

**GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF**  
**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
September 16, 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 WRIGHT at 5:15 p.m.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:**

**PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

*Mr. Michael Jaremko* reiterated his concerns about the appearance of the corner at the intersection of NW 2nd Avenue and Clint Moore Road. He requested that the area be landscaped with grass to enhance its appearance and align it with the other corners at the intersection.

**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 September 3, 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**

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the minutes of the First TRIM Compliance Hearing held on September 3, 2024, at 6:00 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. District CIP Updates**

Executive Director Harms presented a comprehensive overview of the District's Capital Improvement projects, emphasizing both the accomplishments achieved to date and the key projects planned for the upcoming fiscal year. She welcomed any questions regarding ongoing or future projects.

The Board found the review impressive, emphasizing the group's remarkable achievements. They commended the small, dedicated staff for their diligence and prudent management of

public funds. After years of collaboration, it was rewarding to see projects like the tower and North Park come to fruition.

**2. Resolution 2024-10 Budget Amendment for FY 23/24**

Executive Director Harms presented Resolution 2024-10 to the Board for consideration, noting that the Board had already established reserve funds to pay off the debt related to the North Park property purchase and construction. Based on guidance from the District’s auditing firm, Grau & Associates, transferring these funds from the Assigned Fund Balance to a Committed Fund Balance was recommended. This transfer ensures that the funds cannot be repurposed without Board approval. The resolution formalizes the Board’s decision to commit these funds. If the Board chooses a different course of action in the future, these commitments can be revised through a new resolution.

District General Counsel Mr. Horowitz read Resolution 2024-10 into the record, noting that this action aligns with the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) standards.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to adopt Resolution 2024-10.

**Discussion:**

Commissioner Ehrnst inquired if the funds must be specifically allocated to a separate account.

**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 \$1,653,911.80

**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:**

Peace Poles

Executive Director Harms attended the Rotary's Peace Pole dedication on Saturday at Sugar Sand Park, near the carousel. Mayor Scott Singer, Deputy Mayor Yvette Drucker, and Councilwoman Fran Nachlas also attended. The Rotary highlighted its longstanding partnership with the District, which began with their 2005 donation of the carousel. City Council members expressed their gratitude for the peace poles installed in two parks, and the Rotary announced plans to donate additional peace poles for all City and District parks, including three more for the District.

#### Beach Permits

Beach permits will go on sale next week, priced at \$85 for residents and \$102 for non-residents, maintaining the same rates as this year.

#### Boca Teeca

Addressing the corner property discussed earlier in the meeting by Mr. Jaremko, Executive Director Harms sought direction from the Board. The Board agreed that improvements to the corner area are necessary and explored creative, cost-effective options, such as painting a temporary bike path for young children or a walking track, to enhance the space without requiring significant demolition. They emphasized the importance of gathering community input and remaining mindful of future development plans, such as the potential for a golf park. The consensus was to pursue a solution that could be implemented quickly, improve the area's appearance, and be easily modified or removed if needed. The Board stressed minimizing costs while ensuring practical and beneficial use for families and the community.

*Public Comments were reopened at 6:37 p.m.*

Mr. Jaremko expressed frustration about one corner not being developed like the others and advocated for consistency.

#### **District Counsel:**

##### **Commissioners:**

*Commissioner Vogelgesang* expressed gratitude to Executive Director Harms for attending the Planning and Zoning meeting and acknowledged the support from District Counsel during the event. She noted concern about misconceptions regarding the restrictive covenants and the unsettling fact that some individuals threatened legal action without approaching the District Board directly and praised the Executive Director for handling the situation well. Additionally, she requested that the Executive Director's annual review be added to the agenda on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

*Commissioner Rollins* highlighted the growing demand for playing fields due to increased youth participation in sports, particularly rugby, soccer, and baseball. He noted the challenge of accommodating smaller or non-local groups because of limited space and prioritization of local residents. He also raised concerns about the overuse and maintenance of the Don Estridge fields, questioning the issuance of a permit to a potentially for-profit group. He requested that the Executive Director communicate with the city to ensure the group meets the criteria for field permits and holds nonprofit status in compliance with district requirements. Additionally, he sought clarification on ordinances, enforcement procedures, and penalties for dog violations in parks. Lastly, he mentioned that Beach and Park District residents will be eligible for Boca library memberships starting October 1.

Commissioner Ehrnst mentioned receiving inquiries about pickleball and league play, including from corporate and high school leagues, and emphasized the importance of accommodating these requests despite the current space limitations. He highlighted the need to assess the actual usage and efficiency of fields, suggesting a potential partnership with the city to evaluate field utilization. He also proposed the idea of implementing an app to optimize field scheduling. Furthermore, Commissioner Ehrnst underscored the value of the District's partnership with the city, noting that it plays a crucial role in helping the city achieve its goals through projects such as peace poles, murals, and other initiatives. He encouraged continued collaboration, leveraging the District's financial resources to support community improvements.

Commissioner Engel inquired if the park rangers have a system for issuing warnings to first-time offenders so repeat violators can be fined. He believes collecting IDs or other information from first-time offenders would be essential to track and enforce limits.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 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