

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR "HYBRID" MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 3, 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: Agenda item #1. Boca Teeca RFI Discussion was moved to the last position on the agenda; the Approval of Payroll & Invoices was moved after the Approval of the Minutes. Public Requests will re-open after the Boca Teeca RFI discussion.

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

The following people called into the meeting:

Bruce Diller Verstandig opposes the District transferring property to the City; he feels that FAU should contribute funds to Gumbo Limbo, and suggested that the ocean side of Ocean Strand be a dedicated fishing area and supports making improvements to the Red Reef golf course instead of building an executive course at Ocean Breeze.

Carl Foster, representing the Association of Pickleball Professionals (APP) Tour, is excited about the pickleball expansion in Boca Raton and is interested in holding a pickleball tournament at Patch Reef Park in 2022. He requested permission to make a formal presentation to the Board at the May 17, 2021 meeting.

Rick Heard, a golf industry expert, stated that decisions are being made based on an outdated and inaccurate Needs Assessment that does not reflect the status of recreation and golf in 2021; that there is a demand for a well-designed executive golf course and a full-sized practice range/learning center that would not compete with Boca Country Club, but complement it. He believes that the District can build a fantastic golf park on the east side of the Ocean Breeze property and that the west side will satisfy the other areas of the Needs Assessment, including pickleball.

Earl Starkoff suggested that the District start planning for a two-year extension to update the Needs Assessment, create a communications plan, start a website, and contemplate a master plan for Ocean Breeze.

Greg Galanis believes that Boca needs a quality public access golf course and encouraged the District Commissioners to do the right thing, listen to its constituents, come to a consensus, commit to, and execute a detailed plan for the Ocean Breeze property.

Harold Chaffee, President of Keep Golf in Boca, believes that the City and the District have discredited the residents of Boca Teeca and feels that the City is shortchanging the golfers by taking away the golf course that would revitalize the area, and bring costs down for the golfers in the city.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the minutes of the Regular “Hybrid” meeting held on April 19, 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

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL AND INVOICES:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve the payroll and invoices totaling \$32,747.45.

Discussion:

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Ehrnst | Yes |
| Commissioner Engel | Yes |
| Commissioner Rollins | Yes |
| Commissioner Vogelgesang | Yes |
| Commissioner Wright | Yes |

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Merv Timberlake Renewal Agreement

Executive Director Harms presented a renewal agreement for Mr. Merv Timberlake, District Financial Advisor. The renewal agreement will extend his current contract an additional two years without any changes. Ms. Harms requested the Board’s consideration to approve the agreement as presented.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the renewal agreement for Mr. Merv Timberlake, as presented.

Discussion:

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Ehrnst | Yes |
| Commissioner Engel | Yes |
| Commissioner Rollins | Yes |
| Commissioner Vogelgesang | Yes |
| Commissioner Wright | Yes |

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

2. Verde K-8 Agreement

Executive Director Harms presented the Verde K-8 Agreement for the Board’s consideration. The agreement between the District, Verde Elementary, and the School Board of Palm Beach County highlights how the Swim & Racquet Center facility will be used after school for intramural programs for 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students in the Cambridge Academy, beginning the next school year.

The School Board staff will ensure that all safety guidelines of the facility are followed and will supervise the students at all times.

Commissioner Rollins inquired about a mutual agreement between the School Board and the District allowing for the use of the Via Verde facilities that would benefit both the school and the citizens of the community. Executive Director Harms advised that it will be a separate detailed agreement.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve the Verde K-8 Agreement between the School Board of Palm Beach County, Verde Elementary, and the Beach & Park District, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Ehrnst | Yes |
| Commissioner Engel | Yes |
| Commissioner Rollins | Yes |
| Commissioner Vogelgesang | Yes |
| Commissioner Wright | Yes |

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

3. George Horton Memorial

Mr. Kevin Loughney, a youth baseball coach, requested that a memorial plaque be placed at the baseball fields at Sugar Sand Park honoring Mr. George Allen Horton in recognition for his many years of service and dedication to the youth of the community.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Rollins and seconded by Commissioner Engel to honor the request to place a plaque at a baseball field at Sugar Sand Park in memory of Mr. George Allen Horton.

Discussion:

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Ehrnst | Yes |
| Commissioner Engel | Yes |
| Commissioner Rollins | Yes |
| Commissioner Vogelgesang | Yes |
| Commissioner Wright | Yes |

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

4. Ocean Breeze Discussion

RFI Results

The RFI results for the Ocean Breeze property were discussed amongst the Board of Commissioners to come to a consensus on how to proceed.

Discussion ensued regarding the responsibility that the elected officials have to the taxpaying residents; updating the Needs Assessment; the rounds of golf that will be lost from Boca Municipal (22,000+) that cannot be absorbed by Red Reef golf course; affordable green fees for those who do not live in a gated community with golf facilities; the responsibility to the RFI respondents who requested a short course, a driving range and a Learning Center; encouraging the residents to contact City Council by phone, email and attending workshop meetings to make their voices heard, the 200+ petitions asking for an executive golf course; the city's approval being unreasonably withheld based upon the comments regarding the limited number of golf that will be available for individuals once Boca Municipal closes; the need for the Board to be united in asking for an executive golf course; concern that the City could prolong the project; City Council not supporting golf at Ocean Breeze; pickleball and public private partnerships; obtaining a masterplan for an overall design at Ocean Breeze; the expense of the project and the need for City participation; making improvements at Red Reef Golf Course; the cost and maintenance of an executive golf course and driving range versus its return; the cost of redesigning the Price Fazio design if an executive course is built on the westside; concern for the cost of a pickleball complex and the traffic that it would create, and the possibility of a public private partnership not completing the job; that the Red Reef course is a pitch and putt course not an executive course; the frustration of the constituents; walking trails; getting the National Golf Foundation's opinion on whether an executive course and lighted driving range would support itself; enhancing the facilities for the residents of Boca Raton, not worldwide.

| |
|--|
| <p><u>MOTION</u> was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to issue an RFP to hire an Architect/Engineer to Master Plan and design the Ocean Breeze property.</p> |
|--|

Discussion:

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Ehrnst | Yes |
| Commissioner Engel | Yes |
| Commissioner Rollins | Yes |
| Commissioner Vogelgesang | Yes |
| Commissioner Wright | Yes |

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Public Requests were re-opened:

GBRB&PD Minutes: May 3, 2021

Bruce Diller Verstandig suggested that the District decide what to do with the Ocean Breeze property before hiring an architect and stated that the District should do the economics on an executive course to distinguish if it can be supported. He recommended a “Central Park” theme for the property.

Rick Heard commented that the Ocean Breeze golf course did not fail due to lack of play, it was a result of a failed attempt to develop a golf course; that making improvements to Red Reef golf course will not work because it will always be a short course, not an executive course; he believes that there is a double standard for golf, it should not have to be a profit-making entity; and that a public-private partnership for pickleball could be feasible.

Greg Galanis recommended contacting the National Golf Foundation; he invited Commissioner Vogelgesang to join him to meet with the City Manager to discuss the City’s reservations on building a golf course at Ocean Breeze and potentially get the support of the City and would like the Board to be unanimous in support of the golf course.

Counsel noted that Commissioner Vogelgesang will join Mr. Galanis as Chairman of the Board but is not delegated to make decisions or to engage in negotiations with the City.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Executive Director:

Boca Teeca Clean Up

The front entrance irrigation, weeding, and pressure cleaning have been completed. Tank removal by the maintenance area and the pump repair will follow.

Pool Deck Re-Surfacing

The Swim & Racquet Center Pool Deck Resurfacing project should commence next week.

Condolences

Heartfelt condolences were offered to the family, friends, and co-workers of Shawn Stevens, Educator at the Children’s Science Explorium, and Michelle Zimmer, Deputy Director of Recreation Services who recently passed away.

District Counsel:

Governor DeSantis issued two Executive Orders today, 21-101 & 21-102 which will suspend or eliminate any existing municipal or county emergency orders that were enacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Counsel will review the orders and advise.

Commissioners:

Commissioner Engel would like the District to address the issue of the District residents subsidizing the residents of the Polo Club; he inquired about an Ocean Strand Update and suggested establishing a dollar amount on the RFP for the development of the Ocean Breeze property.

Commissioner Ehrnst recommended amending the District’s bylaws regarding the Polo Club to mirror any growth in the City’s boundaries; looks forward to the Ocean Strand update;

and offered to independently run the Beach and Park Foundation to raise funds for green space.

Commissioner Wright inquired if there was a clear directive for Ms. Harms to contact the National Golf Association regarding the feasibility of an executive course for the west or east side of the Ocean Breeze property.

Commissioner Rollins would like to get a consensus on what to do with the Ocean Breeze property and move on!

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- FPL Car Charging Stations
- RFP- Ocean Breeze Master Plan Services
- Ocean Strand Update
- Pickleball Tournament Presentation

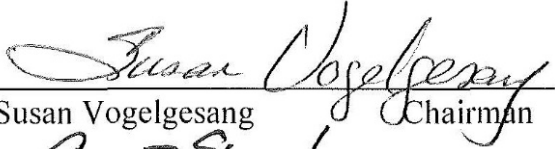
ADJOURNMENT:


MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 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