



# WEST PALM BEACH FISHING CLUB

• Established 1934 •

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February 23, 2017

Mayor Jeri Muoio  
City of West Palm Beach  
401 Clematis Street  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Dear Mayor Muoio,

On behalf of the over 1,400 members of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club (WPBFC), I am writing to express our concern regarding the 2016 Currie Park Master Plan proposal. This proposal, compared to the 1999 Currie Park Master Plan proposal, basically eliminates boat trailer parking for those using the park's boat ramp. The public boat ramp at Currie Park is the city's only saltwater ramp. We are very concerned that elements of the most recent master plan will render the public ramp unusable. It appears that the only accommodations for parking will be in a garage. While there are several examples across the country of parking structures designed to accommodate trucks and boat trailers, the cost of building such a structure in our view is prohibitive. Saltwater ramps in particular require large parking spaces and generous turning radiuses that would make the cost of building a suitable parking garage extremely expensive. Many truck and boat trailer rigs today are in excess of 60 feet. It should be noted that through the years the City has used grants from the Florida Inland Navigation District and the FWC's Florida Boating Improvement Program to help maintain and improve the public boat ramp and staging docks at Currie Park. We caution the city on implementing a plan that would be contrary to the agreements executed to secure those public funds.

While most of our concern is related to maintaining public boating and fishing access, we also have serious reservations about the floating water features highlighted in the most recent master plan. Many members of our organization have a great deal of knowledge regarding boat ramps, docks, fishing piers, bulkheads and other related structures along the waterfront. While certainly very innovative, the floating features described in the 2016 Currie Park Master Plan, in our view, are not a good fit for the location. The eastern exposure makes this portion of the waterfront vulnerable to strong easterly oriented winds and boat wakes. When coupled with extreme tides, we believe these structures, which are below the waterline, would become a public safety and financial liability.

Physical Address:  
201 5th Street  
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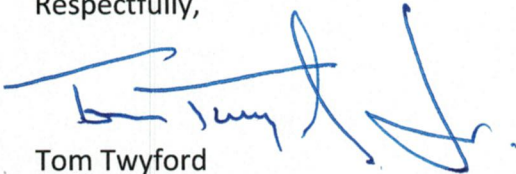
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We applaud the city on it's partnership with Palm Beach County's Department of Environmental Resources Management in creating 'Living Shorelines' off the seawall at Currie Park and Osprey Park. These planters will create important habitat for fish and other wildlife, help improve water quality and will provide shoreline stabilization further protecting the city's significant investment in the bulkhead at Currie Park. The WPBFC supports efforts by the city to improve the safety, public access and overall aesthetics of Currie Park, as long as those improvements do not eliminate or significantly impede the many traditional uses the park was created for in the first place.

Respectfully,



Tom Twyford  
President

Cc: Pete Schulz, WPBFC Chairman

Jon Ward, City of West Palm Beach CRA Director

Mark Crosley, FIND Executive Director

Chuck Collins, Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County