

TIME CERTAIN 10:30 A.M.

Agenda Item #: **6E-1**

**PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: February 3, 2009

Consent  
 Ordinance

Regular  
 Public Hearing

Department: Parks and Recreation

Submitted By: Parks and Recreation Department

Submitted For: Parks and Recreation Department

**I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

**Motion and Title:** Staff recommends motion to approve: establishing a boat trailer parking fee at the County's five (5) saltwater boat ramps.

**Summary:** During the 2008/09 budget process, the Board considered a proposal to establish a boat trailer parking fee at the County's saltwater boat ramps. Due to the opposition expressed by boating interests present at the budget meeting, staff was directed to meet with representatives of the Marine Industries Association (MIA), the West Palm Beach Fishing Club and other interested parties to receive their input, and bring the matter back for further consideration. Staff has met with the organizations identified by the Board and other boating interests and there continues to be strong opposition to the proposed fee. Based on input received at the meetings, Staff has modified their original proposal and is now recommending that the Board approve a \$10 per day parking fee to be collected year round at the County's five saltwater boat ramp parks. It is further recommended that a \$75 annual parking permit be made available. Countywide (AH)

**Background and Policy Issues:** During the FY 09 budget hearings, the proposal to implement boat trailer parking fees was met with opposition from the MIA and other concerned citizens. As a result, the Board directed staff to meet with the interested parties to discuss their concerns and various methodologies for fee collection. In the initial discussions with MIA, it was suggested that if the County imposes boat trailer parking fees, daily and annual permits should be included in the fee schedule. Additionally, the MIA recommended that freshwater ramps be included in the proposal. Due to the limited demand, capital costs, and the costs for collection of fees at the freshwater ramps, the research indicates that not enough revenue would be generated to justify the freshwater fees.

In a follow up letter to our meeting, the MIA restated their objection to any kind of fee related to boat launching or parking in Palm Beach County and listed several reasons for their opposition. The reasons and staff response are provided on page 3.


(Continued on Page 3)

**Attachments:**

1. Exhibit A – Projected Fee Estimates
2. Exhibit B – Operational and Capital Cost Estimates
3. Ramp Location Map

Recommended by:   
Department Director

1/23/09  
Date

Approved by:   
Assistant County Administrator

1/29/09  
Date

**II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

**A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Fiscal Years	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Capital Expenditures	<u>113,500</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Operating Costs	<u>-0-</u>	<u>47,500</u>	<u>47,500</u>	<u>47,500</u>	<u>47,500</u>
External Revenues	<u>-0-</u>	<u>(260,000)</u>	<u>(260,000)</u>	<u>(260,000)</u>	<u>(260,000)</u>
Program Income (County)	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
In-Kind Match (County)	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
<b>NET FISCAL IMPACT</b>	<b><u>113,500</u></b>	<b><u>(212,500)</u></b>	<b><u>(212,500)</u></b>	<b><u>(212,500)</u></b>	<b><u>(212,500)</u></b>
<b># ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)</b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes  No    
 Budget Account No.: Fund  Department  Unit    
 Object  Program N/A

**B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR**

Capital Expenditures 3600-581-9900-9908 \$113,500   
 FUND: Park Improvement Fund   
 UNIT: Reserves

**FUTURE FISCAL YEARS**

Annual Estimated Revenue 0001-580-5225-4725 (\$260,000)   
 Annual Estimated Operating Costs 0001-580-5225-5201 \$47,500   
 FUND: General Fund   
 UNIT: Parks Parking

Fiscal impact of future fiscal years may be adjusted based on historical data.

C. Departmental Fiscal Review: ckopelakis

**III. REVIEW COMMENTS**

**A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Development and Control Comments:**

If this agenda item is approved Parks will return to the board to amend : : the budget

John Dink 1-26-09   
 OFMB 12/26/09   
 CN 1/23/09   
 SH 1/23/09

Dr. J. Jarent 1/27/09   
 Contract Development and Control

**B. Legal Sufficiency:**

Anne Deloyant 1/29/09   
 Assistant County Attorney

**C. Other Department Review:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Department Director

REVISED 10/95   
 ADM FORM 01

(Continued from Page 1)

- 1) "Such a fee would unfairly discriminate against boaters as the only group charged a user fee for use of County parks." **Their assertion is inaccurate; fees are currently in place for ball field use, campgrounds, water parks, pools, golf courses, picnic pavilions, etc.**
- 2) "Boaters contribute to the funds to build boat ramps through state and federal gas taxes, boat registration fees, fishing tackle taxes, and boat import fees. Boaters also pay for maintenance of the ramps through ad valorem taxes." **While these statements are true, supplementary fees are collected for specialty uses. Trailer parking requires an unusual amount of valuable space to be allocated to one person as compared to typical park uses. Users of other park facilities with a fee also pay ad valorem taxes.**
- 3) "Rising fuels costs, loss of working waterfront and affordable public marinas, lack of parking and other economic factors are driving many people out of boating and, by extension, forcing marina businesses to lay off employees or shut their doors entirely." **The economy is certainly a factor in making financial decisions; the Parks and Recreation Department has increased some fees and explored others to help offset major budget reductions. More recent research indicates that revenue from boat launching fees at other locations is down substantially, suggesting that the lower end of our revenue projection scale (Exhibit A), may be most accurate for initial revenue projection purposes.**
- 4) "More fees aimed at the boating public are sure to exacerbate the situation and will put additional strain on an already challenged industry." **The troubled economy is certainly impacting everyone, but it is felt that the minimal boat trailer parking fee will not contribute to a further decline in ramp use or negatively affect the boating industry.**

Attached Exhibit A provides revenue projections for saltwater boat trailer parking fees, including daily and annual permits. The daily permit revenue estimates are based on \$10.00/day and 7,500-10,000 users annually. The annual permit revenue estimates are based on \$75.00/year at 2,500-5,000 users. These projections are based on information from cities and counties that charge for boat trailer parking, and the current estimated use at the County's boat ramps. The proposed fees will generate total revenue of \$260,000 - \$475,000 depending upon the number of users.

Kiosks will be installed to facilitate collection of daily fees, allowing the department to collect fees 365 days per year instead of just weekends and holidays. Annual permits will be administered by Parks and Recreation staff who will investigate the possibility of online purchase of annual permits. The estimated capital cost for purchase and installation of kiosks is \$113,500 which also includes software, hand held citation units, space numbers, and signage. Operational costs are estimated at \$47,500 annually (Exhibit B) with primary enforcement and supervision provided by the Sheriff's Park Enforcement Unit.

Exhibit A

Projected Boat Trailer Parking Fees – Saltwater Ramps

<u>Annual Permits @ \$75.00</u>	<u>2500</u>	<u>5000</u>
	\$187,500	\$375,000
<u>Daily Permits @ \$10.00</u>	<u>7500</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	\$75,000	\$100,000
<u>Total Combined Revenue</u>	<u>\$262,500</u>	<u>\$475,000</u>

There are approximately 38,000 trailered boats in Palm Beach County.  
There are 5 County saltwater boat ramps and 459 parking spaces.

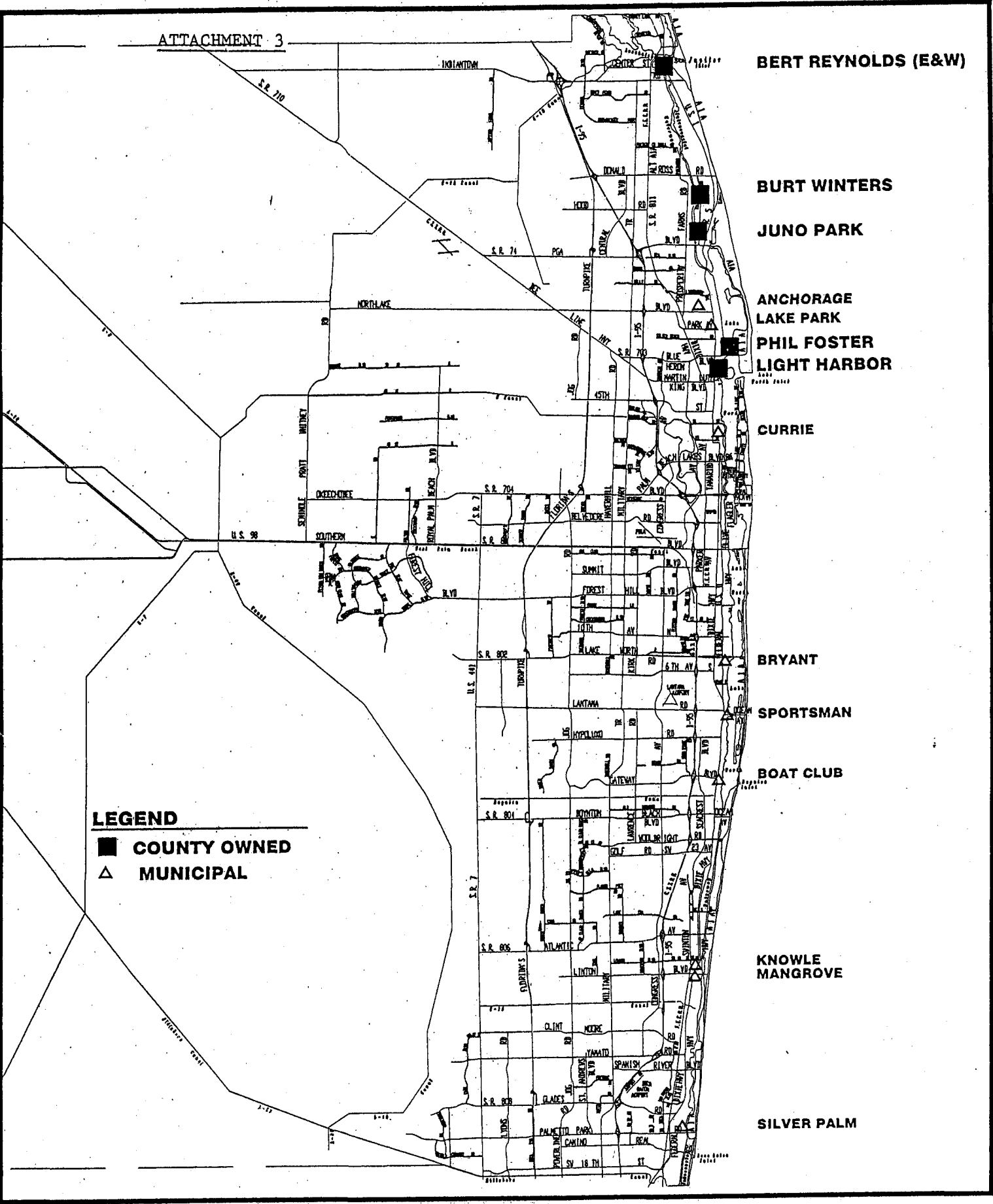
ATTACHMENT 2

Exhibit "B"

BOAT TRAILER PARKING-SALTWATER

Operational Expenses		365	Capital Costs	
Personnel	\$25,000*	Days/Year	Kiosk Meters (9)	\$67,500
Vehicles (2)	\$12,000	Monitored by Park Enforcement Unit and Part Time Staff (Community Service Aides)	Installation	\$8,500
Gasoline	\$4,000		Citation Units (2)	\$8,000
Vehicle Repairs	\$4,000		Space Numbers	\$14,000
Supplies (Tickets)	\$1,500		Software	\$12,000
Equipment Repairs	\$1,000		Signage	\$3,500
Total Expenses	\$47,500		Total Capital Cost	\$113,500

ATTACHMENT 3



BERT REYNOLDS (E&W)

BURT WINTERS

JUNO PARK

ANCHORAGE  
LAKE PARK

PHIL FOSTER  
LIGHT HARBOR

CURRIE

BRYANT

SPORTSMAN

BOAT CLUB

KNOWLE  
MANGROVE

SILVER PALM

**LEGEND**

- COUNTY OWNED
- ▲ MUNICIPAL

SCALE: N.T.S.



**PALM BEACH COUNTY  
COUNTY & MUNICIPAL OWNED  
SALT WATER ACCESS  
BOAT RAMPS**

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

DESIGNED BY: R.J.H.  
DRAWN BY: R.J.H.

APPROVED BY:



**EXHIBIT 'C'**