

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 7, 2025

The MEETING took place at the Swim & Racquet Center and was live-streamed for viewing & listening through Zoom. Chair Wright called the meeting to order 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. Joel Rask apologized for his Facebook post, acknowledging that the post was meant to be speculative and not factual, and that those comments were in other public meetings that were in that post.

Ms. Fabiana Delfino, Mr. Evan Bennett, Mr. Dave Bamdas, Mr. Pedro Delfino, Mr. Rodrigo Pelaez, Mr. Jeff Moss, Ms. Katina P., Mr. Steve Tempski, Ms. Tony Frallicciardi, Mr. Joel Rask, Mr. Todd Adele, Ms. Linda Oradrach, Ms. Arielle Curasi, Mr. Paul Lockhart, and Mr. Asher Caponera advocated for a new skate park in North Park.

Mr. Robert Dukate asked whether any Board members had been in contact with developers regarding proposed projects on the southeast corner of North Park. He also expressed concern about placing a skate park at North Park. He suggested DeHoernle Park (Phase Two) as a more suitable alternative due to its proximity to schools, existing parking, and available space.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to direct the Executive Director to work with the City to explore relocating the downtown skate park to North Park, assess required site plan changes and related change orders, and expedite the process, including potential funding of the standard build-out if the City agrees.

Discussion:

Commissioner Vogelgesang noted a possible past agreement with the City during the Tim Huxhold State Park construction, which may include a financial obligation to support the District. She also mentioned a potential public-private partnership with a foundation interested in helping with design. She urged the District to explore all options before committing District funds, emphasizing the opportunity to serve the community.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Mr. Goren, Legal Counsel, clarified that although the skate park item was not formally on the agenda, the exploratory motion is within the Board's legal authority and can be voted on as a directive to the Executive Director.

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 March 17, 2025, 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. Merv Timberlake Agreement

Executive Director Harms recommended that the Board approve the Fourth Amendment to the contract with financial consultant Merv Timberlake. This amendment extends the original 2016 agreement for two years, preserving all existing terms and conditions. It also provides the option for further two-year renewals with mutual consent.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the Fourth Amendment to the Merv Timberlake Agreement, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

2. Patch Reef Park Pickleball-CSR PCO #2

CSR Heavy PCO #2 for the Patch Reef Park Pickleball Project was presented to the Board for consideration. This change order proposes the installation of protective netting along the southern boundary of the pickleball courts, adjacent to the Pope John Paul II High School athletic fields. This enhancement will not increase the total contract amount of \$7,382,439.00, as the cost of \$40,533.00 will be covered using unneeded permitting funds already within the contract budget.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Rollins and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to approve the CSR Heavy PCO #2, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Ehrnst	Yes
---------------------	-----

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Discussion:

Commissioner Ehrnst suggested exploring a second change order to make the pickleball net poles removable, allowing greater flexibility for future facility uses. The Board agreed by consensus to have the Executive Director speak with the contractor about options and costs for removable poles.

3. North Park Traffic Garden Signage

The North Park Traffic Garden permit has been approved, and construction, including patching and paving, is scheduled to begin in mid-April. Created in collaboration with the City of Boca Raton's Public Works and Engineering teams, this child-friendly space mimics real-world road elements such as bike lanes, crosswalks, directional arrows, and traffic signs. The goal is to foster safety awareness, spatial understanding, and outdoor family interaction. To move forward with the final phase, Board approval is requested to purchase portable traffic signs from Noah's Park and Playgrounds for \$6,672.00 with a two-month delivery timeline.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the purchase of portable traffic signs from Noah's Park and Playgrounds in the amount of \$6,672.00, 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 Vogelgesang to approve the payroll and invoices as presented, totaling \$530,699.35

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 Softball Field Agreement

The District is still awaiting feedback on the draft agreement for the proposed softball fields at Sugar Sand Park.

Groundbreaking – Boca Paddle Facility

The groundbreaking for the Boca Paddle facility at North Park is tentatively scheduled. Final details are pending; official information will be sent out once confirmed.

Sugar Sand Park Multi-Sport Rink Cover

The District has received 60% of the design drawings for the multi-sport rink cover at Sugar Sand Park. Staff will review these plans with the architect tomorrow.

North Park Beautification Impact Fee

During the public works review for North Park, the City initially indicated that the District would be responsible for \$94,000 in beautification impact fees. However, upon further consideration and in the spirit of partnership, the City has agreed to waive the fee.

District Counsel:

Mr. Goren discussed the following list of key Florida legislative bills and proposals that may impact Special Districts during the 2025 session:

- **Proposal to Eliminate Property Taxes:** A potential 2026 referendum to eliminate real estate (ad valorem) taxes, proposed by the Governor.
- **Sales Tax Reduction Bill:** A statewide sales tax cut proposal (from 6% to approximately 5.25%).
- **Sovereign Immunity Reform Bill:** This bill would increase local government liability limits, phased in from October 1, 2025, through 2030.
- **Performance Measure Elimination (HB 6029):** A bill proposing to scale back or eliminate performance measurement requirements currently followed by special districts.
- **Salary Increase Restrictions Bill:** This bill would require a public referendum for salary increases for officials in special districts, cities, or counties.
- **Liability Protections for Easements:** A bill providing legal protections for districts involved in easement and access point responsibilities.
- **Homestead Exemption Expansion:** A bill to increase the homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$75,000.
- **CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency) Phase-Out Bills:** Proposals to eliminate CRAs gradually, restricting new projects after a certain date (e.g., 2045), effectively phasing them out.

Commissioners:

Commissioner Vogelgesang asked about the St. Mark agreement, whether e-bikes would be allowed in the new traffic garden, and if the Executive Director is providing input on the recreation master plan. She shared that the recent Federation meeting she attended was informative and noted that while some development ideas preserve green space, the District should avoid simply replicating downtown plans and wants to ensure all voices are heard. She also thanked Chuck King for the creative and well-crafted newsletter.

Commissioner Rollins reflected on how recreational planning has evolved, noting that sports like pickleball, once unheard of, have become key to meeting community needs. He emphasized the importance of getting the North Park plan right, given the limited land and rising demand, as seen in the overcrowding at Patch Reef Park. He also underscored the District's vital role in providing recreation, the value of its legacy, and the need to thoughtfully preserve historic spaces while continuing to serve the community.

Commissioner Ehrnst noted that many downtown facilities, including the skate park, are outdated. With the impending end of CRA funding, the city is under pressure to redevelop the area to preserve its tax base. He expressed support for the District's role in updating and managing these amenities, especially as the east side park continues to evolve into a key community space. Additionally, he would like to see the east side of North Park opened up to allow dogs on the trails, but he acknowledged that any change would require the city to revise its ordinance. Staff agreed to look into what would be required to permit dogs, specifically in that area.

Commissioner Engel reflected on why residents bring their concerns to the Beach and Park District, emphasizing that the District is responsive, transparent, and follows through on its commitments. He noted the Board's willingness to consider different perspectives and adapt when necessary. He highlighted DeHoernle Park as a success story and pointed out that the project was delivered under budget, even with changes. He concluded that the evening's discussion reaffirmed the District's purpose and continued dedication to serving the community.

Commissioner Wright shared that she and Executive Director Harms attended a City Council workshop on a potential e-bike ordinance, prompted by safety concerns following accidents and the growing number of e-bikes in the community. She voiced her opinion favoring strict regulations, especially in parks like North Park, citing risks to pedestrians, pets, and cyclists due to high-speed electric bikes and scooters. She emphasized the importance of local control and coordination with the city to determine whether a park-specific or citywide policy is needed. She noted that enforcement will be a key challenge.

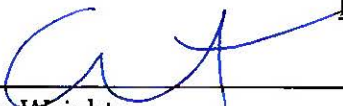
ADJOURNMENT:

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