Minutes
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting – May 30, 2025, 7:30 AM
Anne Kolb Nature Center, 751 Sheridan St., Hollywood, FL 33019

Board Members Present

Brown, Michelle	Garson, Howard	McNeil, Marty
Carter, Joseph	Jean, Kimberly	Mulieri, Daniel
Clifford, Christina	Lasaga, Javier	Nelson, Howard
Danger, Terry	Martin, Lawrence	Reineke, Kristen

County Staff in Attendance

Burnell, Katherine	Florestal, Monica	Martinez, Denise
Deal, Chris	Jarossy, Sara	West, Dan
Fell, Trevor	Levy, Nadine	Westberg, Erik

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Board) meeting was called to order by Chair Mulieri at 7:35 AM. Roll was called.

Approval of Minutes: Howard Nelson MOTIONED for approval of the March 7 minutes; Joseph Carter seconded. MOTION carried.

Announcements:

Immediately following the meeting, Parks Manager Sara Jarossy provided a private tour of the exhibit hall exclusively for the Advisory Board members.

Parks Manager Update: Sara Jarossy, Parks Manager

Ms. Jarossy provided an update on the Anne Kolb/West Lake/Hollywood North Beach tri-plex.

Opened in June 1982, West Lake Park encompasses 65 acres and provides visitors with recreational activities including a freshwater lake, fishing pier, sports courts, picnic areas, and a marina with kayak and canoe rentals. The park serves as the main gateway to 1,500 acres of mangrove wetlands, which represent the largest mangrove ecosystem in Broward County.

Marina operations continue to experience increased demand, particularly with the success of adaptive kayaking programs. Efforts to remove invasive plants are ongoing, supported by a $5,000 grant from the Parks Foundation. Walkway paths and parking lot resurfacing have been completed, improving accessibility and visitor experience.

Established in February 1996, Anne Kolb Nature Center honors journalist and conservationist Anne Kolb, whose leadership in the 1970s helped preserve West Lake's natural mangrove estuary. The 20-acre nature center offers environmental education, guided nature tours, and a variety of interactive exhibits that highlight the importance of local wetlands.

In FY2023, Anne Kolb Nature Center had nearly 320,000 visitors, making it the most visited nature center in Broward County. Renovations to the Exhibit Hall have been finalized, including upgrades such as new office space, a redesigned theater, cabinets, and flooring. The design phase for the replacement

of the large saltwater aquarium is in progress. The site mitigation project, in collaboration with Port Everglades, is in its final stages, addressing invasive plant removal, shoreline stabilization, and native plant restoration. Bird nesting platforms have been installed along the South Trail to support local wildlife.

Hollywood North Beach Park was first opened in the 1980s, with Broward County assuming management in 1988. The 56-acre park provides parking and access to the Atlantic Ocean, alongside five Pocket Parks that feature picnic areas, fishing piers, and restrooms. The area is also home to Carpenter House Marine Environmental Education Center, acquired in 2004, where Nova Southeastern University leads interactive marine education programs, including the care of two resident sea turtles, Captain and Cain.

An ADA-compliant ramp has been installed to improve boardwalk access. Construction of a Mooring Field at Loggerhead location is underway, enhancing boating facilities. Plans to expand the parking lot are progressing, increasing visitor capacity to meet growing demand. Development of a fee-based mooring field with guest amenities, including restrooms, showers, and laundry, is in the works. The Flood Resiliency Project for 2070 is in the design phase, aiming to protect coastal infrastructure from rising water levels.

The triplex of parks offers diverse recreation while preserving vital ecosystems. Mangrove wetlands, tidal channels, and seagrass beds support 75% of game fish and 90% of commercial species in South Florida. These trees also serve as rookeries for endangered birds like the Blue Heron and Roseate Spoonbill, providing a refuge for migratory species. Beyond wildlife conservation, mangrove roots stabilize soil, prevent erosion, and act as natural barriers against storm surges, protecting coastal communities.

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

Ms. Levy provided an update on construction projects and several upcoming initiatives.

The Hollywood North Beach Mooring Fields project aims to enhance amenities by constructing a new Services Building with laundry, restrooms, and showers, replacing a deteriorated shelter, and building a floating dock with an ADA-accessible gangway. Additionally, the north cove will be dredged to accommodate 29 boat moorings. The project is expected to be completed by July 2025.

Phase I of the Central Broward Park Icehouse project is complete. This project involves installing a new 6,500-pound capacity ice machine/ice plant which can produce between 4,500 and 13,000 pounds of ice in 24 hours. That capacity will allow Parks Emergency Management team to coordinate with the County to fulfill the need for ice during any emergency response.

Phase III of the Tradewinds Park Educational Farm & Stables, which includes redeveloping the farm area to include a new barn, welcome center, shelters, water feature, playground, and associated support facilities, is scheduled to begin in July 2025.

Construction on the Markham Park campground upgrades began in May 2025 and is expected to be completed in February 2026. These enhancements include upgrading 115+ sites from grass to concrete parking pads as well as additional drainage swales.

Construction at Lafayette Hart Park is expected to begin in July 2025 to create 18 new asphalt parking spaces with lighting and additional drainage swales.

The Hollywood North Beach Parking Lot improvement project will add 200 vehicle spaces with turtle-friendly lighting and landscaping. Plans include entry/drop-off areas for beach shuttles and taxis, renovated picnic spaces, and a future banquet/restaurant facility, with parking operations managed by a concessionaire. Planning/design are expected to begin in 2025-2026.

Parks Planning and Design is currently in the planning and design phase for the Voluntary Wetlands and Annex site at Long Key Natural Area. The Quiet Waters Cabins project requires a new bid process after the removal of the previous contractor, which includes demolishing defective work. At Everglades Holiday Park, the on-site treated well water system is being replaced to transition the park to municipal water service.

Several upcoming projects are awaiting funding, including two initiatives at Everglades Holiday Park: Levee Greenway Trail & Observation Tower and a new concessions and resource building. At Plantation Heritage Park, plans include developing a Cultural Arts Park and evaluating a potential Parks Administration building. Reverend Samuel Delevoe Memorial Park is set for redevelopment to better serve the community, while construction at Deerfield Island continues, with multiple projects already completed. The Secret Woods Natural Area Redevelopment is scheduled to enter its planning phase in 2026. Additionally, the Fern Forest Nature Center is undergoing structural repairs and elevator modernization. Lastly, audio-visual equipment upgrades are in progress across the park system to meet evolving technological needs.

Environmental Management, Linda Briggs, Environmental Manager

Ms. Briggs provided an update on two major resilience and restoration projects in the area. The West Lake Mitigation Project, which has been ongoing since the late 1990s, was designed to offset the environmental impacts of airport and port expansions. The southern section was completed in 2010 and has been highly successful in restoring wetlands and protecting mangroves. The northern section, funded by the Port Everglades Department with $43 million, is nearing completion. This phase involves the removal of invasive Australian pines, the planting of thousands of native species, and the construction of crib structures designed to reduce wave action while preserving seagrass.

The second project focuses on flood mitigation along A1A. An $18 million grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is supporting the effort to build higher seawalls and wetlands that will strengthen resilience and protect local pocket parks. The project includes scenic walkways through mangrove areas and is currently in the permitting and design phase.

Both projects, while funded outside the Parks Division budget, help to enhance environmental resilience while protecting communities from flooding and habitat loss.

In addition to these projects, the Department of Transportation is working on pumping and drainage systems to address roadway flooding. Seawall elevation remains a priority, with regulations requiring homeowners to raise seawalls when renovating properties, ensuring incremental improvements over time.

Parks and Recreation Update: Dan West, Director

Mr. West provided an update to the Board regarding the upcoming budget year. County Administration and the Office of Management and Budget directed all county agencies to prepare a 5% budget reduction plan.

Dan shared historical context regarding past budget cuts and their impact on staffing and facilities. Considering current budget mandates, the Division remains committed to preserving existing staff levels while implementing the recommended reductions. The focus will be on completing projects that are already funded, although it is likely that new projects will be postponed.

Dan introduced Kilishi St. Preux from the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, noting her role in overseeing and supporting boards like this one. Kilishi provided a brief introduction, highlighting her responsibilities in managing board appointments and communications. She shared her intent to attend future meetings to stay informed about the Parks Division's initiatives and expressed appreciation for the board's work and its impact on Broward County.

Operations Update: Erik Westberg, Assistant Director

Staff reported a strong start to the aquatics season, drawing 104,000 visitors and generating $1.1 million in revenue. Daily operations began June 4. The free Youth Summer Program launched June 9 at Delevoe, Roosevelt, and Franklin neighborhood parks. Additionally, two aquatics facilities were audited over the Memorial Day holiday by Jeff Ellis and Associates, Inc. and received "Exceed" ratings, highlighting exceptional staff performance during peak operations.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:20 AM.

Next Meeting: Friday, August 1, 2025, at 7:30 AM
Fern Forest Nature Center
201 Lyons Rd. South
Coconut Creek, FL 33063