Minutes
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting – January 16, 2026, 7:30AM
Brian Piccolo Sports Park & Velodrome, 9501 Sheridan St., Cooper City, FL 33024

Board Members Present

Clifford, Christina	Jean, Kimberly	Mulieri, Daniel
Danger, Terry	Lasaga, Javier	Nelson, Howard
Garson, Howard	McNeil, Marty	Wilcoxen, Willie

County Staff in Attendance

Briggs, Linda	Noe, Mary	Westberg, Erik
Burnell, Katherine	Regalado, Will	Wright, Jessica
Deal, Chris	VunKannon, Lori	
Levy, Nadine	West, Dan	

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Board) meeting was called to order by Chair Daniel Mulieri at 7:41 AM. Roll was called.

Approval of Minutes: Howard Garson MOTIONED for approval of December 2025 minutes; Vice-Chair Terry Danger seconded. MOTION carried.

Announcements:

Chair Dan Mulieri opened the meeting with announcements and introduced Jessica Wright, the newly appointed Business Manager for Parks Administration.

Ms. Wright provided a brief overview of her background, noting more than 20 years of experience in operations and project management, including eight years with the County in various administrative roles. In her new position, she will focus on strategic planning, fiscal oversight, and agency-wide communications. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity and greeted the Board.

Chair Mulieri welcomed Ms. Wright and thanked her for attending.

Director Dan West added that Ms. Wright will serve under the Administrative Services section led by Mary Noe, which integrates business operations, HR, and IT functions. He highlighted her extensive experience and emphasized the importance of her role in the coming years.

The Board was reminded of the Parks and Recreation Division Annual Meeting scheduled for February 12, 2026, at the Long Key Natural Area and Nature Center, located at 3501 S.W. 130th Ave., Davie, FL 33330.

Parks Manager Update: William Regalado, Parks Manager

Brian Piccolo Park is a 175-acre athletics-focused facility acquired in 1980 through a 1978 bond issue and opened on October 29, 1989. Originally intended to be named the South Broward Sports Center, it was ultimately dedicated to Chicago Bears halfback Brian Piccolo, a 1961 graduate of Fort Lauderdale's Catholic High School.

The park features basketball courts, four multipurpose fields (three lighted), eight lighted softball/baseball diamonds, three cricket pitches, a playground, a pavilion, and a meeting room. Contracted partners operate additional amenities, including Casely Tennis, which manages the 12 clay courts, and Soccer 5, which oversees the artificial-turf mini-soccer complex.

Soccer activity at the park is extensive, with at least three soccer organizations renting fields five days a week and on weekends for practices and games. The ball fields also support numerous travel baseball and softball teams for both practices and competitions. The County operates adult leagues on the softball fields and in the multipurpose meeting room, hosting approximately 100 softball teams on Sunday mornings and Monday–Thursday evenings. Additionally, the park runs a men's and co-ed flag football league on Wednesdays with 20–25 teams.

The velodrome, opened in 1992, includes a 333-meter cycling track and a 200-meter banked inline skating track. Recent inner track resurfacing, funded through a donation from organizer Patricia Liazar, has supported increased inline skating activity, including a 200% rise in youth groups using the facility at least twice weekly.

Brian Piccolo Park also hosts Cooper City's annual Founders Day celebration each March, featuring family activities, performances, live music, and a fireworks display. Recent improvements include resurfacing and coating the velodrome's inner track, expanding cricket pitches, resurfacing the road course, and laser-grading softball fields.

The park is part of the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail and contains an estimated 30–40 burrowing owl sites, which are monitored closely due to their ecological importance. Several of these burrows are located in areas that are no longer ideal for long-term habitat stability, and plans are underway to relocate them to safer nearby locations in coordination with wildlife guidelines.

Some planned improvements include installing a playground canopy, laser-grading the clay tennis courts, completing the tennis contract rebid, and repairing raised edges between infield and outfield areas. The clay courts are supported by an underground irrigation system that maintains proper moisture levels for play.

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

Nadine Levy reported on ongoing and planned capital projects, noting that the division continues to maintain park infrastructure while advancing new initiatives. Progress continues on the 2022 Parks Master Plan, with most items moving forward. One exception is CB Smith Park, which is the starting point for assessing underground infrastructure needs. Over the next one to two years, staff expect to develop a comprehensive capital improvement plan addressing aging systems such as grinder pump lift stations, wet wells, and plumbing lines.

Ms. Levy highlighted the need to monitor aging pedestrian and road bridges, as well as numerous boardwalks across the system that are now more than 25 years old. Several other priority projects listed in the meeting materials are also underway.

Few projects are currently in active construction. The primary project progressing is the Tradewinds Park Educational Farm and Gardens, where all three buildings are being laid out and the Welcome Center is already going vertical. Significant visible progress is expected by mid-summer.

Approximately 30% of current projects are in contract negotiations for consultant services to begin design. These include the Deerfield Island Park outdoor classroom and Environmental Education

Resource Center—supported by grant funding—as well as improvements to the Deerfield Island Marina. Additional projects include new restrooms under the Central Broward grandstand and HVAC replacement in the existing field house.

During discussion, a question was raised regarding the Quiet Waters cabins and whether legal action had been taken against the previous contractor. Ms. Levy confirmed that the issue has been settled. She also reported that the Secret Woods Manatee platform project—another long-standing issue—is moving forward, with procurement underway to demolish the defective construction. Quiet Waters remains more complex, and staff are still determining how to restart the project. Dan West added that both projects suffered from poor contractors and lengthy litigation, but the County Attorney's Office has resolved the legal components. Staff hope to report successful completion of both projects within the next few years.

Ms. Levy also noted ongoing staffing challenges across the park system, including recent staff losses within the Parks Planning and Design team, which impacts project management capacity.

She concluded with an update on the Delevoe Park drainage improvement project. Scoping is underway, and consultant negotiations are expected within four to six months. The project will address flooding along the riverbank and support future improvements to the manatee observation area, restrooms, and amphitheater. The total project cost is expected to exceed $20 million.

Parks and Recreation Operations Update: Erik Westberg, Assistant Director

Erik Westberg reported that preparations for summer programming have begun, with significant staffing needs, including more than 100 seasonal lifeguard vacancies. Recruitment for BMSD summer programs begins next month, with the goal of fully staffing all four sites; last year, some sites were consolidated due to shortages.

Mr. Westberg announced the Grand Opening Ceremony for the new Communication Board installation at Miramar Pineland Park on January 23 at 10:00 AM. This event is part of a broader initiative to install communication boards at all playgrounds, water parks, and splash pads in partnership with the Broward Parks Foundation. He also noted that the 34th Annual Renaissance Festival at Quiet Waters Park will run from early February through the end of March.

Parks and Recreation Update: Dan West, Director

Dan West reported that staff are actively developing the capital budget, with significant workload impacts due to multiple vacant engineering and project management positions. He noted that some staff, including Nadine's team, are carrying substantially increased responsibilities as a result. Capital budget submissions are due February 12, after which work will shift to the operating budget, which remains uncertain pending state-level decisions. He emphasized that the next several months will be administratively intensive and that the Board's input on priorities will be especially valuable.

Mr. West also highlighted ongoing staffing challenges, including the previously discussed lifeguard and aquatic staffing shortages, and noted that the agency is exploring additional support from the Parks Foundation for certain events and operational needs.

In response to questions about hurricane readiness, Mr. West stated that although recent staffing cuts, particularly the loss of five filled positions and several additional vacancies in Parks Maintenance, will have an impact, the agency remains as prepared as possible. He and Lori VunKannon, Operations

Manager, recently participated in a tri-county emergency management meeting and reported that the state is well-positioned to provide support during major events. While local staffing turnover in some agencies poses challenges, the Parks Division currently has an experienced team. Mr. West expressed confidence that, even with reduced staffing, the County can manage typical storm events and will be able to access additional state and regional resources if a major disaster occurs.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Nominations and elections were held for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions for the 2026–2028 term. Daniel Mulieri and Kimberly Jean each nominated themselves for Chair. A motion to close nominations was made by Howard Nelson and seconded by Vice-Chair Terry Danger. Following a vote of 8–1, Kimberly Jean was elected Chair.

For Vice-Chair, Terry Danger nominated himself. Daniel Mulieri moved to close nominations, with a second by Howard Garson. The Board voted unanimously to re-elect Terry Danger as Vice-Chair.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:28 AM

Next Meeting: Friday, March 6, 2026, at 7:30 AM
Reverend Samuel Delevoe Memorial Park
2520 N.W. Sixth St.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311