



FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES: 4/19/24, Water Safety Products Palm Bay, FL

The following members were in attendance:

Matthew Sparling	Miami-Dade County	President
Phil Wotton	Delray Beach	Treasurer
A.J. Miller	Volusia County	Secretary
Gerry Falconer	Miami Beach	VP South
Joe Westerman	Manatee County (Retired)	Advisor
Jo Wagenhals	Pompano Beach	
Ian Montgelas	Martin County	
Eisen Witcher	Brevard County	
Andy Ritchie	St. Lucie County	
Tom Fogan	Fort Lauderdale (Retired)	
Chet Brown	Manatee County	
Marc Fichtner	Lantana Beach	
Jessica Earl	St. Johns County	
Derek Swor	Brevard County	

The following Lifetime Members were in attendance:

Breck Ballou	FT. Lauderdale (Retired)
Bob Maler	Miami-Dade (Retired)

The following members were in attendance on Zoom:

Andrea Moreira	Pinellas County
Rick Hinkson	Sarasota
Jason Casanova	Miami Beach

The following guests were in attendance:

Jackie Young	Surfing's Endless Summer Evolution and Preservation Foundation
Wyatt Werneth	Drown Zero
Jeff Scabarozi	Brevard County (Retired)

The following members communicated that they were unable to attend:

Alex Bagwell	Fort Lauderdale
Tom Mohady	Boynton Beach



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Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Meeting called to order by Matt Sparling at 1105 hours. Welcome and thanks to everyone for joining.

Motion made to approve minutes from March meeting, approved by Sparling.

Communications

- Falconer brought in a news article in reference to Wags saving a cyclist hit by vehicle. Motor vehicle hit multiple cyclists. Patient had split carotid. CPR performed by Wags.
- Jackie Young asked about getting social media for “Swim Near a Lifeguard” campaign
- Sparling putting out a press release for “Swim Near a Lifeguard” summer campaign
- Surfing’s Endless Summer Evolution and Preservation will be highlighting their contributions to the different organizations on their website
 - Putting together a press release for billboards from area beaches
- Gerry asked for mor Chief’s coins as they great to hand out to mayors and commissioners

Officer Reports

Matt Sparling President-

- \$410,608 donated in total during grant program from Surfing’s Endless Summer Evolution and Preservation
- Jackie Young was given mini billboards saying “Swim Near a Lifeguard”

Contributions to date-

- **Flags Donations:**
 - \$23,000 - 2022
 - \$21,000 - 2023
 - \$25,188- 2024
 - Total -\$69,188
- **Billboard Donations:**
 - \$95,000 - 2022
 - \$126,000 0- 2023
 - \$143,481 -2024
 - Total - \$364,481
- **Overall contributions-**
 - \$433,669



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Sparling: Miami-Dade-

- Quarterly calls increased 700 in the month of march for Miami-Dade from last year
- Had a call where handguns were brandished on the beach
 - Another where a fake leg was used as a weapon
- 5 overdoses in a span of 30 minutes
- Lauderdale by the Sea, Ken Rubbock, is looking to create a lifeguard service in Lauderdale by the Sea post sand collapse

Joe Westerman Advisor – Manatee County (Retired)-

- Commended Sparling's work on the banquet

Phil Wotton Treasurer:

• Statement Balance	March 29, 2024	\$4,585.76
• March Expenses	Florida Hotel	\$500.00
• March Income		
◦	Deerfield Beach	\$125.00
• April Income		\$0.00
• April Expenses		\$0.00
• Banquet Outstanding		Florida Open Water

Delray Beach-

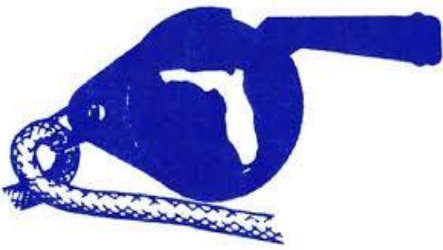
- Ocean Mile Swim, May 11, 2024
- Annual Lifeguard Competition, May 15, 2024
- USLA Apex Surfboat Race, July 10, 2024
- Municipal Elections, three newly elected officials. Mayor & two commissioners
- Three full-time positions requested in FY25 budget eliminated in meeting w/ FC.
- 600 parking spaces in Delray
 - The rest are from local hotels
- Due for a dredge project in 2025
- Calm water during spring break

A.J. Miller: Secretary –

- Gerry with a "G"

Volusia-

- Ordering 6 new F150s for vehicle replacement'
- Renourishment project starting soon
- 200+ water rescues in the month of March



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- Water rescue in New Smyrna Beach where victim was recovered pulseless, ROSC on the way to the hospital and patient made full recovery
 - Covered by national media
- Working with the Department of Justice and United Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 - They are building a tourism destination set to be complete in 2030
 - They have been visiting our agency for the past few years to learn our processes
- We have one concrete control tower going out for bid
- Starting this winter, we will be building our portable lifeguard towers in house

SOUTH

Gerry Falconer: Miami Beach VP South

- Welcomes us all to his world of spring break
- Starts on MLK weekend until the middle of March
- No longer an issue of college aged kids
 - More so locals looking to cause disturbance
- Miami Beach was very much a police state
 - Great spring break
- Spring Break campaign was initiated internally a year ago
- Miami Beach received another raise, will update pay study after contract is signed

Jason Casanova: Miami Beach –

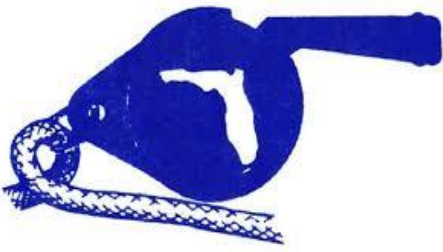
- Huge effect on spring break from internal campaign
- Collected statistics each days
- Decrease of 36% in attendance from 22m to 1.4 during the 5 weeks of spring break
- Fire alarms still increased
- Feels largest affect was closing the beach at 1830
- Trying to add more towers
- Project Reefline was approved last November providing artificial reefs for 7 miles
 - Potentially budgeting a tower per year, more staff
- Worked with IT to GPS towers for external website to check camera to see where you want to visit and the closest open tower

Marcos Fernandez: City of Miami (not Miami Beach) – Not in Attendance

Alex Bagwell: Fort Lauderdale- Unable to attend

Jim McCrady: Hallandale Beach – Unable to attend

Ramo Cline: Hollywood Beach – Not in Attendance



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Mike Huck: Dania Beach – Not in Attendance

Jo Wagenhals: Pompano/Deerfield –

- Congratulated Miami Beach marketing team on breaking up with you campaign
- Not much of an influx from spring break
- March winds did not arrive until April
- Had C/O placed on new headquarters
 - Potentially opening May 15 at ribbon cutting
- Use to switch from 8 to 10 hours days during season
 - Kept staff on 8-hour shift back in January
 - Put the 3 supervisors back on 8-hour shifts
 - Both LTs were told they must work both weekend days

Mike Brown: Deerfield- Not in Attendance

Tom Fogan: Fort Lauderdale – Nothing to discuss

Luis Andrade: – Miami-Dade County – Not in Attendance

CENTRAL

Clint Tracy: Boca Raton VP Central– Not in Attendance

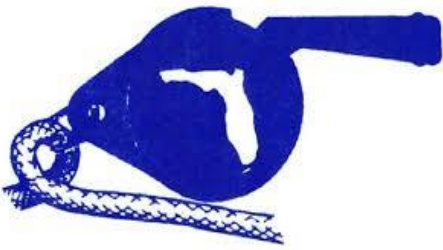
Tom Mahady: Boynton Beach – Unable to Attend

Ian Montgelas: Martin County –

- Fire Rescue admin and commission agreed to strip away special risk from future hires
- Salary study, starting up to \$24.52
 - To combat, administration cut special risk
 - Also cut 10-hour shifts
- Gerry asked if they track after hours rescues in the hopes of renegotiating 10-hour shifts
 - As of yesterday, 10-hour shifts returned
- Gerry asked about high school spring break
 - Martin County SO did a great job over the past 5-6 years cleaning up issues with younger students

Andy Ritchie: St. Lucie County –

- Spring break was crowded, increases every year



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- HS spring break was bad for a couple days until weather moved in
- 1 FTE vacancy
- Salary survey for FTE
 - Anywhere between 5%-12% based on time on duty. Also getting 5% COLA
- Director of Public Safety fighting for staff and division growth
- History, went from having 8 beaches open and guarded year-round to only having 2 beaches
- Discussion for Munroe v City of Miami Beach

Johnathan Billings: Indian River County – Not in Attendance

Nathan Rieck: Vero Beach – Not in Attendance

Ken Keaton: John's Island - Not in Attendance

Mark Fitchner: Lantana Beach-

- Council approved "Master Plan"
 - Total revamp of Ocean Ave, tearing down old buildings to build stores and hotels
 - Redoing entire boardwalk
- Sending a team to the Delray competition
- Proposal in for parttime pay raise
- Proposal in for name change to ocean rescue
- Proposal for IRB program shot down but will still work towards future approval
- Going to investigate the reef program in order to bring more commerce to Lantana Beach
- Inquired as to what company is developing the reef project in Miami Beach
- Rob Caldwell's wife dropped off old FBPCA items
 - Going to bring them to the next meeting

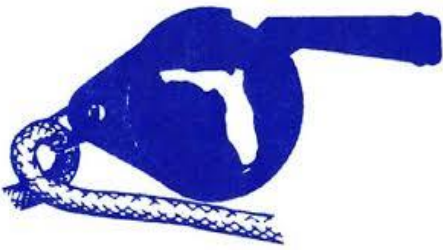
Helena Khoshnevis: Breakers – Not in Attendance

North

Jeremy Watkins: St. Johns County VP North– Not in Attendance

Jessica Earl: St. Johns County-

- 4 FTE approved, applications are out
 - High risk and 12-hour days
- Only four positions not covered by the union
- New Fire Chief
- 42 miles of beach with only 11 guarded



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- No parking lots are paid
 - Added six with no guards
- Staff received \$1 raise, but this year's budget does not reflect the increase
- Currently have 3 beach renourishment projects

Stephen Fender: Brevard County – Not in Attendance

Maxwell Ervanian: Jacksonville Beach – Not in Attendance

Tom Gillin: Flagler Beach – Not in Attendance

Sam Swor: Brevard County-

- Time change in early March kept crowds quiet
- Received more spring breakers from Daytona (Bethune)
- Significant swell during spring break

Eisen Witcher: Brevard County –

- Funding dispute between city and county
 - County covers county and city beaches
 - County trying to split costs with the city
- Getting new Bosch Tower

Panhandle

Will Spivey: Panama City Beach VP Panhandle – Not in Attendance

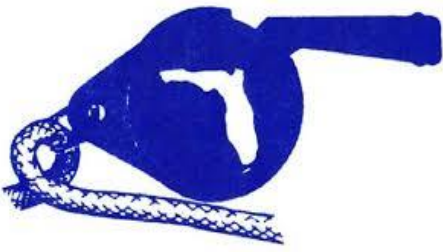
Joe DAgostino: Destin Beach – Not in Attendance

Rich Huffnegale: Okaloosa County – Not in Attendance

David Vaughan: South Walton Fire District – Not in Attendance

Austin Turnbull: Navarre

- Regionals are approved by commission
- Will be sending out lodging information to region
- Beach Chiefs meeting in Navarre at 4pm on July 16th



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Destin –

- Pan Handle is good
- Slow star to spring break
- Significant surf
- Destin 2 new FTE

Pensacola –

- Approved for new FTE
- Adding tower to Perdido Key (Florida/Bama line)

Dave Greenwood: Pensacola – Not in Attendance

Joe Earl: Gulf Shores- Not in Attendance

Daryl Paul: Panama City Beach- Not in Attendance

Dustin Mazsden: Bay County- Not in Attendance

Colin Perlaky: South Fort Walton- Not in Attendance

West Coast

Rick Hinkson: Sarasota County – Nothing to Discuss

Chet Brown: Manatee –

- Normal Spring break.
- 6 new positions approved. 3-LT and 3 FT.
- Possibly adding 1 more tower.

Patrick Bradford: Clearwater Beach – Not in Attendance

Chet Brown: Manatee County – Not in Attendance

Andrea Moreira: Pinellas County – Not in Attendance

DISPOSITION OF BILLS

No new items



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USLA Update

- Regional Zoom meeting for USLA SER Sunday
- Heroic or meritorious acts nominations to Falconer by Tuesday, April 23
- GFalconer@miamibeachfl.gov
- USLA memberships
- Certified agencies needed to input stats by March 1st
- Membership for Professional is now \$40
- Memberships for 23/24 can be purchased now, do not have to wait until June 30

New Business

- Assistant Fire Chief for North Callier County is looking to create a lifeguard service

Wyatt Werneth

- Drown Zero project used as a force multiplier
 - Adding GPS to ring buoys to call 911 if it is removed
 - Alarm on the ring buoy station
 - APP that you can view

Banquet Update-

- Awards banquet in Orlando
- \$10 per attendee to contribute to staff
- Volusia must choose a charity for the 50/50 raffle
- Door prizes-each attendant is requested to bring a few door prizes
- Room block is 25 rooms per night
- Motion to move Chief's meeting to 1pm on May 18th by Gerry Falconer, seconded by Joe Westerman. Passed
 - Chief's meeting is moved to Saturday, May 18th at 1pm

Need Submit/Discuss Disposition of Goals 2024 (if time allows)

~~FBPCA Coins are still available to be purchased~~



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Here is a DRAFT Schedule for 2024 – If anyone would like to host a meeting let us know.

2024 Meeting Schedule	
January 19	13731 Collins Ave Miami Beach, FL 33154
February 6 th @ 9am (BPOTY Presentation)	123 W. Indiana Ave, DeLand, FL 32720 Meeting to Follow
Meeting to follow at Beach HQ	515 S. Atlantic Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32118
March 13 th 11-2	Zoom
April 19 th 11-2	Water Safety Products – Palm Bay
May 18 th 1-3	Orlando --- <i>2023 Lifesaving Awards Banquet & Educational Conference. Chief's Meeting at 1pm</i>
June 21 st 11-2	Martin County
July 16 th 4-5	Navarre Beach
August 14 th 11-2	Zoom
September* 13	Lantana
October 18 th 11-2	Fort Lauderdale
November 15 th 11-2	Marsh Landing
December 13 th 11-2**	Deerfield Beach (looking at moving the meeting to the first week of December)

Meeting Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Andy Ritchie, seconded by Chet Brown at 1337

Next meeting

Florida Hotel, Orlando
May 18th. 1pm