MINUTES
BROWARD COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION
September 3, 2026, 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 2:00 PM by Chair John Fiore.

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

Members:

Afeefa Abdool-Ghany	Josh Dotoli	David Ide
Jerry Baer	John Fiore	Joseph Martinet
Cliff Berry	Peter Grady	Amanda Noon (remotely)
Penny Cutt	Julie Greenfield	Jo Stanley
		Barry Webber

Staff:
Jay Sanford, Staff Liaison, Broward County Parks & Recreation Division
Lisa Totten, Administrative Assistant, Broward County Parks & Recreation Division

Guests: Sabrina Ladd, Broward County Natural Resources Division, Marine Resources
Samantha Olszak, Broward County Natural Resources Division, Marine Resources

III PUBLIC COMMENTS: Jay Sanford introduced the guest speaker, Sabrina Ladd, as the county's Manatee Project Coordinator. Ms. Ladd outlined the services her program offers: marinas and condominiums with more than 10 slips pay marine facility operating license fees that fund things like signage and outreach materials, all available on request. The program also keeps resources for law enforcement officers and will come out to HOAs to talk about manatees and how speed zones change. She mentioned that the county is in the process of hiring someone to redo the boating study, though it has not yet happened. John Fiore asked how many manatees are generally in Broward County during season. Ms. Ladd said the highest count was about 2,000 in 2012, while this season's peak was about 500 against a typical average of roughly 600 to 700. She noted that all counts are minimums, since manatees can hold their breath for up to 20 minutes and the high-count flights happen over the cooling lake and canal near Port Everglades. She attributed the low season to a very severe and unusually fast temperature drop rather than the more gradual cooling they normally see; the preliminary theory is that the manatees never made it this far south and stayed at the next warm water refuge to the north, the Riviera Beach power plant at Manatee Lagoon, which recorded high manatee numbers. Cliff Berry asked whether the Manatee Protection Plan dedicated an officer to the zone. Mr. Sanford confirmed it does, and identified the officer as Hector. Mr. Sanford described Hector's patrol as a loop running from the Dania cut-off up through the port, up the New River, down through the cut and back around. The officer used to

keep his boat on a lift at Boater's Park, but when the park opened to the public BSO moved him to the port, and he now keeps it across from the FWC.

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jo Stanley made the motion to approve May 7, 2026, meeting minutes and Joseph Martinet seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

VI OLD BUSINESS: NONE

VII NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Sanford reported that the scope update request for the Cooley's Landing grant has been postponed at Mr. Luscomb's request. It will be placed back on a later agenda.

VIII CHAIR'S REPORT: NONE

IX DANIA BEACH MAB REPORT: NONE

X HOLLYWOOD MAB REPORT: Julie Greenfield reported that the Hollywood MAB is looking for members. Jerry Baer added that they are hoping to have new members for their next meeting in September.

XI POMPANO BEACH MAB REPORT: Penny Cutt reported on a presentation by Contour Crafting regarding 3D printed sea walls and that concerns regarding excessive speeding on the Intracoastal Waterway were discussed.

XII LIAISON'S REPORT: Jay Sanford noted that he is still working with the Intergovernmental Affairs Office to support more members being appointed. He mentioned that Bob Franks applied to be on the MAC but he still has not been appointed. Mr. Sanford announced that the October 1, 2026 meeting will be hosted at the Nova Southeastern University's Oceanographic Research Center. They will offer a tour, as well as information on what they are doing with some of their coral restoration projects and other things that should affect the recreational boating and diving communities. Mr. Sanford also mentioned that he presented the EMLEG program to a group of about 80 marine law enforcement officers. There are only 17 of 67 counties in the state that have triggered the local option for their boat registrations and 16 of them use that money strictly for capital projects. He noted that Broward is the only county that allocates the money to put extra law enforcement on the water. He mentioned that Broward is fourth largest in the state for boat registrations but no worse than sixth in boating accidents, meaning two counties with fewer boats rank ahead of it every year. Over the last five years Broward has placed sixth, seventh, and tenth, and about six years ago eleventh — a ranking that counts accidents and fatalities. A bad year in Broward is two fatalities; an average year in Miami-Dade is five. His conclusion was that the officers on the water are making a measurable difference, which is why the MAC keeps funding them.

XII MAC MEMBER COMMENTS: Joseph Martinet reported that he had been on a call about a newly formed group, the Harbor Safety Committee National Steering Team. It was the group's first meeting, with roughly 30 people from harbors and ports across the country, though he described the attendance as Florida-heavy. The purpose is safety, mainly conflicts between small

craft and commercial vessels, and he said most of the discussion centered on jet ski rentals, which are a nationwide issue. He noted San Diego faces conditions much like Broward's, with year-round boating, and that every port on the call is dealing with the same problems. The solutions discussed were the familiar ones, education and enforcement, plus a proposal from another pilot for an ordinance fining small craft that impede a container ship or cruise ship badly enough to create an unsafe situation — something he acknowledged would need County Commission action. Mr. Martinet added that while he was there representing the pilots, he brought up EMLEG and explained how Broward runs enhanced patrols as part of the answer to inexperienced operators on the water. He offered to include Mr. Sanford in future calls, and called it a good, productive first meeting.

Jo Stanley announced that the Seafarers' House Golden Compass Gala is coming up in October, and that for the first time the organization will be honoring a group, the Port Everglades Harbor Pilots.

XIII ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 PM by Chair Fiore.