MINUTES
BROWARD COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION
September 4, 2025, 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	Amanda Noon
Cliff Berry	Julie Greenfield	Jo Stanley (via Teams)
Penny Cutt (via Teams)	David Ide	Clive Taylor
John Fiore	Joseph Martinet	Barry Webber

New Member: Chair Fiore welcomed a new member to the MAC. Joseph Martinet introduced himself by sharing his background. He mentioned that he graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy, served in the Navy Reserve, and worked on commercial vessels – mainly oil tankers. Mr. Martinet recently completed pilot training and now holds an unlimited tonnage Master's license, while also finishing a master's degree. The members welcomed him warmly and acknowledged his impressive background.

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

Guests:
Michael Dellaporta, Dock Experts
Bart Hetfield, Dock Experts
Julio Tejeda, South Florida Water Management District
Patience Cohn, Marine Industries Association of South Florida

III PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Julio Tejeda from South Florida Water Management District introduced himself and stated that he is in Governmental Affairs and is the main point of contact for all the agencies within Broward County. Mr. Tejeda mentioned that he is going to all the boards to introduce himself.

Michael Dellaporta and Bart Hetfield of Dock Experts introduced themselves, explaining that they were attending to observe and stay informed as part of their business development. Mr. Hetfield noted that Dock Experts is a seven-year-old company with branches in Northwest Jacksonville,

specializing in distributorship, seawalls, and docks, and that they are looking to become more involved in the community and local marine advisory boards. Both expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend the meeting and connect with the group.

Patience Cohn from Marine Industries Association of South Florida introduced herself and mentioned the upcoming Boat Show in October. Ms. Cohn brought up the issue of jet ski accidents and the need to address it. A discussion ensued regarding jet skis with a focus on ongoing problems with illegal and unsafe jet ski rentals in the area. Committee members and Ms. Cohn described how unregulated operators often launch jet skis from various locations, including behind Airbnbs and public ramps, without proper insurance or safety oversight. There were concerns about renters lacking experience and not receiving adequate training, leading to reckless behavior and accidents – some involving underage drivers and serious injuries. The members recounted past incidents, including a fatal accident in Pompano, and highlighted the challenges of enforcement and the ease with which individuals can start rental operations. They also discussed the need for better safety education, stricter requirements, and possible recommendations to local authorities. Despite the problems, some acknowledged that jet skis can be valuable safety tools when operated responsibly. The conversation concluded with suggestions for improved monitoring, such as installing cameras along waterways, and a recognition that legislative authority is limited but that recommendations to the Commission could be made to address these issues.

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Clive Taylor made a motion to approve May 1, 2025, meeting minutes as amended, and Jerry Baer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

V CORRESPONDENCE:

Jay Sanford discussed requests from the cities of Wilton Manors, Hollywood, Hallandale Beach, and Fort Lauderdale to transfer 20% of their EMLEG patrol hours to aggressive hours. The correspondence regarding the transfers is included in their package. Mr. Sanford explained that these aggressive hours are particularly valued by the agencies because they often extend an officer's regular shift, allowing for more proactive enforcement and rapid response to incidents. While weekend coverage is already robust, there is a recognized need for aggressive patrols during the week as well. An example was provided where a BSO officer, working aggressive hours at night, was able to quickly respond to a boat taking on water, ultimately preventing it from sinking. The committee acknowledged that having officers on the water and ready to act is essential for public safety.

Mr. Sanford mentioned that the FY 2025-2026 EMLEG Agreements and the FY 2025-2026 BBIP Agreement with the City of Hollywood for Derelict Vessel Removal will be sent to the various agencies shortly for signatures.

Mr. Sanford stated that the MAC was still within the period for accepting applications for BBIP for the upcoming year. He mentioned that he had already received two applications from the County and anticipated possibly receiving a third for another project. Mr. Sanford also noted that he had not heard from any of the cities, explaining that many are still within the 25-year period during which they must own, operate, and maintain previous projects before becoming eligible for additional funding

VI OLD BUSINESS: NONE

VII NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Sanford announced the grand opening of the Loggerhead Mooring Field on October 10th, and invited the Committee Members. Mr. Sanford provided a comprehensive update and mentioned that the mooring field had received its Certificate of Occupancy. He explained that the Parks Department has hired a Park Manager Associate to serve as Harbor Master, with additional full-time and part-time staff positions. Committee Members asked questions about the mooring field's proximity to residences, caretaker recruitment, parking logistics, overnight access, and the design of the mooring system. They also discussed the depth after dredging and the assignment of spots. Mr. Sanford described the amenities available to boaters, such as dinghy docks, pump-out and water fill stations, laundry, showers, and guest parking. Mr. Sanford detailed the operational procedures, including a fore-and-aft anchoring system with pendant lines and quick-connect couplings, mandatory pump-outs, and the use of dye tablets for environmental compliance. He also discussed the mooring field's capacity, pricing, and the expectation that it would become self-sustaining by covering staff and maintenance costs through rental revenue. There was also mention of the project's funding sources, the unique location attached to the barrier island, and the hope that it would attract the trawler and cruising community. Chair Fiore praised Mr. Sanford for his innovative idea, noting how the area had evolved from a place that had derelict vessels to a well-designed, useful resource for boaters, and commended the introduction of this concept to the east coast. Jo Stanley added her endorsement, stating that after touring the facility, she found it to be well thought out, echoing the sentiment that the mooring field would be a valuable addition for boaters and the broader community.

VIII CHAIR'S REPORT: NONE.

IX DANIA BEACH MAB REPORT: NONE.

X HOLLYWOOD MAB REPORT: David Ide reported that they discussed the cardboard boat races and possibly a fishing tournament.

XI POMPANO BEACH MAB REPORT: NONE

XII LIAISON'S REPORT: Mr. Sanford announced that Doug Beals submitted his resignation due to health concerns. With new Member Joseph Martinet joining, the MAC remains at 12 members.

XII MAC MEMBER COMMENTS:

Julie Greenfield inquired about the status of the Hugh Taylor Birch dock. Mr. Sanford responded that the last update he received was that the dock had broken loose and floated up the Middle River. He explained that the dock was originally a Bellingham cement dock placed at the park, but it was damaged when struck by a barge at the entrance. Instead of repairing the damaged section, the entire usable section was removed and floated to George English Park, where it was tied to a new floating dock. Mr. Sanford mentioned that it had been temporarily secured after

floating away and that the State is in the process of repairing the dock. The Committee discussed the incident and clarified the location and sequence of events regarding the dock's movement and ongoing repairs.

Ms. Greenfield asked about the placement and regulation of buoys and exclusionary zones along the beach, specifically in relation to the mermaid artificial reef structures. She sought clarification on the County's role regarding exclusionary zones and the placement of buoys near the mermaid project and the reef. She also asked who would be responsible for permitting and maintaining the mooring buoys and questioned the City of Hollywood's reasoning behind the current placement of exclusionary buoys. Mr. Sanford stated that the County could not prohibit anchoring in public waters but was enforcing no overnight anchoring. He explained that the City of Hollywood operated the beach and was responsible for the buoys, while the County's role was limited to permitting. He indicated that the Public Works and Environmental Services Department would be the department to contact regarding the buoys.

XIII ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM by Chair Fiore.