

**GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF**  
**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
June 16, 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-Absent  
Steven M. Engel  
Robert K. Rollins, Jr.  
Susan Vogelgesang  
Erin Wright

**PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

*Mr. Eric Sauer*, on behalf of Boca Raton Little League, extended heartfelt thanks for the ballpark upgrades and invited the Board to throw the ceremonial first pitch at their Opening Day on September 20th.

*Mr. Dave Petruzzelli* emphasized that the lift station easement remains conditional. He suggested that due diligence studies, such as geotechnical, hydrology, and archaeological surveys, should be completed before finalizing the legal description and granting the easement to avoid future issues.

*Mr. Mike Graham* understood that the District does not control which properties will be permitted to connect to the proposed municipal lift station on the Ocean Strand site. However, he directed his comments toward city officials, urging that all nearby structures and residents be given the opportunity to connect to the system. He specifically mentioned the property at 2330 North Ocean Boulevard (east side of A1A) and hoped it would be included in the hookup eligibility for the lift station.

*Ms. Lynn Newberry*, a lifelong skater, advocated for the importance of a skate park, highlighting the positive, supportive nature of the skateboarding community and its benefits for youth and families. She emphasized that skaters lack a safe, designated space, unlike other sports, and addressed misconceptions about noise.

**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 June 2, 2025, at 5:15 p.m.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**MOTION PASSES 4-0**

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

## 1. Special Needs Programming Presentation

Tiffany Lucia, Deputy Director of Recreation Services for the City of Boca Raton, expressed gratitude to the Commissioners for their ongoing support in advancing the department's mission to provide inclusive recreational opportunities. She introduced the Community Accessibility Program (CAP), a new initiative to enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families through inclusive recreation, education, and resources.

Recreation Staff Supervisors Jacqueline Windus and Alyson Reeves presented the Community Access Program (CAP), designed to serve over 173,000 individuals with disabilities in Palm Beach County, including 8,500 in Boca Raton. Proposed at the James A. Rutherford Community Center, CAP will offer accessible programming in renovated spaces like a sensory room, art room, and training area. Services will include art and job skills classes, social groups, parent support, and inclusive events, with free memberships for qualifying individuals. CAP will launch with staff training and pilot programs, expanding in year two with broader outreach and adult programming, aiming to become a regional model for inclusive recreation.

Following the presentation on the Community Accessibility Program (CAP), the Board was supportive and indicated consensus to move forward with the initiative. Commissioner Rollins suggested consulting the District's insurance provider to ensure proper coverage for a program involving children and individuals with disabilities, as part of its implementation and risk management.

## 2. Ocean Strand Lift Station Agreement

The Board discussed the proposed Lift Station Easement Agreement at Ocean Strand, an initiative that originated in March 2023 in partnership with the City and a developer. Although the final legal description was not included in the agreement, the agreement stipulates that final approval is contingent upon the submitted legal description aligning with the anticipated location.

District staff confirmed that preliminary boring and archeological monitoring had already begun. Legal counsel explained that the agreement accommodates potential site adjustments if required by civil engineers or archeological findings. Still, any revised legal description must be approved by the Executive Director and reviewed by the Board.

Commissioners raised concerns about proximity to existing roadways and potential future damage from vehicular traffic, particularly commercial vehicles. Staff assured the Board that pipe depth and infrastructure placement would minimize risk and not impede future development, such as parking. The ongoing demand for restroom facilities at Ocean Strand was acknowledged, along with the understanding that not moving forward could result in the District needing to build and maintain a separate lift station in the future.

Public comment from resident David Petruzzelli expressed concern about the lack of a finalized legal description and the potential for the lift station to be placed too close to his home.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the Ocean Strand Lift Station Easement Agreement, subject to the final legal description's approval.

### Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Engel	Yes
Commissioner Rollins	Yes



Commissioner Vogelgesang Yes  
Commissioner Wright Yes

**MOTION PASSES 4-0**

**3. Softball Fields Agreement**

The Interlocal Agreement between the Beach & Park District and the City of Boca Raton proposes the construction of a new softball complex at Sugar Sand Park (Tract A) to replace the downtown fields being removed under the City's Downtown Campus Master Plan.

The City will fully fund and manage the design, permitting, and construction. Once built, the District will own and operate the complex, keeping all generated revenue. The facility will include regulation fields, ADA-compliant restrooms, shade structures, batting cages, bleachers, and new parking. Environmental protections ensure no impact on conservation land.

Executive Director Harms presented the finalized Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for approval. If approved, the agreement will be forwarded to the Boca Raton City Council for review and anticipated approval on July 15, 2025. Upon dual approval, the City begins design and permitting, with plans submitted to the Board for review and timeline confirmation.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Rollins and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the Interlocal Agreement between the District and the City of Boca Raton for the construction of a new softball complex at Sugar Sand Park.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**MOTION PASSES 4-0**

**APPROVAL OF PAYROLL AND INVOICES:**

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Rollins and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to approve the payroll and invoices as presented, totaling \$ 3,194,934.24

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**MOTION PASSES 4-0**

**REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Executive Director:**

**North Park West Bond Payoff**

Executive Director Harms proposed an early payoff of the North Park West bond, supported by a reserve fund initially targeting a 2027 payoff. She sought consensus to bring the item to a vote at the next board meeting. Board members agreed, provided it does not impact other projects,

particularly the planned field development at DeHoernle Park. The estimated payoff is \$10.3 million, with no prepayment penalties according to the City's CFO and Raymond James. A 30-day notice is required before finalizing.

Site Plan Approval at North Park

The site plan approval for North Park will be back before the Planning and Zoning board on June 26th to approve the amendment to remove the beautification contribution condition that the City had placed on the project for \$94,000.

North Park West Tunnel Repairs

City Code Enforcement requested a structural inspection of the tunnel located on the west side of North Park. Engineering firm Miller Legg completed an initial inspection at no cost to the District. The tunnel was deemed structurally safe, though the report identified tree roots exerting pressure on the walls at the tunnel's entrance and exit. As a precaution, the tunnel has been fenced off, and a formal work order will be presented for Board review at the next meeting.

Change Order for Patch Reef Park Tennis Court Repairs

A change order for tennis court repairs at Patch Reef Park will be presented at the next meeting. Originally included but deferred, the repairs are now recommended due to worsening conditions and expected increased use once the new covered facility opens. Staff suggest completing the work while the contractor is still on-site.

Patch Reef Pickleball Project

The Patch Reef Park Pickleball Project is progressing steadily: the surface has been poured and is currently curing, interior fencing is being installed, and turf installation is scheduled for next week. Court painting is expected to begin in mid-July.

**Commissioners:**

*Commissioner Vogelgesang* inquired about the status of the Traffic Garden at North Park.

*Commissioner Rollins* inquired if the Legislative Session had ended.

*Commissioner Engel* asked how recent state legislation involving state control over the regulation of artificial turf installation might affect the District. Counsel will advise at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**MOTION PASSES 4-0**

Signed by:  


Erin Wright

Chair

  
Craig F. Ehrnst

Secretary-Treasurer

GBRB&PD Minutes: June 16, 2025