cattle ranches, plant nurseries and orange groves. In the 1960s a wild west theme park called Pioneer City was built on the site. In the 1970s and 1980s the site was home to the renowned Kapok Tree Inn Restaurant.

The County purchased the property with funds from the 1990 Environmentally Sensitive Land Bond Program. The nature center, which was built using funds from the 2000 Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond Program (2000 Bond), opened in March 2008. It features an exhibit hall which outlines the site's importance as an archaeological, historical and ecological preserve.

Some recent improvements include the addition of the Kapok Memory Garden area, resurfacing of the main parking lot, installation of security cameras at the gates and additional cameras in the maintenance area, and painting of the building exterior.

Some upcoming improvements include A/V upgrades and exterior refurbishment of the nature center, installation of a new water fountain with water bottle filler, a new Artist in Residence program, and replanting and repair at the *Island Garden* public artwork.

Parks Planning and Design Update: Nadine Levy, Capital Program Administrator

Parks Planning is finishing up some remaining items related to the 2000 Bond funded projects at Everglades Holiday Park, Miramar Pineland Nature Center, Anne Kolb Nature Center at West Lake Park, and Snake Warrior's Island Nature Area. The Tradewinds Park Educational Farm & Gardens project is delayed at Phase III, pending the outcome of a bid protest.

Ms. Levy highlighted several site and building improvements made at Deerfield Island Park including the completion of the replacement septic tank, the upcoming expansion of the Butterfly Garden, upgraded boardwalks, new ADA-compliant walkways, and interior and exterior improvements of the existing ranger station and restroom.

The Hollywood North Beach Mooring Fields Areas project is pending contract award, and the C.B. Smith Park Aquatics Building is awaiting permit issuance.

Parks Planning remains heavily involved in the site improvements required at the Broward County Stadium to prepare for hosting some of the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup games. Proposed site improvements include a new VIP, Media, and Hospitality Building, new grandstands and a new digital LED scoreboard.

In the next month or two the permitting should be completed and by late February more physical work will be done to prepare the site.

Chris Deal, Parks Superintendent

Mr. Deal spoke to the current renovations taking place at Deerfield Island and the planned phases. One of the first phases is to install new and renovate existing pathways, which is almost complete. Another planned project is to repurpose the old ranger station to serve as a nature center. The overall goal for the island is to make it into a living classroom.

Parks and Recreation Update: Dan West, Director

The Division is working diligently with stakeholders to ensure that Central Broward Stadium is ready to host the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. The World Cup match schedule is being announced later this morning.

The Tradewinds Park Educational Farm & Gardens project is our last bond initiative from the 2000 Bond to be completed. The Parks Master Plan highlights our intention to possibly apply for another bond initiative to address deferred maintenance projects and capital improvements.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:09 a.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 1, 2024, at 7:30 a.m.
Sunview Park
1500 S.W. 42nd Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Fl 33317