

**GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR "HYBRID" MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
April 5, 2021

The "HYBRID" MEETING took place in the Willow Theatre at Sugar Sand Park and was also conducted virtually through the Zoom platform. The meeting was called to order by CHAIRMAN Susan Vogelgesang at 5:15 p.m.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Craig F. Ehrnst  
Steven M. Engel  
Robert K. Rollins, Jr.  
Susan Vogelgesang  
Erin Wright

**CHANGES TO AGENDA**

**PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

The following people emailed public requests to be read into the record:

*Jim Hartnett, Judy Messing, Tori Golden, Cindy Liberty, Tim Lynch, Judy Vandemark, Kelly & Luke Tabara, Manuel Rodriguez, Sheldon & Ellen Hechtman, Sally Mattison, Judy Vandermark, Hazel Rudich, Lara Meier, Gail Larkin, Sharon Natalini, Charlene Leon, Paul Homer, Tammy Hall, Julie Kristoffersson, Anne Berlin, Nancy Stroud, Margie Talbott, Danielle Siegler, Amelia Marinello, Barbara Briggs, Karin Nordlander, Mystica Green, Nadine Magee, Jay Magee, Dave & Susan O'Brien, Debbie Stemp, Nancy Tuman, Karla Euell, David Wen Riccardi-Zhu, Nancy Bourgeois, Susan Meltzer, Yash Bhagwanji, Jolene Herman, Grace Chanell, Judy & Andy Friedman, Maria Chadam, Sheila Caplan Reinken, Anita Holland, Lisa Hergo, Matthew Thompson, Julia Norris, and Marie Parker all support the Pipes and Pumping project for the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center.*

*Manjunath Pendakur, Ph.D.* Vice President of the Friends of Gumbo Limbo, supports the seawater pump project for Gumbo Limbo Nature Center and feels that installing the new pumps for the future will be a smart and timely move.

*Jim Miller*, Friends of Gumbo Limbo, stressed the critically urgent need for Gumbo Limbo to replace the current inadequate pump system.

*Michele Peel* believes that there is a need for a reliable saltwater system at Gumbo Limbo, however, she believes that the proposed system is oversized for the current and foreseeable needs and that FAU should contribute for their portion of the water usage which is approximately 10-20% of the total flow.

*Robert DuKate* offered general recommendations on how to improve the Ocean Breeze property.

*Jackie Glissman* inquired about the construction process for the Ocean Breeze project. She is concerned that the rise and fall of the water levels at the lake may affect the stability of her houses.

*Georgina Sachel* offered her views as a design professional for the Ocean Breeze property RFI.

*The following people called into the meeting:*

*Bruce Diller Verstandig* offered his suggestions for the Ocean Breeze property and questioned if it is legal for the District to collect taxes for recreation and donate it to a nonprofit organization for the Gumbo Limbo Pipes & Pumping Project; he suggested that the District renegotiate its agreements with the City and look at the Need's Assessment Survey results.

*Erik Silver*, Director of Tennis at the Boca Raton Resort and Club, stated that he is working on a privately funded, public-private project for a racquet club for the Ocean Breeze property. He will submit a response to the Ocean Breeze RFI.

*Robyn Morigerato*, a Gumbo Limbo volunteer for over 15 years, stated that the time has come to complete the seawater pumping project, she feels that it is not a luxury but a necessity to keep the animals alive.

*Dr. Jeanette Wyneken*, Professor at FAU and Director of the FAU Marine Lab at Gumbo Limbo, clarified that FAU has and still helps support the pumps system with the maintenance of the priming pumps; the facility depends upon the seawater for research and education; believes that the proposed system is adequate; and is in favor of seeing this plan move forward.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS:**

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve the minutes of the Regular "Hybrid" meeting held on March 15, 2021, at 5:15 p.m.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Commissioner Ehrnst	Yes
Commissioner Engel	Yes
Commissioner Rollins	Yes
Commissioner Vogelgesang	Yes
Commissioner Wright	Yes

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

**1. Ocean Breeze Discussion**

*CSR Athletics Contract*

The CSR Athletics Contract for the Boca Teeca Property and Land Clearing project was presented for the Board's approval. The final contract price of \$552,795 will complete the demolition, the fencing, the tree pruning, and the clearance of the three corners.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Rollins and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the CSR Athletics contract for the Boca Teeca Property and Land Clearing project in the amount of \$552,795.00 as presented.

**Discussion:**

**Roll Call Vote:**

Commissioner Ehrnst	Yes
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Commissioner Engel	Yes
Commissioner Rollins	Yes
Commissioner Vogelgesang	Yes
Commissioner Wright	Yes

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**2. Pipes & Pumping Project**

The City requested an estimated \$3,666,246 from the District to fund the Pipes and Pumping Project at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center. The District has always supported this project and currently has \$3,222,000 budgeted for it this fiscal year. Executive Director Harms advised the Board to be cautious about amending the budget as it may have an adverse impact on future District projects. She suggested that the City reach out to FAU and the Friends of Gumbo Limbo, for monetary contributions towards the project.

**Clarification of District Funds:**

Chairman Vogelgesang clarified for the record that the District is not donating the \$3,222,000 to a non-profit organization. The District has a contractual obligation with the City (the Red Reef Interlocal Agreement) that the money has been budgeted for.

Discussion ensued regarding the District’s support and financial commitment to the project; if the City has ever approached FAU for partial funding; FAU’s water usage at Gumbo Limbo, the involvement of the Friends of Gumbo Limbo, if the City would be able to start the project with the \$3,222,000 that the District has budgeted, the need to review/modify the Red Reef ILA, the District’s future projects, if the scope of the project is oversized for the anticipated use in the future, cost overruns, contingencies, the District’s responsibility to the taxpayers, and if the City has asked the contractor for a reduction in their price.

Mr. Goren, District Counsel, noted for the record that legal Memorandum 2021-003 states that the District budgeted \$3,222,000 for the Project in the District’s FY20-21. The District is not required to expend public funds unless such funds are budgeted accordingly for that specific purpose. Therefore, absent a budget amendment, the District is not legally required to pay the additional, unbudgeted amount of \$444,246 during the current fiscal year.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to confirm the District's legal and contractual obligation and commit the budgeted amount of \$3,222,000 to the Pipes & Pumping Project.

**Discussion:** The District encourages the City to pursue other opportunities for any amount over the \$3,222,000.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Commissioner Ehrnst	Yes
Commissioner Engel	Yes
Commissioner Rollins	Yes
Commissioner Vogelgesang	Yes
Commissioner Wright	Yes

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**3. FPL Electric Car Charging Stations**

Executive Director Harms presented a proposed agreement from FPL to initiate a conversation about placing 2 electric car charging stations at Sugar Sand Park, Patch Reef Park, and the Swim & Racquet Center.

Mr. Peter Martinez, a representative from FPL, was available to answer questions from the Board. The annual cost to the District would include the electricity costs of approximately \$3,600 per year and FPL will install and maintain the stations. Placement of the meters will be considered carefully as they will be taking up four parking spaces at each park and the installation process will be done in phases and will not be invasive to the parks.

It was the consensus of the Board for staff to continue working with Mr. Martinez to develop a final contract and exhibits for the Board’s consideration at a future meeting.

**APPROVAL OF PAYROLL AND INVOICES:**

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the payroll and invoices totaling \$39,631.01.

Discussion:

**Roll Call Vote:**

Commissioner Ehrnst	Yes
Commissioner Engel	Yes
Commissioner Rollins	Yes
Commissioner Vogelgesang	Yes
Commissioner Wright	Yes

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Executive Director:**

Gumbo Limbo Update

The roof project, the installation of the new storm windows, and the air conditioning system have all been completed.

Ocean Strand

The Ocean Strand survey should be completed by the end of this week. An Ocean Strand update will be provided at the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**District Counsel:**

Executive Order 21-45, which, among other legal factors, forms the basis of counsel's legal advice to permit the District to conduct virtual meetings, will expire on April 26, 2021. Mr. Goren suggested initiating a discussion regarding the re-opening of the Board meetings to allow physical public access, sometime in early May.

Senate Bill 1624, House Bill 1103, and Senate Bill 402 are up for consideration. Counsel will provide additional information at the next meeting.

**Commissioners:**

*Commissioner Rollins* regrets the way the Gumbo Limbo project is turning out, but he believes that the District is doing the right thing for its constituents by honoring the budget.

*Commissioner Vogelgesang* questioned what the agenda items will be for the Joint Meeting on April 26, 2021. Ms. Harms will request that the Needs Assessment and Gumbo Limbo be included on the agenda.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Ocean Strand Update  
Senate/House Bill Discussion

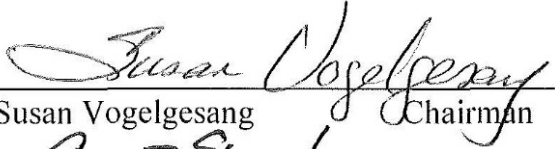
**ADJOURNMENT:**


**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Commissioner Ehrnst	Yes
Commissioner Engel	Yes
Commissioner Rollins	Yes
Commissioner Vogelgesang	Yes
Commissioner Wright	Yes

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

  
Susan Vogelgesang Chairman

  
Craig F. Ehrnst Secretary-Treasurer