

February 22, 2022

TO: Mr. Mike Reals, Director of Public Works

FROM: Ms. Charlene Adair, Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) Chairperson

SUBJECT: Jetty Park Issues assigned to the PAC

Mr. Reals, you brought this assignment to the PAC on January 20, 2022, titled "Jetty Park hours". Further explanation revealed that the City had received complaints concerning evening noise and tailgating in Jetty Park, and the PAC was being asked for ideas to address these issues. The noise seemed to be twofold: (1) vehicles were apparently parking and playing very loud music in the park, and, at times, disrupting the live band performances at the business across the street. There were reports of large speakers on the back of trucks to further amplify the noise. (2) Much was mentioned about the loud "boom boom" base noise, which carries throughout many blocks into the neighborhoods. We were unable to get a clear definition of tailgating and did not verify that citizens were cooking in the park on other than City-provided grills. However, it is a common practice for citizens to bring chairs and sit in the park to enjoy the music across the street.

The PAC decided to gather data as a first step and then brainstorm ideas to address the issue. At our meeting on February 17, 2022, members reported on their research:

- State laws concerning playing loud music from vehicles (moving?) were challenged in court, so there is a hesitation to enforce on those grounds.
- City Ordinance Chapter 28, Article 1, section 28-31 Prohibited Activities (29) states: Play or operate any radio, stereo, public address system, or any other sound emitting device in such a manner that the sound produced is audible at a distance of greater than 100 feet, unless otherwise permitted for special events..... A warning is required prior to action to enforce this section.
- This same Ordinance clearly addresses prohibiting grilling in the park except for provided grills and prohibiting alcohol use in the parks.
- Members either called and/or reviewed Ordinances and practices from the following jurisdictions: Miami Dade, Ft. Lauderdale, Punta Gorda, Jacksonville Beach, and Clearwater. All had similar Ordinances that they enforce for their parks, including those having venues in the park and businesses close by.

Fort Pierce Deputy Chief Bob Ridle gathered data on FPPD calls and disturbances at Jetty Park using a 6-month period (Feb. – Aug.) from last year and the year before. He reported no significant difference in the number of calls or disturbances year over year. This past year, there were 117 calls and 24 disturbances. This would be at least one disturbance every week, which he stated would be unacceptable if he lived close to the park. The PAC agreed. FPPD officers also initiated 500 walk arounds at their own discretion.

The PAC then listed possible ways to address these issues given the above data:

- Install creative signs (not the usual list of rules) to educate the public concerning noise in parks and cooking/gathering if deemed an issue. Use the FPPD lighted sign to introduce this rule and list the fine. This is what worked at Jaycee Park!
- Educate FPPD officers on this Parks Ordinance and begin enforcing it as required by law (warning first, then enforcement) and displayed on signs.
- Request more FPPD Jetty Park drive throughs in the evenings and Police visibility.
- Close the parking lot or the entire park from dusk until dawn like all other City Parks. The PAC has serious concerns about this idea, given that many fish overnight at this park and that this could just move the issues to another parking lot close by whether that be the paid lot or other City lots.

Please let us know if there are other questions for us to research or explore or if you require more data on what has been said. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our City.

Best Regards,  
Charlene Adair, Parks Advisory Committee Chairperson