

**GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF**  
**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
May 19, 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* criticized the approval of the North Park skate park, noting it was not listed as a priority in the Ocean Breeze Master Plan and was not publicly agenzized. He urged reopening public comments if the skate park is being reconsidered and suggested an alternative location near schools and existing amenities for better community alignment.

*Mr. Evan Bennett* voiced strong support for the skate park and its location, highlighting the need for recreational facilities for youth and noting that the property serves all residents, not just those from Boca Teeca.

*Mr. Marvin Leiken* supported the need for a skate park but felt it should be a part of a sports complex, not a passive recreation area like North Park. He noted that skate parks have rules addressing behaviors that do not align with a quiet, passive park setting.

*Ms. Bonnie Golden* shared her frustration over the long-abandoned golf course and shifting development plans. She opposed the skate park at Boca Teeca and suggested it be located elsewhere to benefit the whole community.

*Ms. Donna Kasmer* expressed frustration over the area's long and complicated planning process. She opposed adding a skate park at this stage and urged finding an alternative location.

*Mr. Richard Mish* stated that the demographics do not support a skate park and suggested other recreational facilities, like golf and walking trails.

*Mr. Harold Chaffee* expressed his frustration with the planning process and suggested that the skate park should be near the school for better access by the children.

**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 May 5, 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. CRA Budget Input Discussion**

The Boca Raton Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has requested recommendations from the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District for the acquisition, planning, development, operation, and maintenance of park and recreational facilities within the boundaries of the CRA Redevelopment Area. This request is part of their annual budget process, as the Interlocal Agreement outlines. The Board reached consensus on the following recommendations to guide the Downtown Campus Master Plan:

- Continued support for the renovation and expanded activation programming of Sanborn Square
- Reaffirmation of the District's interest in establishing a downtown community/recreation center
- Enhancement of infrastructure and walkability features, such as improved lighting, mile markers, and clear wayfinding signage
- Consideration of relocating or replacing tennis amenities as part of the new downtown campus vision

In alignment with these priorities, the Board also recommended that the Tara Frisbee Downtown Campus Plan team coordinate a meeting with City Recreation Services staff. The purpose is to ensure that any proposed recreational components effectively serve community needs and are supported by appropriate infrastructure, including adequate public parking. The discussion should also prioritize:

- Walkability and safety for pedestrians and cyclists
- Preservation of recreational space over excessive development
- Continued community access, especially as the area adapts to future transportation technologies such as autonomous vehicles

**2. Traffic Garden Painting Request**

A proposal from Shiff Construction & Development, Inc., in the amount of \$189,629.27, was presented to the Board for the striping and painting of the Traffic Garden at North Park. The quote included thermoplastic paint, which is durable but costly. Commissioners discussed potential cost-saving alternatives, such as using standard paint instead of thermoplastic, to allow funds to be redirected to other site needs, like shade structures, benches, or trash cans. While durability in full sun was noted, the consensus was to pursue flexibility in materials if the functionality of the Traffic Garden could be maintained.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to allocate up to \$190,000 for the painting and striping of the North Park Traffic Garden, with authorization for staff to explore and implement more cost-effective alternatives and allow funds to be redirected to other site improvements, such as shade structures, benches, or trash cans.

**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 \$ 2,708,790.58

**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:**

**Multi-Sport Rink Cover**

The final drawings for the rink cover at Sugar Sand Park are expected to be completed in June.

**Ballfield Improvements at Patch Reef and Sugar Sand Parks**

The District is awaiting feedback from two final reviewers regarding the ballfield improvements at Patch Reef Park and Sugar Sand Park. Their comments are due by June 2, 2025.

**Pickleball Complex at Patch Reef Park**

Asphalt is being poured at the Pickleball complex at Patch Reef Park, and the project continues to progress smoothly.

**Boca Paddle Facility at North Park**

The Boca Paddle Facility at North Park is scheduled for a groundbreaking in June. The project is currently in the final stages of the PWR (Public Works Review) with the City. While the exact construction start date is still pending, permit approvals are expected soon. District

staff are actively preparing a qualifications list to solicit interest from potential bidders, moving the project toward its next phase.

#### *City Centennial Celebration*

The City of Boca Raton's Centennial events are happening this weekend, marking one hundred years of the city's history. Highlights include a major concert and a drone show.

#### *Patch Reef Park Playground Ribbon Cutting*

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the playground at Patch Reef Park will take place this Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 3 PM.

#### *Expansion of Jeffrey Street*

Executive Director Harms clarified that the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District has no authority over the construction or expansion of Jeffrey Street or Second Avenue. These infrastructure projects fall entirely under the jurisdiction of the City of Boca Raton, and any decisions related to their planning, development, or modification are the responsibility of the City Council.

#### *Skate Park Concerns*

Addressing the recent public concerns surrounding the proposed skate park, Director Harms emphasized that the Board remains in the early stages of planning and that no final decisions have been made regarding the project's development. She underscored that skate parks serve a broad and diverse group of users and cautioned against allowing stereotypes to shape public perception. She assured residents that key considerations such as safety, noise, and accessibility are always integrated into project planning to ensure the facility aligns with community needs and expectations. Director Harms encouraged community members to stay engaged in the planning process by attending upcoming meetings and continuing to share their input.

#### *Commissioners*

*Commissioner Ehrnst* strongly supported the proposed skate park, praising local skaters as passionate and respectful members of the community. He challenged the negative stereotypes often associated with skateboarding and stressed the importance of providing the downtown area with a dedicated, high-quality skate facility. He reaffirmed that the vision for North Park is to serve the entire community, not just one neighborhood, and pointed out that the majority of the park's space will remain open, green, and recreational.

Addressing concerns about the Jeffrey Street extension, Commissioner Ehrnst noted that while some residents oppose the road, it may be critical for ensuring public safety and emergency access.

*Commissioner Engel* reminded residents that issues like the Jeffrey Street road widening are under the City of Boca Raton's authority, not the District's. While welcoming public input, he also urged residents to bring their concerns to the City Council and staff, noting that greater engagement would have more impact given the District's limited role in such decisions.

*Commissioner Rollins* affirmed that the Board listens to public feedback and takes community concerns seriously. He emphasized the District's responsibility to serve all residents, including those in the city and the reserve area, as supported by ad valorem tax revenues. He

acknowledged that no final decision has been made on the skate park location. Still, he reiterated confidence based on prior public input that the skating community is responsible and the District will ensure appropriate security and oversight at any facility.

*Commissioner Wright* thanked attendees for coming to the meeting and sharing their input. She expressed her personal frustration over the false information being spread and emphasized that the Board is committed to transparency and honesty. She clarified that the skate park project is still in the early stages, with no design finalized, and will go through a public input process. She urged the community to engage based on facts rather than misinformation.


**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 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