Minutes
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting – October 9, 2025, 6:00PM
Reverend Samuel Delevoe Memorial Park, 2520 N.W. Sixth St., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

Board Members Present

Jean, Kimberly	McNeil, Marty	Reineke, Kristen
Lasaga, Javier	Nelson, Howard	Wilcoxen, Willie

County Staff in Attendance

Baker, Cyndy	Jackson, Meoshi	Noe, Mary
Burnell, Katherine	Jones, Jamie	Thompson, Jill
Deal, Chris	Lawson, Willowstine	West, Dan
Gagne, Cheri	Levy, Nadine	Westberg, Erik

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Board) meeting was called to order by Mr. Dan West at 6:08 PM. Roll was called.

Approval of Minutes: Due to the lack of quorum, approval of the August minutes has been deferred to the December meeting.

Announcements:

Dan West welcomed Marty McNeil back to the Board following his reappointment by District 1 Commissioner, Senator Nan Rich. Marty thanked the Board for the warm welcome and said he looks forward to seeing everyone soon.

Cyndy Baker, Public Information Officer, Parks Communications and Public Outreach, announced several upcoming events.

J'ouvert Carnival Weekend begins with a Jamboree on Friday at Central Broward Park, followed by the main J'ouvert celebration on Saturday, which is expected to draw 25,000-35,000 attendees. Also, on Saturday, the Mooring Field Grand Opening will take place at Hollywood North Beach, marking the launch of the County's first official mooring field. That same day, a Tree Giveaway will be held at Lafayette Hart Park from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

On Saturday, October 18, the Tradewinds Park Fall Fest will take place from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM and another Tree Giveaway event will take place at Miramar Pineland Park from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, in Commissioner Davis' district (District 7).

Looking ahead, the Parks Fest – "Boots and Beats for our Brave" is set for Saturday, November 9, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Atala Shelter in Tradewinds Park South. This free event (with a $5 parking fee) will honor veterans and their families and will feature live country music by Whiskey 6, line dancing lessons, a Kids Zone, food trucks, and veteran resource tables. Broward Health will provide 250 free lunches to veterans through food truck vouchers.

Erik Westberg announced an upcoming grand opening scheduled for October 24 for the Born Learning Trail at Plantation Heritage Park, a collaborative project between United Way and the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO). The trail features interactive learning stations for children and families, with BSO assisting with the installation. Invitations to the event will be sent out soon.

Fee Schedule Update: Mary Noe, Administrative Manager

Mary Noe gave a brief update on the proposed changes to the Broward County Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule. She explained the fee adjustments were primarily related to housekeeping for the year, including minor rounding increases with the most significant changes to target range fees, which were adjusted based on market comparisons. Additionally, program, class, and tour fees were consolidated into tiered levels for easier administration. These changes are expected to generate approximately $74,000 in additional revenue: $14,000 to the General Fund, $53,000 to the Target Range Fund, and $7,000 to the North Beach Fund.

Parks Manager Update: Kemma Foreman, Parks Manager

Kemma Foreman provided an update on activities and improvements at Delevoe Park, one of six neighborhood parks in the Broward Municipal Services District. She highlighted the successful completion of the summer program, which hosted approximately 200 participants daily. Currently, the after-school program operates Monday through Friday from 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Recent park improvements include vegetation cleanup along the North Fork of the New River, the installation of solar panel coverings over both basketball courts, and the addition of two EV chargers. The park continues to serve as a popular venue for community events and green space enjoyment. A lighthearted mention was made of a recently spotted alligator near the North Fork area, playfully referred to as the park's new "pet."

Additionally, staff discussed a new community engagement initiative involving surveys to better align programming with residents' needs. Programs offered include after-school activities, senior programming, and free meals for children.

The New Gen Leader Program, a part-time program for at-risk youth, continues to be a major success. Now in its fifth year, the program boasts a 100% high school graduation rate among participants. Students engage in programming from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM on weekdays, gaining soft skills, communication training, conflict resolution techniques, and completing community service projects. Many participants have pursued technical education, and the program maintains strong alumni engagement through an annual reunion and ongoing support.

Contracts and Grants Management, Cheri Gagné, Contract Administrator

Cheri Gagné provided an overview to the board relating to grants secured over the past five years. Three of these grants were awarded for Deerfield Island through the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND). Another grant was received from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for restoration work at Easterlin Park. Additionally, a grant from the Broward Boating Improvement Program supported enhancements to the Markham Park Boat Ramp. These five grants totaled $1.2 million.

DRAFT

Ms. Gagné also noted the recent completion of two grants totaling approximately $1.8 million for the Loggerhead Mooring Field. These were funded by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and FIND. The new mooring facility is scheduled to open October 10.

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

Nadine Levy provided an overview of ongoing progress related to the 2022 Parks Master Plan, focusing on the Signature Park Series: Central Broward Park, Tradewinds Park, Markham Park, and C.B. Smith Park. Improvements are underway at all four locations. Notably, Tradewinds Park is under active construction, with a $28 million project being carried out in partnership with the City of Coconut Creek. Markham Park campground upgrades are progressing, with completion expected by early 2026. At C.B. Smith Park, the new aquatic staff break room has been completed, though additional upgrades are needed due to the park's age.

Resiliency and flood mitigation continue to be key priorities. The Hollywood North Beach Mooring Field project has been completed. The Hollywood North Beach Flood Resiliency Project recently received a $2.5 million grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FIND) for planning and design; it is part of an $18 million effort requiring no local match. Permits were also secured for parking improvements at Lafayette Hart, which will feature a public art installation.

Additional projects include new conceptual restroom designs at Central Broward Park and the development of a new aquarium at Anne Kolb Nature Center, with a design team already engaged. Improvements at Deerfield Island are in the pre-planning stage, supported by three FIND grants, and will include marina upgrades, an ADA-accessible dock, an outdoor classroom, and a new environmental education facility.

Ms. Levy concluded by noting that while several projects are progressing, others remain on hold pending additional funding.

Parks Planning and Design, Playground Replacement Project: Jill Thompson, Construction Project Management Supervisor

Jill Thompson provided an overview of the County's playground replacement project, which addresses aging play structures across various parks, with some still in use dating back to the 1990s. The goal is to replace outdated equipment with modern, durable, and inclusive playgrounds that meet safety standards and serve children ages 2 to 12. Seven playgrounds are currently scheduled for replacement, with active work underway at Tree Tops Park, Roosevelt Gardens, and as part of the broader Tradewinds Park capital project.

Flooding and low-lying park conditions remain a major challenge, and site elevation is a key consideration in all new playground placements. For example, the new Tree Tops playground will be located near picnic areas and restrooms but strategically positioned near a ridge to avoid flooding. Similar planning is guiding projects at Roosevelt Gardens (originally built in 2007),

Central Broward Park (where new locations are being considered), and Brian Piccolo Park, which currently lacks a playground due to prior relocation.

Playground designs will emphasize universal accessibility, incorporating shaded structures for heat protection, dual age play zones, and inclusive features for children with varying abilities. New installations will also include sensory-friendly elements like communication boards that use visual symbols, textures, and sound to support intuitive play and interaction, particularly for children with exceptionalities. These boards are being developed in-house and will be installed in coordination with playground contractors.

Additional upcoming replacements include Easterlin Park, where equipment installed in 1999 will be updated, and Delevoe Park, which also faces unique challenges due to frequent flooding. The Tradewinds Park playground will feature a themed design that complements the surrounding educational farm and gardens, and it will include a splash pad as part of its capital improvements.

Kimberly Jean raised a question regarding the inclusion of fencing around new playgrounds, particularly to support children with special needs who may be prone to eloping. Jill Thompson and Nadine Levy acknowledged that fencing has not traditionally been a standard feature, especially in open park areas with minimal traffic, but recent research suggests that defined perimeters can enhance play by encouraging children to explore the full space more confidently.

Staff noted that a low, 3-foot perimeter fence is included in the Tradewinds Park playground design to help define the space without creating a restrictive feel. Kimberly emphasized the importance of considering fencing in parks with communication boards, as families with nonverbal or autistic children may be drawn to these features and benefit from additional safety measures. Dan West added that similar considerations led to fencing installations at TY Park and Markham Park, even in lower-risk locations. Staff agreed to continue evaluating fencing as part of inclusive playground design.

Parks Planning and Design, Tree Tops Playground Redevelopment Project, **Nadine Levy, Capital Program Administrator**

Nadine Levy provided an update on the planned redevelopment of the Tree Tops Park playground, one of the oldest playgrounds in the park system, which was removed several years ago due to safety concerns. The new design will include separate play areas for children ages 2 to 5 and 5 to 12. Due to elevation and resiliency concerns identified in FEMA maps, the new playground will differ significantly from the previous one. It will be in a large open area on the south side of the park and will include poured-in-place rubber surfacing to enhance safety.

Fencing for the playground is currently under consideration. The project also includes necessary parking lot improvements. Playground equipment from pre-approved vendor options is being chosen, and while the equipment will not include ramps, it will have transfer points for accessibility. Notable features will include musical instruments (e.g., drums, xylophone), climbing elements (e.g., pod hoppers, DNA and hurricane climbers), and imaginative play features such as lookout panels and a playhouse bench area.

Design work is underway with a consultant, with bidding or award anticipated in mid-2026 and construction completion targeted for mid-2027.

Parks and Recreation Update: Erik Westberg, Assistant Director

Erik Westberg provided a recap of the recently concluded aquatic season, which served 270,000 visitors and generated $3.2 million in admissions and rentals, along with $546,000 in food sales. Despite staffing challenges and periods of extreme heat, staff performed exceptionally well, contributing to a successful season.

He also reported that 770,000 vehicles entered parks on weekends and holidays over the past year, which is a 3% increase and bringing in $3.3 million in revenue, including contributions from Hollywood North Beach Park. Parks remain the fourth-largest revenue generator for the County, a significant achievement given their scale compared to larger departments like the port and airport. Erik acknowledged staff for their role in maintaining high-quality facilities and services across the park system.

Public Comment:

Paola Maldonado provided public comments suggesting two improvements for park facilities. First, she recommended adding small footstools in restrooms near playgrounds to help children reach the sinks more easily, noting it would be especially helpful for parents managing multiple young children. Second, she suggested placing visible emergency contact numbers near playground structures, as a safety measure for park users who may feel unsafe or encounter suspicious individuals.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM

Next Meeting: Friday, December 5, 2025, at 7:30 AM
Tree Tops Park
3900 S.W. 100th Ave.,
Davie, FL 33328

DRAFT