

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 4, 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: The Chuck King Agreement was deferred until the next meeting.

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Mr. Robert DuKate presented his concerns on public safety with regard to the Jeffrey Street railroad crossing at a recent city council meeting. He encouraged the District to consider a resolution or a motion to share with the FDOT, the FEC railroad, and possibly the NTSB. He highlighted the history of fatalities on the railroad line and warned that the park's construction might increase risks for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles.

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 November 20, 2023, at 5:15 p.m.

Discussion:

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. CRA Public Records Request

Concerns about the CRA extension passed by the City Council and the CRA Board members prompted the District to make a public records request, estimated at this time to cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Executive Director Harms requested the District Board's approval for public records expenses surpassing \$5,000 and committed to return for further authorization should the costs exceed the initially approved limit.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Rollins and seconded by Commissioner Engel to provide a budget not to exceed \$10,000 for acquiring the public records pertaining to the CRA.

Discussion ensued about acquiring Special Counsel.

Mr. Goren, District General Counsel, mentioned that Mr. Jamie Cole from the Weiss Serota Law Firm was hired as Special Counsel by the city and reached out to discuss specific issues with Mr. Goren. Mr. Goren clearly noted that there had not been any decision by the District

Board to pursue litigation; there were talks about exploring potential legal avenues, such as Chapter 164, evaluating CRA exemptions, potential breaches of certain Interlocal agreements, all in determining the Board's legal rights and interests. The focus remains on investigation, involving obtaining public records to understand past events and their implications.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

2. FRDAP Grant for Patch Reef Park Pickleball

The FRDAP Grant for Patch Reef Park Pickleball was brought before the Board for discussion. Executive Director Harms highlighted the need to assess the obligations associated with the Grant, mainly due to the County's joint ownership, whose endorsement would be necessary. Accepting this Grant entails various stipulations and obligations that could have long-term ramifications, prompting the Board to weigh the decision carefully. Mr. Goren detailed some of the labor-intensive prerequisites necessary for securing the grant.

Discussion ensued.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Rollins and seconded by Commissioner Engel to decline the FRDAP Grant as an acceptable method of raising funds for the District's Pickleball project despite the Board's appreciation for the Grant Writer's efforts.

Discussion:

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 \$3,565,928.91.

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:

Art In Public Places

Executive Director Harms is meeting with the City's Coordinator for the Art in Public Places installations to explore potential projects within the District parks. Some of the program funds available stem from District allocations made several years ago.

Gumbo Limbo Tower

Executive Director Harms recently visited the Gumbo Limbo tower site to oversee the progress. The design for the donor signage has been finalized, and efforts are underway to coordinate its installation alongside construction. The construction is proceeding smoothly and remains on schedule.

Patch Reef Park – Additional Pickleball Courts

Permitting delays affected the District's plans for additional pickleball courts at Patch Reef Park. Although the fencing permit was submitted on September 18, it was not approved until the first week of November. With the annual tournament scheduled for January 15, there's anticipation that the courts will be completed in time for the event.

Patch Reef Park-Pickleball Project

Bids for the Pickleball project at Patch Reef Park are expected to be returned by December 12, 2023. Depending on the volume of bids received, the District anticipates having a recommendation ready for discussion at the upcoming meeting on December 18.

Happy Birthday

Birthday wishes were extended to Commissioner Vogelgesang!

District Counsel:

Mr. Goren reminded the Board of 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 Rollins proposed adding an agenda item for a future meeting to potentially pass a resolution expressing the Board's opinion regarding the safety concerns with the opening of Clint Moore Road to Federal Highway.

Commissioner Vogelgesang thanked Mr. Ciliberti for bringing the amenities at Constitution Park to the District's attention. She visited the park and found it to be a multifaceted area and something to consider for future planning. She mentioned speaking with Councilwoman Fran Nachlas regarding North Park ideas and the CRA. She inquired if the District's facilities would be available to host the Love Serving Autism Group camps.

Commissioner Wright spoke to Councilwoman Mayotte regarding the CRA and questioned whether the council members were given the correct information regarding the CRA qualifications.

Executive Director Harms was directed to contact Mr. George Brown, Deputy City Manager, to request his presence at a future District meeting and inquire about the next Joint meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Discussion:

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