



**CITY OF COCONUT CREEK
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Government Center
4800 West Copans Road
Coconut Creek, FL 33063**

**Date: September 22, 2025
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Meeting No. 2025-0922SP**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Michael Guardino at 5:03 p.m.

2. PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL

Michael Guardino, Chairperson
Benjamin Nazario Vega, Vice Chairperson
Kenneth Forbes
Michael Madigan
Joel VanHemel
Gayle Daniel, Alternate

Also present: Parks and Recreation Director Wayne Tobey, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Danielle DeBarros, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Enrique Castro, City Manager Sheila Rose, Deputy City Manager Scott Stoudenmire, and Administrative Coordinator Danielle Nowak.

Chair Guardino noted that the meeting was being conducted live with a quorum physically present and explained the procedures for the meeting.

3. INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC

There was no input from the Public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4. A MOTION APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING(S). (2025-0521)

MOTION: Nazario Vega/Forbes – To approve the Minutes of the May 21, 2025, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting.

Upon a roll call vote, the Motion passed by a 5-0.

AGENDA ITEMS

5. A DISCUSSION BY J. KARDYS STRATEGIES REGARDING THE ANALYSIS OF PARKS AND RECREATION POLICIES AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES.

Parks and Recreation Director Wayne Tobey provided a brief background on Jack Kardys,

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of J. Kardys Strategies and advised the organization would be writing policies and best practices for events and youth sports programs.

Mr. Kardys made a presentation regarding the project, advising the primary focus would be on ball fields, including policies, best practices, quality control measures, and other factors required to run a ball field organization within a Parks and Recreation structure. He reviewed study methodology, analysis, and example service and utilization percentages.

Paul Viera, Coconut Creek, asked if the number of children involved in programming included children from outside Coconut Creek. He noted the addressable market may be larger than what was considered. Mr. Kardys noted the numbers included those registered in Creek Sports and with the nonprofit organizations. He stated information on residency was being tracked and would be reviewed as part of the study.

There was discussion regarding Coconut Creek children participating in Parkland and Coral Springs recreational sports and if those numbers were being tracked. Mr. Kardys stated there was no way of determining this without broadening the scope to go into the data from other cities. Discussion continued regarding the ratio of children from Coconut Creek and other cities involved in programming.

Discussion ensued regarding the phasing and timeline of the project. Mr. Kardys explained they were in the early stages and anticipated the draft report in four (4) to six (6) weeks.

Board discussion continued regarding tracking of field maintenance costs, facility utilization, downtime and recovery for fields, sod replacement, market potential, historical field availability, national data, seasonality, and registration information provided to the City. Mr. Kardys and Mr. Tobey provided additional details as appropriate.

Ron Shamai, Coconut Creek, commented on the preliminary data gathered and suggested nationwide data was misleading as it did not take into account weather and population in the region. He asked how much the income was for each category and asserted that if more money was being made on soccer, there was no reason to look at baseball. He asked what the study was trying to conclude and what the City was trying to gain. He noted that birthday parties, rentals, and comparison with other cities should also be reviewed.

Mr. Kardys advised that cost recovery was part of the analysis that was being done. He noted national data was utilized because State data was not available. He explained the census data provided was just a starting point in looking at the potential sports market and noted this was not an audit.

Chair Guardino pointed out there were no findings at this time, but the results of the study would come with recommendations that would then be reviewed. Mr. Kardys confirmed the intent of this presentation was to outline the scope of the project.

Ingrid Guardino, 4910 NW 64 Street, Coconut Creek, expressed appreciation for the impact the City's sports programs had on her child's life. She asked the standard for ability to use the fields and asked if the analysis would include using turf or other materials. Mr. Kardys commented on the need for open play time to be available to the general public. He stated recommendations would be made regarding the pros and cons of synthetic turf,

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and discussed alternatives adopted in other areas.

Roger Pineda, 3646 Asperwood Circle, Coconut Creek, stated soccer was expanding and was bringing a lot of residents into the community. He advised that going back into the data was not useful because the City was growing and stated he hoped the objective was to bring more opportunities into the community and grow those opportunities. He noted he wanted his child to be able to play in Coconut Creek and not have to travel. He agreed with previous comments that the comparison data should not be national.

Brittany Rodriguez, representative of the Coconut Creek Girls Softball, asked for clarification on the registration figures used in the presentation. She stated the registration numbers for her program had increased to eighty-five (85) participants and were the highest since the COVID-19 pandemic. She highlighted the program as among the few dedicated to female participants and stated expansion was a struggle because of field availability. She noted she saw a need for better allocation of resources, a better understanding and analysis of seasonal functionality, and guidelines for sharing spaces used for dual purposes.

Mr. Shamai stated a lot of changes were needed. He asserted the City needed to market its programs and suggested they stop charging the little kids for sports to get them started in the system. He noted the City should look at opportunities for transportation to bring the children of SOS Children's Village into the programs. He asserted leagues need changes to be more accessible, coaches need supervision, and coaches that cheat should be kicked out.

Tina Nuzzi, 3956 NW 56 Street, Coconut Creek agreed that SOS Children's Village needed support for transportation. She stated her organization had offered free soccer, but they did not have a reliable way to get kids to the field. She asked if the ratio of residents versus non-residents was considered when renting fields to outside clubs. She stated she was a big proponent of recreation programs, but as the kids' skills improve, they do not have a place to go in the City. She noted that soccer was the number one (1) sport, but there was not a dedicated, lined field, making it nearly impossible for participants in low-cost programs to play games in Coconut Creek. She stated the same applied to softball. Ms. Nuzzi asked if a survey would be going out to residents. Mr. Kardys advised that was not part of the scope of the study.

Paul Viera agreed with previous comments regarding competing for fields while also renting space to outside programs. He asserted the goal should be to support the residents as much as possible. He commented on people being told that if they want to play soccer competitively, they should go to other municipalities and stated the City should be working to improve.

Alexis Barrios, 5553 NW 39 Avenue, Coconut Creek, shared his experience growing up in Coconut Creek. He stated he had been priced out at an early age because his family was unable to afford the competitive programs. He noted that he and his friends would go to Sabal Pines Park and were frequently kicked out for playing soccer. He commented that he wished the recreation program could be expanded.

Laura Fiermonte, 4539 NW 51 Court, Coconut Creek, stated the softball program lost field space to Little League, and the surfaces were not up to where they need to be in the areas

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available. She noted this was the only option for girls and asked that even though they were a small number, they still get what they deserve.

Chair Guardino thanked Mr. Kardys for taking the time to be present and speaking with the community. He stated he did not hear any discussion of the level of satisfaction the participants had in the programs and asked if this was being considered along with the numbers. Mr. Kardys advised this was not a part of the scope of the study. Chair Guardino stated the numbers looked as though soccer had more participants than all the other sports combined and asked if the resources were being distributed accordingly. Mr. Kardys responded that the cost recovery analysis would show more accurately how the expenses were being allocated. Continuing, Chair Guardino asked if the City's fields matched the best practices in other cities. He reiterated that there was not a single lined soccer field in Coconut Creek and asked if this was the norm or if the City was behind in its services. He noted George S. Gerber Park was currently lined because a non-profit soccer club had paid for it, and commented that the process was archaic. Mr. Kardys stated this would typically be determined by individual cities based on use. He noted this was the first he had heard of this concern. Chair Guardino stated over the past five (5) years, the level of participation in soccer had gone through the roof. He asked if the study would look at whether the City had kept up with that growth and what could be fixed if it was not. Mr. Kardys advised that the report would include recommendations, regarding availability of fields versus demand and efficient use of existing resources. Chair Guardino asked if the growth model would be reviewed to determine what could be done to start providing the same access and resources that other cities provide. Mr. Kardys stated that was not within this scope, but they would get a good snapshot of what was available now and how it was being used.

Board Member Gayle Daniel stated a lot of these discussion points were addressed in the Master Plan, but it was completed before COVID-19 and may need to be updated.

Chair Guardino commented that the City Manager had shared that she was also concerned with updating the Master Plan.

City Manager Sheila Rose confirmed that Mr. Kardys had a limited scope to address some Parks and Recreation Department needs, but staff was willing and interested in improving. She stated the Master Plan was developed as a ten (10)-year plan, and staff was always looking to update the information included.

Ms. Nuzzi asked for additional clarification on what was being evaluated. She stated when her daughter played at Sabal Pines Park, the field was not separated from the lake, and this was a concern for balls getting in the lake and for younger children running around. She asked if this could be considered. Mr. Tobey advised this has been identified as a topic to investigate.

Vice Chair Nazario Vega expressed appreciation for everyone who had come out to share their thoughts and show their care for the kids and the City's parks.

Chair Guardino agreed and stated he had been on the Board for two (2) years and did not remember seeing members of the public at prior meetings. He acknowledged this was an issue that people clearly care about and want to see growth for the better.

6. A PRESENTATION REGARDING THE FLORIDA RECREATION DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE PROPOSED PICKLEBALL COURTS AT LAKESIDE PARK.

Grants Administrator Dan Nelson provided a presentation, regarding the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program grant for the proposed pickleball courts at Lakeside Park. He stated the project had been reviewed and an approved site plan was in place, but staff was now seeking grant reimbursement funds in the amount of \$200,000 to assist in the improvement.

Chair Guardino opened the item to public comment.

Brittany Rodriguez, Coconut Creek Girls Softball, stated that she had provided a letter of recommendation in support of the grant and suggested others present could provide additional advocacy.

There were no further questions or comments from the public.

Vice Chair Nazario Vega noted the costs would far exceed \$200,000 and asked for clarification on the phased roll out of the project. Mr. Nelson stated this grant related to phase one (1), and once phase two (2) was funded by the City budget, noting that he would write the appropriate grant for phase two (2) in accordance with the project timeline.

7. SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Enrique Castro provided an overview of Special Events, as follows:

- Hometown Market;
- Salsa in September;
- Movie in the Graveyard;
- Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Park;
- Annual Fall Harvest Festival; and
- Disco in December.

8. RECREATION AND ATHLETIC PROGRAMS UPDATE.

Mr. Castro provided an update on recent and upcoming recreation and athletic programs, including:

- Girls Basketball League;
- Youth Soccer;
- Monster Mash at the Recreation Complex;
- Sustainable Series: Public Safety;
- Completion of the inclusive, accessible playground at the Recreation Complex;
- Renovations to the Cypress Pavilion;
- Completion of repairs to the tennis, pickleball, and racquetball courts at Windmill Park;

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- Preserve our Parks at Winston Park and Nature Trail;
- Senior Expo;
- Flag Football Championships;
- Outdoor Pickleball Leagues;
- Adult Flag Football League;
- Adult Kickball League;
- Special Needs Bowling League;
- Special Needs Fun and Fitness; and
- Special Needs Halloween Party.

Ms. Nuzzi asked where this information was available for residents. She suggested there may be more participation if details were posted on social media.

Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Danielle DeBarros noted staff was aware the trend was moving toward digital information rather than paper flyers and the website was not necessarily drawing people. She stated the City's social media was shared with other departments, but Parks and Recreation Department channels were being explored.

9. CREEK FIT UPDATE.

Mr. Castro provided an update on Creek Fit, as follows:

- Current membership was at 2,252; and
- New treadmills were recently received at Creek Fit North.

10. PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE.

Mr. Tobey provided a brief update on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. He stated Sunshine Drive Park and Donaldson Park were under construction, with anticipated completion at the end of December, weather dependent. Staff was reviewing the shop drawings for Lakeside Park and anticipated a notice to proceed in the next six (6) months. He stated permit comments and external permits were being finalized for Oak Trails Park, and a bid would be advertised in the next few weeks. He explained that once a notice to proceed was issued, the timeline for completion would be one (1) year. He noted that a lot of work at this park was funded with grant dollars. Mr. Tobey shared that a pre-construction meeting had been held earlier in the week for the playground at George S. Gerber Park. The playground would have an airplane theme, and work was anticipated to take four (4) to six (6) weeks, beginning in mid-October.

Chair Guardino asked if closures were expected at George S. Gerber Park to accommodate work on the playground. Mr. Tobey stated there would be a fenced off area, but it would not affect the playing fields.

Paul Viera commented that balls fly into the playground at George S. Gerber Park due to proximity to the soccer and baseball fields and asked if anything was being done to address this. Mr. Tobey stated the project would include a shade canopy over the playground. Discussion continued. Mr. Tobey noted an extension of the backstop was

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included in the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

Mr. Castro added that scheduling of the fields was also being utilized as a tool to ensure the spaces were not all being utilized at the same time, at least until it was determined if the backstop was curbing the issue.

11. COMMUNICATION AND REPORTS

There were no comments or reports to share from the Board or staff.

12. SET DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Joseph J. Kavanagh, MMC
City Clerk

Date