

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 6, 2026

The MEETING took place at the Swim & Racquet Center and was live-streamed via Zoom for viewing & listening. Chair Rollins called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Craig F. Ehrnst - *arrived at 5:17 p.m.*

Steven M. Engel

Robert K. Rollins, Jr.

Susan Vogelgesang

Erin Wright

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Cil Ciliberti raised concerns regarding the proposed Boys & Girls Club location at North Park, questioning long-term infrastructure impacts, including potential widening of Second Avenue, associated costs, and the loss of mature banyan trees.

Robin Cervillos opposed the softball fields at Sugar Sand Park due to the presence of protected gopher tortoises.

Carrie Malone spoke in support of expanding the Boys & Girls Club, highlighting its role in providing safe, structured environments that support children's academic, social, and emotional development.

Brianna Hanquist expressed concerns regarding the proposed Boys & Girls Club location, citing impacts on green space and traffic, as well as the potential removal of mature banyan trees. She suggested that they explore expansion at the current site or at alternative locations, and emphasized the importance of preserving environmentally sensitive areas, including gopher tortoise habitat at Sugar Sand Park.

Tex Guygnard spoke in support of the Boys & Girls Club expansion, emphasizing its role as a safe and supportive environment for children. He highlighted the importance of providing stability, mentorship, and resources for youth and urged approval of the proposed location as an investment in the community's future.

Mayara Silva supports the Boys & Girls Club, which is essential for working families like hers. She emphasized the need for more space to serve growing demand.

Jade Santos spoke in support of the Boys & Girls Club, stating that it provides a fun, safe environment and expressing a desire for more children to have access to the program.

Samuel Dalembert supported the Boys & Girls Club project, sharing personal experiences and emphasizing the importance of safe spaces for youth. He acknowledged traffic concerns but prioritized benefits to children.

Alejandra Perez supported the project, stating that she has children who attend the Boys & Girls Club and that more children could benefit if it were expanded.

Daniella Richards supported the project, sharing her experience as an AmeriCorps member working with the Boys & Girls Club. She highlighted the positive impact on students' academic growth, creativity, and future opportunities.

Allison Garris-Hannah supported the Boys and Girls Club expansion due to limited space affecting programming. She explained that a larger facility would improve program quality and better meet youth needs.

Alexis Burgos supported the project as both a parent and employee. She emphasized affordability, safety, and the importance of reliable childcare for working families.

Davin Joseph supported the project, sharing that the Boys & Girls Club has had a positive impact on her life. She highlighted growth in communication, teamwork, and confidence, and described it as a supportive and meaningful community.

Kieyana, a member of the Boys and Girls Club, supported expansion, describing the club as a safe, supportive place and requesting improved facilities, such as a gym and a library.

Joannie shared that the Boys & Girls Club has had a strong positive impact on her life. She highlighted academic support, friendships, and personal growth, noting that it has helped build her confidence, skills, and sense of community.

Robert DuKate opposed the proposed location while expressing support for the Boys & Girls Club as an organization. He raised concerns about traffic, project size, and public safety, particularly regarding the Jeffrey Street extension, and suggested considering alternative locations.

Martha Parker spoke in favor of the project, highlighting the Boys & Girls Club's strong financial efficiency and community impact. She emphasized the growing need for affordable childcare, stated the location is appropriate and accessible, and noted that traffic impacts would likely be limited due to busing and off-peak hours.

Art Turpel thanked staff and the Board for advancing the Sugar Sand Park roof project and encouraging timely approval. He also recommended installing wind screens on both sides at Patch Reef Park, noting potential glare issues and long-term cost efficiency.

Harold Chaffee requested an opportunity for questions following the Gumbo Limbo presentation to gain clarification on the project.

Mike Bendoim acknowledged the value of the Boys & Girls Club, but raised concerns about expanding at the current site. He suggested maintaining the existing location and creating additional, or satellite, locations to better manage growth and avoid overcrowding.

Jaclyn Anslow opposed the Boys and Girls Club project due to cumulative development impacts, traffic, and loss of green space. Emphasized the need for better planning and preservation.

Pablo Tejada highlighted the broader community benefits of the Boys & Girls Club, including strong partnerships, volunteer opportunities, and services provided beyond its members. He addressed traffic concerns by explaining that children are bused in during non-peak hours and emphasized the positive value the club brings to the community.

Mary O'Connor shared her experience as a former CEO, emphasizing the Boys & Girls Club's role in providing safe, supervised environments for children and reducing crime. She noted that

the organization has undergone a rigorous review process and that concerns such as traffic and site impacts will be addressed before final approval.

Brennan Isaac shared that the Boys & Girls Club helped him grow beyond athletics, building confidence and academic success, including earning a college scholarship. He expressed gratitude for the opportunities provided and noted that more space would allow more teens to benefit.

Jaene Miranda, President and CEO of the Boys and Girls Club, emphasized the transparency and thoroughness of the public process, including independent review and community engagement. She highlighted the organization's experience in building successful clubs, its commitment to ongoing communication, and noted that traffic studies and environmental considerations will be addressed as part of the development process.

Michael Schneider opposed the proposed location for the Boys and Girls Club, preferring a social club and golf course instead. He suggested relocating the Boys & Girls Club and skate park to Spanish River Park, citing better space, access, and compatibility with the surrounding area.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS:

<p><u>MOTION</u> was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 23, 2026, at 5:15 p.m.</p>
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MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Gumbo Limbo Presentation

Deputy Recreation Services Director, Tiffany Lucia, provided an overview of Gumbo Limbo Nature Center's mission and operations, noting its more than 40-year history of serving the community through environmental education, conservation, and stewardship initiatives. She emphasized that the Center continues to evolve while maintaining its core mission and has experienced significant growth in both visitation and programming.

Leanne Welch, Manager of Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, presented a comprehensive update on operations, highlighting record visitation exceeding 260,000 visitors annually, increased programming, and approximately 18,000 volunteer hours contributing to operations. She detailed facility improvements, including accessibility upgrades, exhibit enhancements, and infrastructure repairs. Ms. Welch also discussed conservation efforts, including daily sea turtle monitoring, rehabilitation coordination, and educational programming. She introduced upcoming initiatives, including the "Florida's Wild Backyard" exhibit, which focuses on native ecosystems and environmental education.

2. Patch Reef Park Pro Shop Design Discussion

Executive Director Harms presented a recommendation to modify the scope of the previously approved renovation project for the Patch Reef Park Pro Shop. She explained that after reviewing priorities and budget considerations, staff recommends focusing on essential improvements, including restrooms, circulation, and operational functionality. She noted that the original design did not include a defined construction budget and could exceed current financial priorities, particularly given uncertainty about future revenues and the Board's goal of reducing the millage rate.

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After discussion, the Board approved amending the scope of work with WZA to not exceed \$1.5 million for the interior renovation, while the roof project (estimated at ~\$500,000) remains a separate item. Staff was directed to refine the design within this budget and return if costs exceed expectations.

An Amended MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to modify the previously approved scope of services with Walters Zackria & Associates for the Patch Reef Park Pro Shop renovation, not to exceed \$1,500,000.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

3. Contract Approval with MBR for Roller Rink Cover at Sugar Sand Park

Executive Director Harms presented an updated Design-Build Agreement with MBR Construction for the Multi-Sport Rink Roof Cover project at Sugar Sand Park. Following Board direction at the previous meeting, staff engaged the contractor to explore cost-saving measures. As a result, the contractor agreed to reduce the total project cost by approximately 5%, bringing the contract amount to \$4,082,406 while maintaining the full project scope.

The project includes installing a permanent roof structure made of galvanized steel, intended to provide weather protection, improve usability, and expand programming opportunities at the facility. Ms. Harms emphasized that the project remains in the design-build phase and that timely approval is necessary to maintain the project schedule.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Ehrnst to approve the design-build agreement with MBR Construction for \$4,082,406 and authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

4. Patch Reef Park Pickleball Glare Discussion

Executive Director Harms presented options to address glare on the covered pickleball courts at Patch Reef Park, a concern identified by facility users since the project's completion. Staff evaluated multiple proposals and recommended the Gulfstream Sports option due to its thicker material, reinforced webbing, and panelized design, which allows for easier maintenance and partial replacement. Staff also noted that players expressed strong support for mitigating the glare, despite potential impacts to airflow and heat. The Gulfstream Sports proposal includes a cost of \$15,700, including a lift rental fee of up to \$2,200, with any unused portion credited to the District.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Ehrnst to approve the Gulfstream Sports proposal in the amount of \$15,700 for the installation of wind screens on the south side of the Patch Reef Park Pickleball courts, inclusive of reinforced webbing, and up to \$2,200 for the lift. Any unused portion of the lift allowance shall be credited back to the District.

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 \$414,454.81.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Executive Director:

Project Updates

All District projects are progressing on schedule. Roofing work at Sugar Sand Park is nearing completion, and reconstruction of the uncovered tennis and pickleball courts at Patch Reef Park continues to move forward.

North Park Bid Discussion

The North Park bid will be discussed at the next meeting. A link to the bid specifications has been distributed to the Commissioners for review in advance of that discussion.

District Counsel:

Mr. Goren reported that no bills have been filed for an upcoming special legislative session on budget approval or changes to ad valorem taxes.

Commissioners:

Commissioner Wright thanked the public for participation regarding the Boys & Girls Club and emphasized the importance of continuing to work through outstanding issues to advance the project.

Commissioner Ehrnst shared that he had been approached by field users regarding concerns about the condition of the FAU fields on Glades Road. Although he has not personally inspected the fields, he requested that the Executive Director communicate with FAU, noting the District's financial investment. He also suggested that FAU consider rotating use among its available fields to help improve maintenance and field conditions. He further noted that Sugar Sand softball planning should wait for direction from the City.

Commissioner Engel highlighted the growing demand for athletic fields and the potential shortage if the FAU agreement is not extended, stressing the importance of future field development. He also sought clarification on whether a new City ordinance regarding property transfers applies to the District.

Commissioner Rollins discussed ongoing efforts with FAU to address field maintenance and explore future accommodations, noting heavy usage impacts conditions. He emphasized the need for additional fields and better maintenance coordination with the City. He also mentioned interest in the upcoming cell tower proposal submissions due April 29.

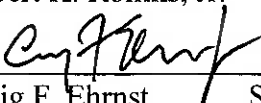
ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED



Robert K. Rollins, Jr. Chair



Craig F. Ehrnst Secretary-Treasurer

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