



## CITY OF COCONUT CREEK LUNCH BUNCH MEETING MINUTES

Government Center  
4800 W. Copans Road  
Coconut Creek, Florida

Date: April 28, 2021  
Time: 12:00 p.m.  
Location: Virtual Meeting

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### Present:

#### City of Coconut Creek Elected Officials and Staff

Rebecca A. Tooley	Mayor
Sandra L. Welch	Commissioner
Jacqueline Railey	Commissioner
Kathy Mehaffey	Deputy City Attorney
Sheila Rose	Deputy City Manager
Bernadette Hughes	Assistant to the City Manager
Yvonne Lopez	Community Relations Director
Jeffrey Gary	Fire Chief
Dan Eberly	Police Sergeant, School Resource Officer Supervisor
Ryan Marken	Captain, Coconut Creek Police Department
Wayne Tobey	Parks and Recreation Director
Maureen DeLaunay	Executive Administrative Assistant

#### School Officials

Nora Rupert	Broward County School Board Member
Debbi Hixon	Broward County School Board Member

#### School Officials

Vicky LaPorte	Atlantic Technical College and High School
Dr. Sunem Beaton-Garcia	Broward College
Tonika Julien	Dave Thomas Education Center
Dr. Bree Miron	Coconut Creek Elementary School
Scott Fiske	Coconut Creek High School
Jill Ridinger	Coconut Creek High School
Debbie Fairholm	Junior Achievement of South Florida, Inc.
Leni Smith	Junior Achievement of South Florida, Inc.
Vernicca Wynter	Lyons Creek Middle School
Sabine Phillips	Margate Middle School
James Neer	Monarch High School
Robert Hurley	Monarch High School
Bruce Fawcett	North Broward Prep
Genevieve Hoppe	North Broward Prep
Laferne McLean-Cross	Tradewinds Elementary School

### **Other Officials**

Dr. Susan Whiting

Seminole Coconut Creek Education Foundation

Executive Administrative Assistant Maureen Delaney explained that Governor Ron DeSantis' Executive Order 20-52, as continuously extended, and Section 252.38, Florida Statutes, authorized all local governments to waive procedures and formalities otherwise required by both state and local law as necessary to allow local governments to continue to perform public work and take whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community. She noted that the meeting was being conducted virtually and explained the procedures for public participation and comment for the meeting. She noted there were no advanced public comments received for the meeting.

## **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER / WELCOME**

Mayor Rebecca A. Tooley called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Broward County School Board Member Nora Rupert introduced herself and shared briefly regarding getting back to normal after COVID-19. She noted that Board Member Debbi Hixon would also be joining the meeting.

## **2. AGENDA ITEMS**

### **a. Student Award Recognition Update**

Assistant to the City Manager Bernadette Hughes provided an update on the student award program, noting the program would be modified due to COVID-19. She explained the request for nominations had been sent to each school and outlined the process that would be followed to partner with the local schools to honor the students. She stated the next Education Advisory Board meeting was scheduled for May 10 and invited input.

Broward County School Board Member Debbi Hixon introduced herself and asked for any questions.

### **b. Unity in Our Community Update**

Deputy City Manager Sheila Rose provided a brief update on the Unity in Our Community program. She noted the City recently released the second quarterly update in a one (1) year work plan to assure continued successes in engagement, diversity, and inclusion in the community. She shared recent milestones, including the Teen Political Forum, which had a theme of *Hamilton*. A Diversity Summit was hosted by the Coral Springs Coconut Creek Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Chamber had also committed to an ongoing series of meetings open to the public. She

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stated the Police Department had made great strides focused on making sure training was up to speed related to racial intelligence and engagement, including three (3) officers attending a train-the-trainer event with plans to roll out a program in that area.

Deputy City Manager Rose shared the concept of a Parks Night Out with the concept of hosting an open house married with a park event to continue to bridge relationships between the City and schools. She asked anyone interested in collaborating on an event to reach out. She noted the City had joined to create a group of LGBTQ+ liaisons and stated that the strategic planning process was ongoing.

### **c. Police Department Update**

Police Captain Ryan Marken introduced himself, noting overseeing the School Resource Officers was among his duties, and this was his first Lunch Bunch. He asked Sergeant Dan Eberly to provide an update.

Sergeant Eberly added to Deputy City Manager Rose's comments on the racial intelligence and engagement training. He stated the officers were very interactive with the training and it was going well. Sergeant Eberly provided an update on K9 Taylor, noting the pilot program was scheduled to end the next day, but an extension to May 18 had been requested. He shared details of the routine with the dog and stated he would be reaching out to the schools not already involved, starting with North Broward Preparatory School. He shared a story regarding the Coconut Creek Commission's support of School Resource Officers (SROs) and K9 Taylor.

Continuing, Sergeant Eberly shared details of SRO plans for summer school and year-round school programs. He shared recent positive stories regarding two (2) SROs, who were recently recognized for going above and beyond in their roles.

### **d. Parks and Recreation Events Update**

Director of Parks and Recreation Wayne Tobey shared an update on parks and recreation activities. He noted that the playground at Sabal Pines Park had been recently renovated with a castle theme and asked that the information be shared with students, so they knew to go check it out.

He spoke about the following upcoming family events and recreational programs:

- Homegrown Concert Series
- Dog Expo
- Movies in the Park
- Kids to Parks Day
- Summer Camp (limited space, lottery registration)
- Summer Art Programs
- Life Skills for Teens
- Youth Athletics

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Mr. Tobey encouraged people to view the Parks & Recreation calendar on the City's website to learn more about programs in the community and added he would have flyers forwarded to the principals.

Mayor Tooley asked for an update on what was happening at the Community Center playground. Mr. Tobey stated the playground was closed temporarily during the construction of permanent pickleball courts and movement of playground equipment.

**3. ROUNDTABLE INPUT**

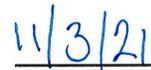
There was round table input from each of the attendees regarding activities at the schools in the City along with self-introductions.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

In closing, Assistant to the City Manager Hughes invited the attendees to the Vision 2030 public input meeting later that evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

  
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Marianne Bowers, CMC, Interim City Clerk

  
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Date

