

**GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF**  
**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
November 06, 2023

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:**

North Park Discussion was moved to agenda item #1, and Patch Reef Park Playground Renovations was moved to #2.

**PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

*Mr. Tom Thayer* extended an invitation to the Federation of Boca Raton Homeowner Associations meeting on November 7, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in the Downtown Community Center.

*Mr. Robert DuKate* expressed his concerns about the District's concessionary business developments, particularly at North Park. He encouraged the Commissioners to ensure that the District receives fair market value in any concession agreements and recommended a comprehensive review of all properties involved.

*Mr. Cil Ciliberti* suggested creating a "training wall" for skill drills at North Park, provided some sustainable energy solutions, and mentioned the need for a sound barrier to mitigate the noise from passing trains. He volunteered to lead the implementation of his ideas to support the North Park project's success.

*Mr. Larry Mielke* reiterated his concern about the need for a security barrier wall between the Boca Teeca condominiums and North Park. He emphasized the importance of this security measure for the community and specifically requested that a barrier with live trees go in front of the fence to address this issue.

*Ms. Alice Miehl* addressed the need for additional resources for junior golfers, specifically adolescents and children, to learn the sport of golf. She emphasizes the desire among parents and children to have year-round resources available through the city of Boca Raton to support their golfing pursuits.

*Mr. Angelo Sands* shared his extensive experience in coaching and teaching kids for many years, emphasizing his continued passion for working with young golfers. He mentions the challenges kids face during the winter months in areas frequented by snowbirds and the associated costs of golfing at commercial facilities. He believes in the importance of parks being accessible to children.

*Mr. Fred Blimegger*, representing roller hockey players, suggested putting a roof over the rink at Sugar Sand Park, possibly with solar panels, for the long-term usability of the roller hockey rink. He also inquired if a roller hockey rink could be incorporated into a future indoor 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 October 16, 2023, 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. North Park Design Discussion**

Miller Legg and the Butters Group representatives collaborated to create a more cohesive project involving North Park and the Boca Paddle Club. They maintained the building location while enhancing noise reduction for the courts and expanded the parking area to facilitate a multipurpose trail. Two driveways were connected to allow the trail to pass through, creating a seamless transition between the Paddle Club into North Park. The plan also incorporated an urban art garden, enhancing the integration of public art in the area and resulting in a more seamless and integrated project.

Discussion ensued.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve the issuance of a Request for Information (RFI) for the former hotel site at Boca Teeca. The RFI should focus on a family-friendly concept and ensure that it is compatible and has connectivity with the existing parks designed in the community.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Goren, District General Counsel, noted that the responses to the RFI or an RLI (Request for Letters of Interest) are only legally binding if accepted and negotiated further.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Since the motion was not directly related to a specific agenda item, Public Comments were reopened to allow the public to express their views and concerns.

*Mr. Cil Ciliberti* expressed the importance of considering traffic, parking, and access in any development plans for the area.

*Mr. Robert DuKate* proposed that the area could accommodate something compatible, like a Community Center or a gymnasium that could be integrated with the Community Center or the YMCA. He emphasized that the site's small size would make parking and traffic considerations crucial in the planning and development process.

Mr. Harold Chaffee expressed his concerns regarding the development of the property. He recommended a compatible option like a Community Center or a gymnasium and emphasized the need to address parking and traffic issues in the area.

Mr. Angelo Sands commends the approach of exploring available options and gathering information before making a decision. He appreciates the efforts to determine the best fit for the community.

Mr. Jeffrey Borick commended the District for its work since 1974 and its visionary approach toward future planning. He highlighted the importance of thinking beyond traditional north-south and east-west corridors and emphasized the significance of creating interconnectivity within the park development.

**2. Patch Reef Park Playground Renovations**

Executive Director Harms presented the plans for the playground renovations. She mentioned her meetings with the Ogman family and various community members, including the Special Needs Coordinator at the YMCA, as part of the preparation for the Patch Reef Park Playground Renovation project. The new design aims to modernize and make the playground more accessible. The goal is to create a space where everyone feels included and welcome, regardless of their abilities.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to authorize and direct the Executive Director to move forward with the bid process for the Patch Reef Park Playground Renovations.

**Discussion:**

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**3. 2024 District Board Meeting Schedule**

Executive Director Harms presented a listing of proposed 2024 Board Meetings and Holiday Closings for consideration by the Board.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to approve the 2024 Schedule of District Board Meetings and Holiday Closings, 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 Rollins to approve the payroll and invoices as presented, totaling \$1,788,304.31.

**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:**

*Patch Reef Park*

The bids for the Pickleball Complex are due on December 1, 2023.

*Sugar Sand Park*

The repairs for the carousel have been finished, and we are currently awaiting the scheduling of the State inspection.

*Gumbo Limbo Tower Project & DeHoernle Maintenance Building*

Progress is being made on both the Gumbo Limbo Tower and the DeHoernle Maintenance Building projects

*The District's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

Executive Director Harms collaborated with the City Events Staff to explore ideas for commemorating the District's 50th Anniversary.

*Truth in Millage (TRIM) Certification*

The TRIM documents were certified, submitted, and found to comply with the Florida Statutes' stipulated requirements.

**District Counsel:**

Mr. Goren brought to the Board's attention the upcoming four-hour ethics training requirement commencing in January 2024 in accordance with Chapter 2023-121, Laws of Florida n/k/a Section 112.3142 (2)(d) FS...'. and extended an offer to conduct the training at their convenience.

**Commissioners:**

*Commissioner Engel* was gratified to see the progress on the playground renovations at Patch Reef Park. He shared that these renovations are personally meaningful to him and appreciated the support from the Commission.

*Commissioner Ehrnst* mentioned the recent installation of the plastic sport court at the roller hockey rink at Sugar Sand Park. It collects water and doesn't drain quickly. He recommended that the budget for the upcoming year incorporate provisions for a cover structure and shade enhancements, aiming to enhance the facility's functionality. He expressed optimism about

