

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 5, 2026

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 noted that the bids for the North Park project were canceled after coming in significantly over budget. He said he was concerned that a revised, under-budget proposal was not yet presented. He mentioned the denial of his request to review bid information, stating that the lack of transparency made it difficult to understand costs and priorities. He also questioned discussing additional amenities, such as a skate park, while budget issues remain unresolved, and raised concerns about the lack of prior disclosure regarding the Jeffrey Street railroad crossing.

Executive Director Briann Harms and District General Counsel Sam Goren responded that the bids are exempt from public records under state law (*see page 2) because the project was not awarded and will be rebid. They stated that releasing the bids would compromise the integrity of the bidding process, create legal risk for the District, and undermine fair competition. They also confirmed that the board directed staff to reduce the project scope and rebid, which is currently underway.

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 December 15, 2025, at 5:15 p.m.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Election of Officers

Chair

Commissioner Vogelgesang nominated Commissioner Rollins for Chair, seconded by Commissioner Engel.

Commissioner Ehrnst then nominated Commissioner Wright for Chair, seconded by Commissioner Rollins.

Mr. Goren outlined the nomination procedure, after which Chair Wright closed nominations, and discussion proceeded. Counsel advised that the Board must vote on the two nominations for Chair in the order in which they were made.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to elect Commissioner Rollins for the position of Chair in 2026.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION PASSES 3-2

Vice-Chair

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to elect Commissioner Wright for the position of Vice Chair in 2026.

Nominations were closed.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Secretary-Treasurer

MOTION was made by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to elect Commissioner Ehrnst as Secretary-Treasurer in 2026.

Nominations were closed.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

* Mr. Goren clarified that the statutory exemption referenced in response to public records requests is Section 119.071(1)(b), Florida Statutes, which governs public records exemptions and the process described by the Executive Director and confirmed by counsel.

2. State Representative Peggy Gossett Seidman

Executive Director Briann Harms welcomed State Representative Peggy Gossett-Seidman, who provided an overview of the upcoming legislative session, her background in parks and environmental work, and her strong ties to Boca Raton. Representative Gossett-Seidman highlighted state appropriations she has filed for South County and Boca Raton, including funding related to waterfront infrastructure, water quality, and drinking water improvements. She discussed several bills she is sponsoring this session, including legislation on waterway restoration, data privacy, and government spending accountability.

Commissioners asked questions regarding proposed property tax legislation and its potential impact on local government revenues and services. Representative Gossett-Seidman explained that multiple tax proposals are under consideration, emphasized that discussions are ongoing between the House and Senate, and advised that no final decisions have been made. She stated that public safety and schools remain protected, that accountability in government spending is a key focus, and that she will keep the District informed as the session progresses.

Discussion occurred regarding whether it would be appropriate to begin updating the District's enabling legislation, given its age and the current legislative climate. Representative Gossett-Seidman advised that the District could begin drafting proposed updates, seek stakeholder input, and share materials with her for review, noting that such legislation may take multiple sessions to

advance. She encouraged the District to submit a draft or joint letter outlining its concerns or proposed changes for her consideration.

3. SRC Bridge Inspection

The Board reviewed a recommendation for a routine structural inspection of the pedestrian bridge at the Swim & Racquet Center, conducted every two years as part of the District's ongoing asset management and public safety practices. Staff recommended approval of Building Mavens, Inc., for \$8,250.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the SRC Pedestrian Bridge Inspection by Building Mavens, Inc. for \$8,250.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

4. Patch Reef Park Community Center Renovations

Executive Director Harms reviewed the proposed renovations to the Patch Reef Park Community Center, including an ADA-accessible restroom, lighting upgrades, and reconfiguration of an interior room to improve functionality and accessibility in support of launching the CAP program. Staff recommended approval of the Gordian contract with Shiff Construction.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to approve the Gordian contract with Shiff Construction, for improvements at Patch Reef Park Community Center, as presented.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

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 \$79,049.62

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Executive Director:

Sugar Sand Park Roof Projects Update

The Sugar Sand Park roof project is progressing on schedule, with work completed at the field house, trim and eave work underway at the quad fields, and construction at the duplex to begin next week.

Rink Cover – Design-Build Bids

Bids for the design-build for the roller rink cover are due on January 16, with staff planning to present the bids for discussion at the February meeting.

Thank you!

Ms. Harms thanked the Board, staff, and legal counsel for their support following the passing of her father and expressed appreciation for the Board's professionalism and collaborative culture.

District Counsel:

Mr. Goren reminded Commissioners of the requirement to complete ethics training by year end, advised that counsel would monitor and report on any legislation impacting the District, and noted that the Form 6 litigation remains pending.

Commissioners:

Commissioner Engel noted that the owners of the Mandarin Hotel have filed for Chapter 11 and that one of their properties, the former Mizner Country Club Golf Course, has been renovated and maintained in excellent condition. He suggested that the District proactively explore whether the property may be available and consider potential partnership opportunities with the City. He supported reviewing the District's enabling legislation, congratulated the newly elected officers, and expressed support for Executive Director Harms.

Commissioner Ehrnst expressed condolences to Executive Director Harms and supported reviewing and updating the District's enabling legislation. He also expressed support for continuing to seek additional land opportunities within the District and noted that future city annexations could affect District boundaries.

Commissioner Rollins thanked State Representative Gossett-Seidman for attending and suggested following up with a letter addressing concerns regarding ad valorem revenues and enabling legislation. He expressed appreciation for Executive Director Harms' leadership and acknowledged the contributions of the Chair and fellow commissioners.

Commissioner Vogelgesang congratulated the newly elected officers and expressed her support for Executive Director Harms. She praised the Sugar Sand Park staff for their assistance with soccer programming, raised safety concerns about the splash pad surface, and supported maintaining ordinances prohibiting animals in playground areas.

Commissioner Wright thanked fellow commissioners for their support, reflected on her term as Chair, and expressed confidence in the newly elected Chair and officers. She emphasized the importance of advancing the North Park project and continuing collaborative efforts in the coming year.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Robert K. Rollins, Jr. Chair

Robert R. Romas, Jr. *Craig F. Ehrnst* ¹⁰ *Chair*
Craig F. Ehrnst Secretary-Treasurer