MINUTES
BROWARD COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION
September 5, 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 2:00 PM by Chair John Fiore.

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

Members:

Jerry Baer	John Fiore	Amanda Noon
Doug Beals	Peter Grady	Spencer Taintor
Cliff Berry	Julie Greenfield	Barry Webber
Penny Cutt	Kelvin Haynes	
Mark Ercolin	David Ide	

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

Guests:
Frank Gernert
Naomie Labaty, Broward County Intergovernmental Affairs/Board Section
Andrea Knowles Hill, Broward County Intergovernmental Affairs/Board Section

III PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mark Ercolin made the motion to approve the May 2, 2024, meeting minutes and Peter Grady seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

V CORRESPONDENCE: Jay Sanford discussed the correspondence in the packets, including the two BBIP projects for derelict vessel removal with the City of Fort Lauderdale and Phase I of the Marina Fuel Pier with the City of Hollywood. Also included is correspondence for the new contracts that were approved for the Broward County Enhanced Marine Law Enforcement program for each of the agencies. Mr. Sanford reminded the Committee that the hourly rate is being increased to $52 a year for marine law enforcement.

VI OLD BUSINESS: NONE

VII NEW BUSINESS:

Special Presentation by Dan West. Director Dan West presented a Certificate of Recognition to Frank Gernert for his significant contributions to Broward County's waterway projects during his tenure with FIND.

Sunset Review Presentation. Naomi Labaty from the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs discussed the Sunset Review process. Ms. Labaty explained the purpose of the review of the board's structure and bylaws every four years. Chair Fiore and other members expressed their satisfaction with the current structure and bylaws, noting the Committee's strong attendance and passion for its work. A motion to keep the bylaws and structure of the board the same is made by Mark Ercolin and seconded by Penny Cutt. The motion was passed unanimously.

VIII CHAIR'S REPORT: NONE

IX DANIA BEACH MAB REPORT: NONE

X HOLLYWOOD MAB REPORT: Julie Greenfield is no longer on the Marine Advisory Board and Mr. Ide did not attend the last meeting.

XI POMPANO BEACH MAB REPORT: Penny Cutt advised they did not meet in August and provided an update on the Hillsboro Inlet dock and dredging project, noting delays due to permitting issues and opposition from local entities.

XII LIAISON'S REPORT: Jay Sanford provided an update regarding BBIP Applications and reported that so far this year there is only one applicant, the City of Hollywood for a derelict vessel removal grant. Mr. Sanford noted that this is not unusual because most facilities have already been built, and there are limited opportunities for new construction. Mr. Sanford mentioned the importance of maintaining facilities for 25 years to qualify for funding and anticipates a cycle where facilities will need re-engineering, lengthening of ramps, and building them up to the new standards after 25 years.

A discussion was had regarding the upcoming closure of the Downtowner restaurant, and Mr. Sanford reminded the Committee that a dock was built at that location using BBIP funds, which was recently upgraded. Mr. Sanford expects there will be a lot more of what is not welcome at a BBIP facility, such as Tiki huts. Especially since there's going to be almost no reason for to stop there anymore. Concerns were raised about unauthorized commercial use of the public dock in front of the Downtowner and Spencer Taintor inquired about whether the Committee can ask law enforcement to patrol the New River. Mr. Sanford responds that we do not have the ability to direct law enforcement; however, Mr. Sanford has contacted the City of Fort Lauderdale's Marine Facilities staff regarding this issue. Mr. Berry inquired if there are signs on the dock and Mr. Sanford replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Sanford stated that he observed multiple agencies responding to a boat sinking incident during lobster mini season. This highlighted the increased activity and potential risks during this period. Currently, the EMLEG contracts do not include lobster mini season days as part of the additional patrol days. Mr. Sanford proposed considering the addition of daytime patrol hours for the lobster

mini season to the EMLEG contracts. The committee discussed the predictability of these dates, and inquired if the mini season always occurs on specific days. Mr. Taintor expressed his support in including the mini season. There was a discussion about whether additional funding was necessary, as many law enforcement agencies already have increased presence during this time. Mr. Sanford noted that while agencies are out in force during mini season, it's currently an unfunded mandate. Adding these days to the EMLEG contracts would ensure agencies cannot claim lack of funds as a reason not to patrol. The Committee decided not to vote on the matter immediately, as it was too late to include in this year's contracts. Instead, they agreed to revisit this topic during the EMLEG discussion in the fall.

Jay Sanford commented that they had a successful Marine Summit last year and inquired whether the Committee has any issues that need to be addressed this year. Mr. Sanford contemplated that he would like to have a summit if the Committee thinks there is a need to have one and it would be useful, or if it would be better to push it to a later date. Mr. Fiore asked if Mr. Sanford could contact the agencies to gather their input and Mr. Sanford replied in the affirmative. The topic of the whether to have a Marine Summit will be included in next month's agenda.

XIII MAC MEMBER COMMENTS

Julie Greenfield informs the committee about the Sea Tow Foundation Boating Safety Awards and the deadline for entries for profit companies only.

Spencer Taintor inquired if there are any updates on the repairs to the dock at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. Mr. Sanford reported that he continues to call and inquire about the repairs and that the last person he spoke to at Hugh Birch acknowledged the dock was broken but only said they were working on getting a vendor. The slow progress seems to be due to a lack of prioritization by the state. Mr. Sanford noted that there have been staff changes for park manager at Hugh Taylor Birch state park, which may contribute to the lack of continuity in addressing the issue. The Committee discussed the state's maintenance requirements and writing a letter to push for resolution of the dock repairs. Mr. Beals requested including a safety component in the letter to emphasize the importance of fixing the dock. Peter Grady made a motion to write a letter to the state and Kelvin Haynes seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

XIV ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 PM by Chair Fiore.