

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 4, 2024

The MEETING took place at the Swim & Racquet Center and was live-streamed for viewing & listening through Zoom. The meeting was called to order by CHAIR Erin Wright at 5:15 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Craig F. Ehrnst-*Arrived at 5:18 p.m.*
Steven M. Engel
Robert K. Rollins, Jr.
Susan Vogelgesang
Erin Wright

CHANGES TO AGENDA:

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Mr. Harold Chaffee discussed the need for further work on the fee schedule for the Boca Paddle Facility and emphasized the importance of considering a Fieldhouse. He pointed out the lengthy process involved with the golf course and stressed the need to look ahead and start moving forward to prevent stagnation.

Mr. Robert DuKate thanked the Board for preserving the green space at North Park. However, he raised concerns about the pickleball facility's accessibility for a large portion of the population due to the costs presented at the last meeting. He hopes that cooperation between the City and the District will facilitate progress, particularly on the west side of North Park.

Commissioner Ehrnst joined the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

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 20, 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. Patch Reef Park Pickleball Presentation

Executive Director Harms provided a PowerPoint update on the Patch Reef Park Pickleball project, which is currently undergoing permitting with the City. The current features of the project include twelve lit courts, three lit practice courts, on-site staffing, and various programming options such as lessons, open play, and clinics. Both member and non-member rates are available. Future features outlined in the presentation include eighteen covered and lit courts, installation of fans, new water bottle filling stations, two ADA-compliant courts, additional programming like local tournaments and camps, and increased parking spaces with EV charging stations.

2. North Park Security Update

Executive Director Harms addressed public concerns regarding security measures at North Park. She provided a PowerPoint presentation that included an overview of current security measures, a brief introduction to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), and an outline of the proposed security enhancements for North Park, which included call boxes, lighting conduits for cameras, perimeter fencing, safety crossings, motion lighting in restrooms, and a landscaping buffer.

3. District 50-Year Celebration Update

As the 50th anniversary of the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District nears, a series of commemorative events are in the works, organized in partnership with the City of Boca Raton. Planned events include:

- April 11, 2024: An Archival Display will open at Sugar Sand Park from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, featuring historical artifacts alongside complimentary coffee and cookies.
- April 21, 2024: Sugar Sand Park will host a Barbecue event starting at 11:30 am, offering free carousel rides.
- May 29, 2024: The Historical Society will offer an Archival Display, allowing the public to delve into the District's history.
- July: Celebrating Parks and Rec. Month with a Sponsor tree giveaway and various park events promoting the District's 50th anniversary.
- September: Sugar Sand Park will offer cupcakes on September 29, accompanied by free carousel rides every Sunday throughout the month.
- Additional festivities may include groundbreaking events for the Patch Reef Park Pickleball facility and playground and collaborative efforts with the Shmidt History Museum and the City of Boca Raton to share the parks' history through articles and social media posts.

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 \$560,123.60.

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:

City Pickleball Operator Presentation

The City will deliver its presentation on the Patch Reef Park pickleball operator at the meeting on March 18, 2024.

GBRB&PD Minutes: March 4, 2024

North Park SITES Certification

The District will assess the feasibility of pursuing a SITES certification for North Park at the next meeting on March 18, 2024.

Patch Reef Park Pickleball Facility

The permitting process for the pickleball facility at Patch Reef has been initiated, and arrangements are being made to schedule root pruning for the trees designated for relocation.

Sugar Sand Park Community Center Roof

The Sugar Sand Park roof project was substantially completed this month, and the punch list for final touches and adjustments is expected to be addressed next month.

Gumbo Limbo Tower

At the Gumbo Limbo Tower, decking and handrails are being installed, and restroom facilities work is ongoing. Additionally, site work is continuing as planned. The bidding process for the decking has been initiated, and bids are expected to be received by mid-March.

District Counsel:

Legislative Session

Mr. Goren provided an update on the current Legislative session, including the anticipated passage of CS/CS/House Bill 7013. He advised that the 2024 Session ends on Friday, March 8, 2024.

JJ Morley Case

Outside counsel served the Summons and Complaint for the case on the Defendant. The case has been assigned to Judge Luis Delgado, and a Case Management Conference and Calendar Call have been set for January 31, 2025. At that time, the parties must be ready to try the case. Prior to January 2025, the parties will participate in pre-trial discovery, motion practice, and related activities directed by the Court.

Permanent Easement at Ocean Strand

Ryan Abrams, Esq., the lawyer for the party seeking the Easement, is overseeing negotiations and discussions for the permanent easement at Ocean Strand with the City, which he is navigating with the City's Staff and the City Attorney's Office

Commissioners:

Commissioner Engel expressed concerns regarding the blowback received on the Boca Paddle presentation, indicating that feedback was not favorable towards proposed fees. He emphasized that the facility is meant to be public, not exclusive like a country club, and should prioritize residents of the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District, the city, and guests. Additionally, he highlighted the profit motive inherent in public-private partnerships (P3s) and noted that this may not always align with the District's desired course of action. While supporting golf at North Park, he stressed the importance of transparency and ensuring decisions align with the best interests of the District's residents and taxpayers.

Commissioner Ehrnst requested an update on the projects and timelines at Gumbo Limbo.

Commissioner Rollins shared his pride in the Soccer Association of Boca Raton's programs. He highlighted the program's growth, including its inclusivity for various age groups and

those with physical challenges. He also celebrated the local teams' success, including a state title win for the boys' team. Commissioner Rollins expressed pride in the community's achievements and the Beach & Park District's contributions.

Commissioner Vogelgesang visited DeHoernle Park this past weekend for a successful SABR soccer tournament and passed on some parking improvement ideas that the park ranger shared with her, such as lining the outfields for organized parking and adding more signage to restrict certain areas. She urged everyone to visit The Park West Palm and Bobby Jones Golf Course in Atlanta, which caters to all ages and offers various activities beyond golf, all funded by foundations. She noted that with the right approach, similar initiatives could be achieved in our area with support from organizations willing to contribute.

Commissioner Wright urged everyone to review the comments on the proposed prices from the Butters group, expressing uncertainty about whether all factors were considered before their proposal. She emphasized that these facilities are meant for the public, not just a select few. While profitability is crucial, Commissioner Wright noted that other groups could also generate profit while maintaining inclusivity.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Erin Wright _____ Chair


Craig F. Ehrnst _____ Secretary-Treasurer