Minutes
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of May 5, 2023, 7:30 a.m.
Plantation Heritage Park, 1100 S. Fig Tree Ln. Plantation, FL 33317

Board Members Present

Joseph Carter	Howard Gerson	Arthur McNeil
Christina Clifford	Javier Lasaga	Daniel Mulieri
Terry Danger	Lawrence Martin	Christine Reinking

County Staff in Attendance

Cyndy Baker	Cathy Hagen	John Pipoly
Linda Briggs	Meoshi Jackson	Dan West
Chris Deal	Jason Lester	Erik Westberg
Trevor Fell	Nadine Levy	

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Board) meeting was called to order by acting Chair Arthur McNeil at 7:35 a.m. Roll was called.

Approval of Minutes: Arthur McNeil MOTIONED for approval of the April 2023 minutes; Terry Danger seconded. MOTION carried.

Announcements: Commissioner Lawrence Martin, City of Lauderhill

The City of Lauderhill hosted the Jammin' in the Park event at Central Broward Regional Park on April 22, 2023. The event featured live music performances, food vendors, and it is estimated that more than 4,000 people were in attendance.

Parks Manager Update: Jason Lester, Parks Manager

Despite Plantation Heritage Park's small size compared to other regional parks, the park receives over 32,000 monthly visitors. The Park has successfully hosted over 100 special events, programs, and classes. In March, Plantation Heritage hosted the 39th annual Scottish Festival & Highland Games event. Approximately 6,100 individuals attended the event last year, and this year the event drew over 9,000 attendees. The ParkFest Love & Music Day event is a collaborative effort between the Parks Foundation of Broward County and Broward County Parks. This event, which is currently in its third year, has attracted a consistent audience, with over 3,000 people attending over the past couple of years.

Plantation Heritage Park offers a diverse range of activities and programs, including golf tournaments, fishing clinics, cross-country meets, dog obedience training, master naturalist programs, special populations classes, fitness sessions, art events, disc golf, yoga sessions, and social dances.

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

Construction of the Miramar Pineland Nature Center was successfully completed in 2021. It is fully operational and a 20-space parking lot is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2023. The renovation of Everglades Holiday Park, an investment of over $11 million, was completed in 2022. Future plans include replacing the main building, which is currently a wooden structure. Construction of a Welcome Center at Snake Warrior's Island Natural Area was completed earlier this year. This facility includes a restroom building, office, and an exterior shelter to be utilized as an outdoor classroom.

The Anne Kolb Nature Center at West Lake Park has undergone a phased renovation project. It began with the replacement of nature center exhibits and now the focus is on expanding the interior space for classes and activities. The Parks Maintenance Group is assisting in the ongoing renovations, with flooring scheduled to be

installed in the coming weeks. The contractor had to be replaced for the Quiet Waters Park Cabins project. Efforts are being made to resume progress, with a meeting scheduled this week to finalize arrangements with new contractors. It is anticipated that the project will commence later this summer or early fall.

The Tradewinds Park Educational Farm & Gardens project is being executed in three phases. The initial phases involve utility upgrades, including water lines and the conversion from septic to sewer systems, as well as the addition of parking facilities. The third phase aims to completely renovate and upgrade 15 acres of the park. Phases one and two are nearing completion, with contractors committing to delivering the remaining work within the next month.

Parks and Recreation Update:

Erik Westberg, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation:

On April 21st, Earth Day 2023 was celebrated with a wide range of activities and programs. Gate entrance fees were waived across the entire park system to raise awareness of the parks on three specific dates. Two upcoming dates include National Parks and Recreation Month in July, as well as the division's anniversary in February 2024.

The water parks commenced operations during spring break and will continue to operate daily from June 9th until Labor Day. Registration for summer camps, including programs in the Broward Municipal Services parks, such as farming, agriculture, horseback riding, golf, and wakeboarding, has begun. The division has expanded the number of camps available and also host other camps that rent space at large regional parks. The division is preparing for a busy summer season.

Dan West, Director, Parks and Recreation:

Mr. West announced that Cathy Hagen, Senior Administrative Officer, will be retiring on July 7th after 14 years of service. Parks and Recreation is in the process of seeking national accreditation, a prestigious achievement only obtained by a limited number of agencies across the country. The Parks and Recreation team put considerable effort into preparing for site visits and await the results. The comprehensive 2022 Master Plan has been completed, detailing future projects and improvements for the parks. The plan received extensive public input and outlines necessary renovations and upgrades. Funding sources, including the possibility of a new bond initiative, will be explored.

The division received approval of a transfer right of way permit for a boat ramp on US 27, granting access to Everglades Holiday Park. The ramp will be improved using various funding sources, and its acquisition expands the park system's offerings. Staff has been engaged in ongoing budget considerations, requesting additional positions and funding for various parks and projects. County Administration has been supportive, providing additional funds to assist with operations. There will be multiple budget hearings in the coming months.

Central Broward Park & Broward County Stadium is set to host the 2023 Cricket Games between West Indies and India, with hopes of securing the 2024 World Cup games as well. Several cities, including New York, Oakland, Dallas, Houston, and Indianapolis, are competing to host the games. However, Central Broward's long history and possession of the only certified stadium in the country give them a strong advantage.

Linda Briggs, Environmental Manager

The Notice to Proceed for the West Lake mitigation project has now been issued. This $35 million project entails constructing mitigation measures along the Intracoastal Waterway, stretching from Sheridan Street to just south of the Dania Cut-Off Canal. The project aims to remove invasive Australian pine trees and replace them with native vegetation such as mangroves, seagrass, and upland islands. The initiative also supports future port expansions, including the turning notch and deepening/widening efforts. The project has been in development

since 2012, and encompasses not only tree removal and habitat creation, but also the construction of a crib structure to combat erosion along the waterway.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Mr. West informed the board members that the division's first master plan is currently being reviewed by various stakeholders. Parks and Recreation will distribute a more accessible digital version for easier reading and page-flipping. The plan is available on betterparksbetterbroward.com, a platform created in collaboration with a consultant to facilitate plan distribution and gather feedback through surveys and other management methods.

Daniel Mulieri extended an invitation to an upcoming event at Markham Park. The Anne Wasserman Community Memorial Garden event will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 7th. The garden is dedicated to the memory of Miss Anne Wasserman, the mother of Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who passed away from cancer. The Parks Foundation contributed funds towards this project.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, August 4, 2023, at Secret Woods Nature Center.