

**GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND**  
**CITY OF BOCA RATON COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
6500 Building Auditorium  
August 21, 2023, 6:30 PM

**Participants:**

**City Council:**

Mayor Scott Singer

Deputy Mayor Monica Mayotte

Council Member Yvette Drucker

Council Member Andrea Fran Nachlas

Council Member Marc Wigder

Acting City Manager George Brown

City Attorney Diana Grub Frieser

**Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District:**

Commissioner Erin Wright, Chair

Commissioner Steve Engel

Commissioner Craig Ehrnst

Commissioner Robert K. Rollins, Jr

Commissioner Susan Vogelgesang

Executive Director Briann Harms

District Counsel Jacob Horowitz

**I. Welcome – Mayor Scott Singer and Chair Erin Wright**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Mayor Scott Singer and Chair Erin Wright made opening comments and members introduced themselves.

**II. Discussion Topics**

Chair Wright asked to move item II.E., Patch Reef Park Playground Renovations, to be considered first. There was consensus from all Members to do so.

**E. Patch Reef Park Playground Renovations**

Chair Erin Wright asked that the permitting process for this renovation be expedited and that all fees be consolidated for payment at the end of the project. Acting City Manager George Brown advised that City staff would accelerate the playground renovation and confirmed that the fees could be payable at the end. Commissioner Rollins provided additional information regarding the urgency of the request, citing health issues of a local child with special needs.

**A. Parks and Recreation Master Planning**

Executive Director Briann Harms noted that she had discussed this topic with Mr. Brown and expressed the desire of the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District (District) to collaborate with the City on where to put recreation facilities so as to make the best use of their resources. Mr. Brown confirmed that he had spoken with Ms. Harms on this subject and agreed that staff of both entities could work together to present a plan to the bodies that would meet current and future recreation needs. Members weighed in and Mr. Brown stated that staff would work on creating a timeframe for the plan.

**B. North Park Project (Boca Teeca) Update**

Ms. Wright showed renderings of the conceptual design for the Boca Teeca golf course property, now known as the North Park Project, and reviewed components of the proposal

for the southeast and northeast quadrants of the property. Mayor Scott Singer noted that the plans to connect the east and west portions of Jeffery Street were still in process. Liudmila Fuentes, representing consultant Miller Legg, advised that she was aware of the plans for Jeffery Street and was consulting with City staff. Ms. Fuentes then responded to questions and provided additional details regarding the drawings shown. Council Member Marc Wigder inquired about the western portion of the property. Ms. Wright and District Counsel Jacob Horowitz outlined the limits of development on land subject to the bonds, and Ms. Harms stated that 2026 was the earliest the bonds could be paid off without a penalty. Mr. Wigder then asked if there had been consideration given to the City taking over development of the western portion of the property, and Ms. Wright advised that District Commissioners had not had conversations on that topic. Discussion ensued between Council and Commissioners regarding elements of the proposed design, including bike trails, the possibility of a Jeffery Street tunnel, and improved mobility and walkability. There was consensus from Council Members to approve the conceptual plan presented.

#### C. CRA

Chair Wright read a statement into the record regarding the District's position on the proposed extension of the CRA and their request for an exemption from the annual tax increment financing (TIF) payments. Mr. Brown then summarized the request for District residents to use the downtown Community Center and advised that an analysis of the impact to City residents had not yet been performed, but that staff could collect the data. Discussion ensued regarding the extension of the TIF, City resident rates compared to those in the district, and the 1986 interlocal agreement between the two bodies.

#### D. Children's Museum Relocation Options

Mr. Brown opened the discussion by explaining that the City was exploring the feasibility and relocation options for the Children's Museum in order to incorporate its current location as part of the future government campus. He shared that City staff had discussed with District staff the possibility of relocating the building to Sugar Sand Park, and should that occur, the District's desire for the City to handle operations of the Museum. Conversation followed on a number of topics, including the timeline of the proposed project, the impact on the environment, and other City recreational amenities that might be affected.

#### III. Public Comment


The floor was opened for public comment. Robert Dukate, on behalf of the Boca Raton Bicycle Club, read a resolution prepared by the Bicycle Club into the record regarding bicycle safety. Raul Travieso thanked Council and District Commissioners for their support of the pickleball playing community and complimented the steps taken to incorporate the sport into City parks. Cil Ciliberti asked that City plans for development of the Golf and Racquet Club be shared with the District.

Angelo Sands commented on off-course golf services and expressed his opposition to private groups being involved in the development of the North Park project. Garth Duff-Gray, representing the Boca Raton Junior Rugby Club, thanked the City and District for their support. Harold Chaffee voiced his support for a recreation master plan, a needs assessment, the connectivity of City parks, and expressed concern regarding the safety for pedestrians

on the Clint Moore Bridge. Veronica Quintero lobbied for more open space for the game of ultimate frisbee. Betsy Caceres highlighted Hispanic Heritage Month and requested spaces for programming for the Hispanic community. Peter Sachs spoke in support of his client, one of the applicants to develop a sports/racquet facility on the north portion of the North Park project. John Holloway, President and CEO of Coastal Stewards, shared that the organization was moving forward with the Gumbo Limbo gift shop, the sea turtle educational permit, and the turtle rehabilitation permit. Mary Sol Gonzalez expressed her support for saving the Children's Museum. Jamie Godino requested performance space for the theater that he represented.

Council Members and District Commissioners made final comments and thanked all those in attendance for their participation. There was consensus to schedule the next Joint Meeting in six months.

The meeting was adjourned without objection at approximately 8:21 p.m.

  
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Erin Wright

Chair

  
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Craig Ehrst

Secretary-Treasurer