MINUTES
BROWARD COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION
May 2, 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 2:01 PM by Chair John Fiore.

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

Members:

Jerry Baer	Peter Grady	Jo Stanley
Penny Cutt	Julie Greenfield	Spencer Taintor
Mark Ercolin	Kelvin Haynes	Clive Taylor
John Fiore	David Ide	Barry Webber
	Amanda Noon	

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

Guests:

III PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mark Ercolin made a motion to approve the April 4, 2024, meeting minutes and Peter Grady seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

V CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Sanford stated that the MAC FY 24/25 EMLEG Funding Recommendation Memo was submitted to the Office of Budget and Management for future EMLEG funding at $52 an hour. The EMLEG FY 24-25 Funding Recommendations to Agencies and the individual memoranda are included in the packet. Two sets of night vision goggles were funded for BSO to support nighttime operations and funding was approved for everyone to attend classes.

VI OLD BUSINESS: NONE

VII NEW BUSINESS: Chair Fiore requested a discussion regarding the dock that is being proposed to be built in Hillsboro Inlet. Chair Fiore stated that there have been articles in the New Pelican, a local newspaper for northeast Broward county. Ms. Cutt discussed the proposed dock, the status of the application process, and whether the homeowner of the property on 2306 Bay Drive has riparian rights. A discussion was had as to whether the owner of the property on Bay Drive owns the property and adverse impacts on the beach and local area. Ms. Cutt said she would send the documents for distribution to the members of the Committee.

Chair Fiore also requested to discuss the commercial use of the BBIP funded docks.
It is his understanding that the dock that we built on the New River, we funded to the City of Fort Lauderdale with BBIP funds, the restaurant the Downtowner has Tiki boats docked there all the time, they are basically using it as their private dock now. David Ide said they are not the only ones, there are around 50 commercial boats there daily. Chair Fiore said none of them are allowed. Mr. Sanford stated that the City of Fort Lauderdale's Marine Facilities Department contacted him and he sent them a letter clarifying that those docks cannot be used for commercial property unless the city wants to give the money back and then the city can maintain them. Fort Lauderdale staff is using that to try to eject the people. The commercial operators are advertising that this is their pick-up and drop-off locations, but they cannot be used for commercial enterprise. Mr. Ide mentioned they are collecting payments on the boats. Mr. Sanford noted that the person who owns those Tiki hut operations is now the president of the Chamber of Commerce and that there are dive charters and fishing charters being picked-up at various docks. In addition, he discussed that there is no commercial property left for these operations, and they are expanding. He also mentioned that Fort Lauderdale has a beautiful dock that they built in the bend, a Bellingham concrete dock, that they say is their kayak dock. The commercial operators could use that dock as their commercial drop-off and pick-up. Mr. Ide stated that the city needs somewhere for commercial boats. Discussion was had regarding lack of docks for commercial use in the city of Fort Lauderdale. Spencer Taintor inquired if one of the docks outside the Performing Arts Center could be designated for commercial use. Mr. Sanford advised that the three aluminum docks outside the Performing Arts Center were paid for by BBIP funds, but mentioned they are on the west side of the FEC railroad bridge. The city could reimburse the county for commercial use of one of those docks. Mr. Sanford mentioned that there is a BBIP dock east of 3rd Avenue, on the south side that does not get much use and they could use the courthouse parking lot. Peter Grady mentioned that it is being used by the Tiki boats to moor at night. Mr. Grady remarked that the city has a sea wall from Andrews Avenue to Stranahan House, and they could take a section and rent it out. Mr. Sanford mentioned they can do it on the Riverwalk North. Mr. Sanford mentioned that technically the people running these Tiki boats needs to be licensed captains. Further discussions ensued on the Tiki Hut boats' maneuverability and congestion on the river. Mr. Sanford mentioned that the best place for the Tiki Hut boats to turn around is across from the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS), but it's on the west side of the FEC bridge.

Mr. Taintor stated that he would entertain a motion for this committee to write a letter and demand the BBIP money back, and also on the other issue is the size of the boats on the docks. The docks were supposed to be for smaller boats, yet people are docking larger boats which prevents more boats from being able to dock. Mr. Sanford stated the docks were built for boats that are 26 feet. Chair Fiore stated that perhaps the letter should be sent by the County Attorney's office. Mr. Sanford stated that if the committee wished to make a motion, second, and vote on it, we could formulate a letter. Mr. Sanford would need to figure out the cost, per dock, and offer it as a possible solution to Fort Lauderdale and state that they just need to give the money back to BBIP. Julie Greenfield asked what other recourse does the committee have? Chair Fiore inquired if the County Attorney could write the letter to the city and Mr. Sanford replied that if that is what the committee wants to do, he can certainly ask the County Attorney. Mr. Ide inquired who owns the property in front of Salt7. Mr. Grady replied that is a walkway, not a dock. Mr. Sanford reminded the Committee that it decided not to fund the additional dock to fill in the gap at the bend by Esplanade Park. the City of Fort Lauderdale withdrew their application because they could not get any spots on the Manatee Protection Plan (MPP), so now FIND is going to build a floating observation

platform, and when they get the spots on the MPP, it will be a dock, but we are not funding it. It is an observation platform, you can't tie to it and it's not built yet.

A discussion was had regarding slip pool allocation for waterway zones and the MPP. Ms. Cutt stated that there is a project currently authorized that will impact the number of slips available around the Pirate Republic restaurant. Ms. Cutt stated that when the permit is issued and the project is constructed, around 400 slips will go back to the pool, and there are around 122 on the waiting list right now. Ms. Cutt spoke about how to get on the wait list for boat slips, MPP, south Florida waterway zone, and boat facilities site plans. Further discussion was had regarding wet slips, dry slips, and parking spaces in relation to the MPP.

Mr. Sanford stated that within the last couple of years this Committee directed him to send a letter to the Commission asking them to reevaluate the MPP. After the letter was presented, the Environmental section stated they were not in agreement, so it did not move forward. Marine Industries is now lobbying the County Commission to reevaluate the MPP. However, it the slips from the Riverfront Marina go back in the pool and open up an additional 250 or 280 slips that are then available, it's unlikely that Marine Industries will pursue reevaluating the MPP. If the south part of the county will have excess slips available, there is still nowhere left to build commercial.

Chair Fiore inquired about tours of the Intracoastal waterways to view MAC projects.
In response, Mr. Sanford advised that he will be sending notifications out at the end of May for people to sign-up to do the waterway tours. We will need to figure out where to meet to get picked-up. The boat is limited to 6 people. If the members are interested the tour can be divided into two, south and north.

A discussion was had regarding the young people that were videotaped throwing trash overboard.

Chair Fiore brought forward a Notice that was published in the Sun Sentinel on May 2, 2024, Section 1, regarding a Public Hearing to be held on May 7, 2024, for an ordinance imposing a moratorium for a one year period for the submittal, processing, and granting of any waivers to construct docks, boat slips, mooring piles, etc., that extend beyond the maximum distance from the applicant's property into the New River. A discussion was had regarding the issue of docks that are affecting navigability along portions of the New River, specifically impacting larger vessels.

VIII CHAIR'S REPORT: NONE

IX DANIA BEACH MAB REPORT: Mr. Taylor reported that there was no quorum. The next meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2024.

X HOLLYWOOD MAB REPORT: Julie Greenfield reported that they are excited about the 3rd Annual Kids Fishing Tournament coming up on September 14. The Committee is looking at more ways to offer recommendations to the Commission. Ms. Greenfield stated that Mr. Sanford should visit Whiskey Creek. Ms. Greenfield said she attended the Commission Meeting and they approved funding for another RHIB. A VTIP (Florida Vessel Turn-In Program) was approved for the Whiskey Creek cleanup, which shows the program is working. She also mentioned that an officer who joined has been replaced.

XI POMPANO BEACH MAB REPORT: Penny Cutt stated that they had an ongoing effort and discussion by the MAB to establish an anchoring limitation area in Lake Santa Barbara and address vessel speeds on the Intracoastal waterways. She mentioned a requested variance on a T-shaped dock that was damaged by a hurricane at property 2306 Bay Drive. The city engineering department with a member of MAB came up with a pamphlet tidal flood barrier (sea wall ordinance) to give out to citizens.

XII LIAISON'S REPORT: Mr. Sanford reported on attendance. Basic Marine Law Enforcement Class will be Tuesday through Friday on May 21 – 24. The water days are going to be Wednesday and Thursday with classroom days on Tuesday and classroom day mainly focusing on medical on Friday. National Boating Safety Week is May 18 – 24, so he wished everyone to go out boating safely. Mr. Sanford informed the committee of his transition from SWIM to be more involved in MAC, special projects, and anything marine related for Broward County including the mooring field.

Mr. Sanford reported he received a call from a gentleman who lives on Lake Mabel, which is the turning basin inside the port. The caller was complaining that he used to be able to dock his boat, and now he has a beach. The caller was also unhappy that people do not understand what slow speed minimum wake is, and because he now has a beach and everybody in that corner now has a beach, the signs are so far back nobody can read them. Mr. Sanford advised the caller that issue would fall under the Fort Lauderdale EMLEG program. The caller had already spoken to Sergeant O'Neil.

XII MAC MEMBER COMMENTS: Spencer Taintor inquired on updates on Hugh Taylor Birch state park. Mr. Sanford replied that he has inquired but to his knowledge no contractor has been assigned to repair the dock yet. Chair Fiore noted that the dock has slowly became very popular with people going to the park. Mr. Ide inquired as to the status of Secret Woods tower. Mr. Sanford provided a status regarding the closure, hardening of the structures/buildings, and the bond. Ms. Cutt mentioned that both her and Ms. Stanley attend Port Everglades Association meeting luncheons. It was discussed that the meetings should be noticed under the Sunshine law.

XIII ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m. by Chair Fiore.