

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 21, 2025

The MEETING took place at the Swim & Racquet Center and was live-streamed for viewing & listening through Zoom. Vice Chair Rollins 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 *absent*

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS:

The minutes were revised under Commissioner Ehrnst's comments to read: "Commissioner Ehrnst supported the bond payoff and urged responsible development at East Boca, including the use of public-private partnerships. He questioned the judgment of the rebranding of Gumbo Limbo to the Coastal Stewards and the loss of its volunteer-based calling for renewed community involvement."

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 7, 2025, at 5:15 p.m., as revised.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. District CIP Discussion

Executive Director Harms presented a list of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects for the upcoming fiscal year 2025–2026, identified by staff as priorities, reflecting Board discussions over the past year and addressing maintenance needs for existing facilities. She noted that Commissioner Wright had reviewed the list prior to the meeting and had no additions. The discussion was opened to the Board for input on any changes or additional projects to consider for the next fiscal year, with the goal of using this direction to prepare a complete proposed budget for presentation at the next meeting.

During the discussion, Commissioners expressed support for the proposed list of projects. Concerns were raised regarding rising construction costs and declining property values, emphasizing the need to allocate reserve funds early to manage future financial uncertainties. The Board reached consensus on advancing the current project list and beginning financial planning for future development.

2. Set First Public Hearing on Budget & Taxes for FY 2025-2026

Executive Director Harms proposed holding the two required public hearings for the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District on the budget and millage rate for Fiscal Year 2025–2026 on September 2, 2025, and September 15, 2025, both at 6:00 PM following the regularly scheduled

board meetings. These dates are recommended to avoid conflicts with hearings scheduled by Palm Beach County and the School Board, ensuring compliance with Section 200.065, Florida Statutes, and allowing for transparent public participation.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to set the First Public Hearing on Budget & Taxes for FY2025-2026 for Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. and the second public TRIM Hearing on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Both hearings will be held in the Board Room of the Swim & Racquet Center, located at 21618 St. Andrews Boulevard. Boca Raton, FL 33433.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

3. Set Tentative Millage Rate

In accordance with the Florida Department of Revenue's Truth in Millage (TRIM) Compliance process, the District must establish a proposed tentative millage rate by early August. The final millage rate, determined in September, cannot exceed the adopted tentative millage rate, but it can be lowered. Executive Director Harms presented a table of various millage rates for the Board's consideration.

Commissioners discussed various perspectives, with some advocating for maintaining the current rate in light of inflation, rising construction costs, and anticipated capital needs, particularly emphasizing the importance of building a sinking fund for future projects. Commissioner Ehrnst supported a modest rate reduction to help ease the financial burden on taxpayers facing increased living expenses.

Executive Director Harms will present two different budget scenarios at the next meeting to illustrate the financial impacts of maintaining the current rate versus adopting a reduced rate, allowing for further evaluation before final adoption.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to set a Tentative Millage Rate of 1.08 Mills for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for the Beach & Park District

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Ehrnst	No
Commissioner Engel	Yes
Commissioner Rollins	Yes
Commissioner Vogelgesang	Yes

MOTION PASSED 3-1

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 \$1,781,398.41.

Roll Call Vote:

GBRB&PD Minutes: July 21, 2025

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Executive Director:

Skatepark Public Input Meeting Scheduled

A public input meeting for the planned skatepark has been scheduled for August 6, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Boca Raton Downtown Community Center. This event is part of the Plant a Park initiative and is designed to gather community feedback on the design and features of the future skate park facility. The event is hosted by Plant a Park and will be promoted through the District's social media platforms, its website, newsletters, and Plant a Park's communication channels

Bond Payoff Completed and Title Transfer Timeline

The District has completed the bond payoff process. The payoff funds were first transferred to the City, which then forwarded them to Raymond James, officially clearing the bond debt as of last Friday. The City will notify the District of any remaining fees associated with the transaction. In accordance with the Interlocal Agreement (ILA), the City has 60 days to transfer the deed to the District, completing the final administrative steps.

Multi-Sport Rink Cover Project-Out to Bid

Progress continues on the Multi-Sport Rink Cover Project, with the cover installation now going out to bid this week. This marks a key milestone in upgrading the facility to better serve the community, especially for year-round usability.

Boca Paddle Breaking Ground Soon

Construction of the Boca Paddle facility is scheduled to begin within the next two weeks, pending final permit approvals.

RFQ and Bid Qualification for East Side of North Park

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the East Side Project has been released and advertised. Responses are expected in August, after which qualified bidders will be selected and bids will be obtained. This qualification and bidding process applies exclusively to the east side of the site.

North Park West RFP and P3 Opportunities

Director Harms inquired whether the Board would like her to begin drafting a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the west side development, and whether the undeveloped 1.8-acre corner lot at Jeffrey Street and Second Avenue should be included in the RFP. A draft RFP scope will be presented at the next meeting to gather Board input prior to its advertisement.

District Counsel:

North Park West Bond

Mr. Goren, District General Counsel, advised that once the deed is received from the City of Boca Raton, it will be recorded, thereby transferring ownership of the west side of North Park to the District. The City has 60 days to complete this transfer in accordance with the terms of the Interlocal Agreement (ILA).

Commissioners:

Commissioner Vogelgesang inquired about the approach for evaluating the P3 proposals, asking whether they would be reviewed collectively or on a rolling basis as they are received. She also expressed her appreciation to staff for attending the City Council meeting regarding the Interlocal Agreement for the softball fields.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED


Erin Wright

Chair


Craig F. Ehrnst

Secretary-Treasurer