

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 18, 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:

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Mr. Robert DuKate expressed gratitude for the well-drafted resolution on public safety. He proposed that District counsel draft a letter regarding the CRA's non-compliance to avoid the expenses of a public records request.

Mr. Harold Chaffee believes that the resolution for public safety is necessary and voiced his opinion at a recent City council meeting.

Mr. Cil Ciliberti advocated for the eighteen covered courts at Patch Reef Park, highlighting the advantages of shaded outdoor courts.

Mr. Douglas Heizer, representing the Rotary International and the Boca Raton Rotary clubs, proposed donating and maintaining a Peace Pole at Sugar Sand Park and any parks in the area if desired.

Mr. Tobias Kay expressed the urgent need to proceed with the pickleball project at Patch Reef Park due to the rapid growth in pickleball demand. He highlighted the importance of covered courts, especially in hotter weather conditions, ensuring increased court utilization and beneficial return on investment.

Mr. Jon Holloway, President, and CEO of the Coastal Stewards, formerly the Friends of Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, shared recent updates and challenges of the nonprofit organization regarding the management of the sea turtle rehab at Gumbo Limbo.

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 December 4, 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. Sugar Sand Park Roof -Change Order

The as-built plans from 1997 indicated plywood for the Sugar Sand Park Community Center Roof, but OS Board was used over the Explorium area instead. This led to a need for longer screws, which were reviewed by the City engineer and found to meet code standards, yet aesthetically, they do not align with District's facility standards. An Advanced Roofing Change Order to restore the roof as initially intended was presented to the Board for consideration. This change would increase the contract amount from \$1,639,586 to \$1,705,675.21. The District plans to allocate the \$50,000 contingency fund toward covering the expenses associated with the change order if approved.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Rollins and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to approve the Advanced Roofing change order for \$116,090.21 to make the repairs at Sugar Sand Park Community Center.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

2. Resolution-Jeffery Street Extension

Resolution 2024-01, the District's opposition to the Jeffery Street Extension through North Park, was presented for the Board's consideration. Mr. Jacob Horowitz, District General Counsel, read the title of Resolution 2024-01 into the record.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve Resolution 2024-01.

Discussion:

Opinions were divided regarding sending the resolution to the city. As a result, the Board chose to postpone the discussion on Resolution 2024-01 until sometime in January, following a meeting between the District's Executive Director and George Brown, the incoming city manager.

An AMENDED MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to defer the decision regarding Resolution 2024-01 until January.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

3. Patch Reef Park Tennis -Pickleball Project

The District received two responsive bids for the Patch Reef Park Tennis and Pickleball project from CSR Construction (\$8,582,732.00) and Rosso Site Development (\$9,902,585.57). Optional add-ons were also provided for the Board’s consideration.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Engel to award the bid to CSR Construction in the amount of \$7,216,382 for the construction of the pickleball facility, drainage of the tennis courts, and parking expansion.

Discussion:

Discussion ensued about the need for a fieldhouse to accommodate other recreational needs.

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 \$ 3,031,117.84

Discussion:

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:

Sugar Sand Park Pillars Bids

The bids for the Sugar Sand Park Pillars have returned. WZA will assess them before including them on an upcoming agenda for Board approval.

Joint Meeting

April 8, 2024, is being considered as a potential date for the Joint Meeting between the City Council and the District Commissioners.

Continuing Services RFP

Executive Director Harms proposed releasing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to seek a third continuing services agreement with an additional architectural engineering firm. She will bring this up for the Board’s consideration within the next month.

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District Counsel:

Mr. Horowitz reminded the Board about the mandatory 4-hour Ethics Training required in 2024 and provided an overview of Pending Bill PCB 24.02 concerning Special Districts. He assured the Board that everyone would be kept updated on the progress of this legislation.

Commissioners:

Commissioner Engel met with Marty Haberer, President of the JCC in Boca, and discussed the idea of placing a Senior Center at the old hotel site at North Park. He believes this could be a valuable addition to the area. Mr. Haber was also interested in collaborating with the YMCA for future projects.

Commissioner Ehrnst thanked the District staff and Board for the year's many accomplishments.

Commissioner Rollins is optimistic about ongoing projects and hopes for smoother permitting processes.

Commissioner Vogelgesang thanked Chair Wright and Treasurer Ehrnst for their exceptional work. Additionally, the District staff and counsel were commended for their outstanding performance.

The members of the Board extended warm holiday wishes to everyone.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 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