

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 21, 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. Robert DuKate appreciated Commissioner Wright's clarification about city versus district responsibilities for the skate park. He proposed relocating the facility to the current dog park near Phase Two (DeHoernle Park). He emphasized the site's proximity to schools, smooth sidewalks, and existing infrastructure, arguing it would better serve families and complement nearby athletic fields. He also encouraged officials to visit a model skate park in Jupiter and consider a local upcoming bicycle rodeo event as a planning reference for the traffic garden.

Mr. Eric Sauer thanked the Commissioners for their efforts in improving the baseball facilities at Sugar Sand and Patch Reef Parks and emphasized the positive impact on the community.

Mr. Harold Chaffee highlighted the heavy traffic near Spanish River High School during dismissal, attributing it to a lack of after-school activities for students. He supported placing the skate park near the Phase Two/dog park area, offering kids a place to go while easing pickup congestion. Mr. Chaffee stated that the park should not be in densely populated residential areas. He warned that inconvenient locations might encourage unsafe behavior, like crossing railroad tracks, as children often act impulsively to get where they want to go.

Mr. Andy Thomson, City Council member, commended the strong collaboration between Executive Director Harms and Greg Stevens during a recent joint presentation, noting it reflected significant progress in City-District relations. He advocated for the upgrades at Sugar Sand Park's baseball facilities, especially with playoffs underway, and praised Commissioner Rollins for leading efforts to replace Boca Hoops with a new fall basketball league.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS:

An amendment to the minutes was proposed to clarify Mr. Joel Rask's comments under Public Requests.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 7, at 5:15 p.m., as amended.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Ehrnst	Yes
Commissioner Engel	Yes
Commissioner Rollins	Yes

Commissioner Vogelgesang Yes

Commissioner Wright Yes

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Multi-Park Ballfield Additions Contractor Selections

To enhance baseball and softball amenities at Sugar Sand Park and Patch Reef Park, the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District issued a formal Request for Proposals. This initiative addresses the needs outlined by Boca Raton Little League during the July 1, 2024, Board meeting. In November, the Board entered into an agreement with Sparc Design to develop plans for these multi-park ballfield improvements. Additionally, Musco Lighting was approved to provide necessary lighting upgrades, which are currently progressing through the permitting process. After a thorough review by staff and project consultant Sparc Design, Schiff Construction was recommended for the contract based on its lower bid and proven track record with similar projects. The anticipated completion date is August 2025.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to award the Multi-Park Ballfield Additions contract to Schiff Construction & Development, Inc. for \$616,628.78, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Ehrnst Yes

Commissioner Engel Yes

Commissioner Rollins Yes

Commissioner Vogelgesang Yes

Commissioner Wright Yes

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

2. City District Recreation Plan Update

Executive Director Harms outlined key milestones and current progress in the joint planning effort between the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District and the City of Boca Raton for the Conceptual Recreation plan. Keith & Associates, under contract with the City, is executing a comprehensive Conceptual Recreation Plan across several park sites. It is currently in the staff consultation and design phase, with final presentations due in late July. Preliminary recommendations suggest major upgrades and relocations, including a new skatepark at North Park and softball fields at Sugar Sand Park.

The future skate park will be located in the southeast section of North Park, with a carefully planned layout that avoids interference with existing trails and drainage systems. The nonprofit organization Plant a Park has offered a \$32,600 grant to support the creation of a 3D conceptual design, two community input meetings, and an online survey; this proposal is currently under legal review. A meeting is scheduled with City officials to discuss potential contributions to the project, including waiving permitting fees and expediting the site plan amendment to help reduce time and costs.

The Platform Group, known for developing the Ocala skate park, provided a preliminary cost estimate for the North Park facility, ranging from \$3 to \$3.6 million, including seating and

other community amenities. Staff are exploring the option of piggybacking on Ocala's existing contract. However, District Counsel Mr. Horowitz clarified that such an approach may not be viable if the contract includes architectural or engineering services, which are subject to CCNA procurement rules. District counsel is actively reviewing the contract to assess its feasibility for this project.

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 \$ 2,945,541.99

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 Playground

The Patch Reef Park playground project continues to progress and remains on track for completion by the end of May. Planning for a ribbon-cutting ceremony is underway, and a date will be finalized in the coming weeks.

Park Security Enhancements

Additional cameras have been installed at the Swim & Racquet Center (SRC), and license plate readers are fully functional at the SRC and Patch Reef Park.

North Park-Traffic Garden

Paving for the Traffic Garden is scheduled to begin tomorrow.

District Counsel:

Mr. Horowitz reported that several key pieces of legislation are being tracked in Tallahassee. Among them, Senate Bill 1372 proposes a study, not an elimination, of ad valorem property taxes, with findings due to the Governor by November 2025. Other notable bills include one to increase sovereign immunity limits to \$2 million, and another proposing the removal of performance reporting requirements for special districts, which has seen no movement since early March. Lastly, legislation to phase out Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs) by 2045 is advancing, having recently passed the Rules Committee. These developments are being closely monitored for potential impact on the District and local governance.

Commissioners

Commissioner Vogelgesang inquired about the improvements at the Red Reef Golf Course, specifically to the pro shop and restrooms, and asked for clarification on who is responsible for funding those upgrades.

Commissioner Rollins inquired whether there had been any discussion with Greg Stevens regarding the traffic issues at Patch Reef Park, which he had previously brought to the Board's attention.

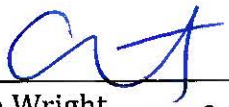

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 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