

**GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF**  
**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**February 20, 2024**

The MEETING took place at the Swim & Racquet Center and was live-streamed for viewing and listening through Zoom. The meeting was called to order by CHAIR Erin Wright 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:**

*Mr. Robert DuKate* advocated for public safety measures at North Park. He suggested the installation of an eight-foot-high fence between the park and the railroad and urged the Commission to reconsider their opposition to the Jeffrey Street grade crossing. He expressed concerns about the lack of security measures at the park.

*Mr. Cil Ciliberti* recommended the Paddle Tap group to operate the Patch Reef Park Pickleball Facility.

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

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 5, 2024, 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. Boca Paddle Update**

Malcolm Butters, representing Butters Construction Development and Boca Paddle LLC, along with partners Catherine Butters, Brian Davis, and Stewart Levine, provided an update to the board regarding the Racquet Sports Facility at North Park. They presented details of the site plan, floor plans, elevations, and their proposed revenue model.

Mr. Butters provided an overview of the site plan and highlighted the incorporation of entry features for North Park in collaboration with Miller Legg. The site will have its own parking but is currently sharing an entrance with North Park due to uncertainties about the city's plan for the Jeffrey Street extension.

The presentation highlighted a focus on family-oriented and pickleball-focused activities. Plans for summer camps targeting kids and teens were discussed, with collaboration with City Pickle for program development. The integration of pickleball and daily instruction,

alongside introductory clinics for all ages, to engage more people in the pickleball community and improve gameplay through lessons and clinics.

Community outreach efforts were outlined, including free programming partnerships with nonprofits and involvement with organizations like Pickleball Cares, with consideration given to handicapped pickleball.

Draft membership options were presented to the Board with a community membership offering discounted rates and no initiation fees and a full membership with additional benefits such as extended hours and special programming, with rates aligned with competitors like Diadem and Pickleball Club.

The Board of Commissioners expressed concerns about the membership rates, and the Butters group team members agreed that they would need to re-evaluate and continue working on their pricing structure.

The site plan will be submitted to the city next week. Mr. Butters noted that the traffic plan has been completed in collaboration with the city's traffic engineer to ensure a cohesive approach.

## **2. Patch Reef Park Pickleball Operator**

After issuing the Request for Proposals (RFP) in May 2023 for the operation of the Patch Reef Pickleball facility, the District received proposals from the YMCA of the South Palm Beaches, Paddle Tap, and the Association of Pickleball Professionals (APP). Currently, the City operates the 12 pickleball courts at Patch Reef Park.

Executive Director Harms asked the Board if they preferred to continue with the city as a partner or select one of the three bidders. Since the 180-day window for the bidders has lapsed, they are not obligated to continue with their bid if they choose not to. With the pending opening of 18 covered courts, staffing will be affected.

Board members expressed confidence in the city's ability to manage the facility, citing their proven track record. They requested detailed plans and cost estimates from the city to assess the financial implications for the District. Additionally, they asked for family-friendly programming and affordable membership options.

There was consensus among the Board for the Executive Director to gather additional information from the city, including cost estimates, programming plans, and membership fee structures for the Board to review.

## **3. Science Explorium Exhibits**

City and District staff recommended the approval of the agreement between the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District and Oregon Museum of Science and Industry to provide a "traveling exhibit" from January through May 2025. The "SNOW: Tiny Crystals, Global Impact" exhibit will cost \$45,000 plus incoming shipping costs.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to approve the agreement with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) for the rental exhibit "SNOW: Tiny Crystals, Global Impact," as presented.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

City and District Staff recommended the approval of the agreement between the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District and Betty Brinn Children's Museum to provide a "traveling exhibit" from September 2025 to January 2026. The "Thomas Edison's Secret Lab" exhibit will cost \$32,000 to rent, plus incoming shipping.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the agreement with the Betty Brinn Children's Museum for the rental exhibit "Thomas Edison's Secret Lab Exhibit," as presented.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

City and District staff recommended the approval of the agreement between the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District and Oregon Museum of Science and Industry to provide a "traveling exhibit" from January through May 2026. The "WILD CREATIVITY: Biomimicry Changing Our World" exhibit will cost \$54,000, including a deposit, plus incoming shipping costs.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to approve the agreement with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) for the rental exhibit "WILD CREATIVITY: Biomimicry Changing Our World," as presented.

**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 Engel to approve the payroll and invoices as presented, totaling \$ 333,383.05.

**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:**

**District 50-Year Celebration**

District staff continues to work on the 50-year celebration and will meet with city event staff later this week to finalize the details.

**District Projects**

All projects are progressing and moving forward on schedule.

**Annual Audit**

The annual audit, which commenced earlier this year, is nearing completion.

**Rec Trac Update**

A new and improved edition of the Rectrac system is being introduced, promising enhanced user-friendliness.

**District Counsel:**

District counsel is currently collaborating on finalizing a concessionaire's agreement with Mr. Butter's legal representatives. They anticipate providing the document to the Board for review within 30 days.

**Commissioners:**

*Commissioner Vogelgesang* asked for an update on the Patch Reef Park playground. She also stressed the need to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for golf at North Park's northwest side, citing the time-consuming process involving designers and the prolonged timelines with projects.

*Commissioner Rollins* inquired about the city's progress on additional facilities at DeHoernle Park and the timeframe for completing the maintenance facility. He also addressed concerns about lighting at DeHoernle Park, proposing the installation of solar lighting for security purposes or, alternatively, keeping the lights on and escorting unauthorized individuals off the facility. Additionally, he requested an update on the progress of the Gumbo Limbo tower.

*Commissioner Ehrnst* commended the noticeable improvement at Sugar Sand Park along Military Trail, acknowledging the City's excellent work cleaning the park's exterior. He also noted that the roofing project is progressing well, reflecting significant improvements.

He suggested that the District consider optimizing the financial reserves for projects by allocating a portion of assets into longer-duration treasuries to better align investments with

liabilities. He recommended consulting with the District's Investment Advisor to explore and implement this option further.

*Commissioner Engel* suggested the creation of a scholarship program aimed at high school students in Boca intending to pursue college majors aligned with the District's activities, such as marine biology, public administration, or physical education. Alternatively, the District could consider making an annual contribution to a reputable community foundation that offers scholarships.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

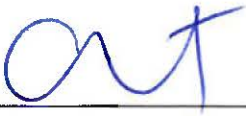
**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Discussion:

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

  
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Erin Wright Chair

  
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Craig F. Ehrnst Secretary-Treasurer