

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 15, 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

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Mr. Robert DuKate expressed opposition to the RFP process for P3 development at North Park, referencing both community feedback and the consultant's recommendations.

Ms. Briana Hagquist raised concerns about the potential impact of ball fields on the gopher tortoise, a federally protected species. She stressed the importance of involving a wildlife specialist to ensure their protection in Sugar Sand Park.

Mr. Harold Chaffee emphasized the importance of preserving green space at North Park, highlighted the need for a golf course, and urged a stronger commitment to providing affordable recreational facilities for the community.

Mr. Michael Schneider emphasized that golf should remain a priority over other recreational facilities.

Mr. Joseph Burgos underscored the community's strong preference for a golf course and community center at North Park.

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 September 3, 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

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the minutes of the First TRIM Compliance Hearing on Budget and Taxes for FY 2025-2026 held on September 3, 2025, 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

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. District Goals and Objectives for FY2026

Executive Director Harms presented the goals and objectives for FY 2025/26 in compliance with Section 189.0694, Florida Statutes, as outlined in Resolution No. 2025-10. The following priorities are designed to ensure accountability, transparency, and alignment with the District's mission:

- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Balanced budget, long-term planning, and cost-saving measures to enable millage rate reduction.
- **Community Engagement:** Expand inclusive/adaptive programming, increase public participation, and conduct user feedback surveys.
- **Infrastructure & Facilities:** Advance North Park and second field house design, modernize existing facilities, and explore new land acquisitions.
- **Compliance:** Meet all statutory deadlines, deliver the annual report by December, and evaluate Enabling Legislation updates.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to adopt Resolution 2025-10, adopting goals, objectives, and performance measures for FY 2025-2026.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

2. CIP Update

Executive Director Harms presented the Capital Improvement Projects Update, noting that the District owns Sugar Sand Park, Patch Reef Park, the Swim & Racquet Center, Ocean Strand, and North Park, while also funding operations at City-owned sites including DeHoernle Park, Red Reef Park, and Mizner Park, in addition to supporting FAU field rentals, Don Estridge field maintenance, and beach renourishment efforts.

In FY 2025, major completed projects included playground accessibility and security upgrades at Patch Reef Park; roof replacement, public art, and generator replacement at Sugar Sand Park; opening of the new Traffic Garden at North Park; locker room and pool renovations with security enhancements at the Swim & Racquet Center; and facility upgrades at DeHoernle, Don Estridge, and Gumbo Limbo.

Current capital projects are focused on North Park, where work has progressed through property acquisition, demolition, surveys, planning, and extensive city coordination. By mid-2025, milestones included groundbreaking for the Boca Paddle public-private partnership, bond payoff

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on the west side, site plan approvals, and soil remediation efforts. East side construction documents are advancing, while a Traffic Garden pilot program has already opened as the first recreational feature on-site. At Patch Reef Park, covered pickleball courts are nearing completion, with a ribbon-cutting scheduled for October 22, 2025.

Looking ahead to FY 2026, planned projects include baseball field improvements across multiple parks, additional roof replacements at Sugar Sand, the design of a second field house at North Park, DeHoernle Park Phase II design, reconstruction of Patch Reef's tennis and pickleball courts, lighting upgrades at the Racquet Center, turf board repairs, community center renovations, pro-shop updates, and a shade cover for Sugar Sand's multi-sport rink.

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL AND INVOICES:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the revised payroll and invoices as presented, totaling \$5,485,945.32.

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 Pickleball Courts Ribbon Cutting

Scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, at 5:00 PM. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Boca Raton Little League Opening Ceremony

This will take place on Saturday, September 20, at 8:45 AM. The League will thank the Board at the start of the event. Board members are asked to arrive by 8:30 AM. Commissioner Ehrnst will be throwing out the first pitch of the opening game.

District Counsel:

Commissioners:

Commissioner Rollins clarified that the proposed softball fields are not near the former gopher tortoise sanctuary on the southeastern portion of Sugar Sand Park.

Commissioner Ehrnst reflected on the history of the golf course purchase, noting the high cost, environmental challenges, and the reality that golf courses often incur financial losses. He explained how the Board explored alternatives and pursued a public-private partnership that led to the construction of the pickleball center, while also investing in trails and other recreational options. He emphasized the importance of maintaining existing facilities, such as Gumbo Limbo and Sugar Sand Park, adapting to changing recreation trends, and being fiscally responsible. He highlighted the Board's collaborative approach, transparency, and commitment to building flexible, future-ready facilities that benefit the entire community.

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Commissioner Engel emphasized the value of strong public attendance, noting that open dialogue helps build trust and confidence in the Board's work. He stressed the importance of basing discussions on accurate information regarding costs, past actions, and future plans. He encouraged continued community participation.

Commissioner Wright emphasized the need to strike a balance between preserving green space and introducing new amenities. She supported the development of new softball facilities to meet growing demand and highlighted the benefits they will bring to residents. She also raised concerns about long wait times at Patch Reef Park's pickleball challenge courts, suggesting the city reinstate signage and the three-game rule to improve fairness.

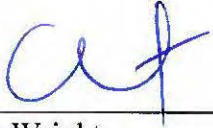
ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 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