

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 20, 2026

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

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Cil Ciliberti praised North Park's progress and requested detailed architectural plans addressing sound, lighting, buffering, and security impacts on nearby residents.

Joseph King expressed opposition to the skate park, citing incompatibility with the adjacent community, and advocated for a vote before approval.

Mary Alice Kindred strongly supported the skate park as a vital outlet for adolescents, emphasizing its physical, mental, and social benefits and the inclusive, supportive community it provides.

Robert DuKate questioned the specifics, cost, and city agreements related to the proposed skate park, expressing concerns about transparency, residential compatibility, and the need for greater public notice and community engagement.

Robert Stupack opposed the skate park due to cost, low current usage, proximity to residences, and suggested renovating the existing skate park instead.

Liz Lyons expressed clear support for the skate park at North Park.

Marisa Caponera voiced enthusiastic support for North Park and the skate park project.

Lisa Pyenson supported the skate park based on her experience running skate events, stating it would have a positive impact on the community.

Chayne Cottrell supported the skate park, citing positive experiences at other modern skate parks and noting they can coexist well with nearby amenities like pickleball.

Caleb spoke in favor of the skate park.

Asher Caponera expressed strong support for the skate park at North Park.

Dave Bamdas supported a new skate park, explaining that the current park's low use is due to its outdated design and that Boca skateboarders are traveling elsewhere for better facilities.

Whitney Thorn supported the skate park and urged the Commission to consider families and teens, noting that working parents are underrepresented at meetings despite strong community support.

Rachel Bennett advocated for a world-class skate park, sharing her family's long history with skateboarding and stressing the lack of teen-focused amenities in Boca Raton.

Greg Galanis thanked the Commission, highlighted the growth of golf participation, and encouraged inclusion of a golf component at North Park while offering his assistance.

Seth Turnoff supported the skate park, sharing personal history with Boca's parks and skateboarding, and emphasizing its value to future generations.

Liz Snoap supported the skate park, noting strong online community support, the importance of diverse recreational options, and the public-service value beyond attendance numbers.

Andrew Lundy supported the skate park, highlighting skateboarding's cultural, developmental, and community value.

Cameron Hackett supported the skate park, emphasizing accessibility and cost-free recreation, and noted that skate parks are no noisier than other accepted amenities, such as pickleball.

Leandro Haberkom supported the project, stating that Boca lacks a modern, well-designed skate park and emphasizing skateboarding's legitimacy as an Olympic sport.

Jack Cavanagh supported the new skate park, explaining the current facility is too small and outdated, and highlighting skateboarding's role in building community and personal identity.

Sean O'Connor expressed lifelong gratitude for the existing skate park and supported efforts to improve or expand skateboarding facilities in Boca Raton.

Ryan supported the skate park, highlighting skateboarding's role in building confidence, fostering creativity, and cultivating perseverance.

Max Samus strongly supported the skate park, emphasizing cognitive development, community culture, sportsmanship, and the importance of getting kids outdoors and off screens.

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 January 5, 2026, at 5:15 p.m.</p>

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. North Park Skate Park Design

Executive Director Harms presented a brief history of the North Park skate park initiative, noting that on April 7 of the prior year, following extensive public comment, the Board directed staff to explore a skate park at North Park. Staff subsequently accepted a Plant a Park grant for conceptual design and, on August 4, the Board approved an additional services agreement with Miller Legg for full design and permitting services, including coordination with American Ramp Company. Two public workshops were held to gather community input, which informed the final conceptual design.

Dan Lundy, Executive Director of Plant a Park, Tito Parata, skate park designer, and Lumi Fuentes of Miller Legg reviewed the design process, community engagement efforts, and key design features, including integration with the natural landscape, buffering from adjacent residences, lighting mitigation, accessibility, adaptive and inclusive design elements, safety considerations, and anticipated community usage. The design team explained that the proposed facility includes a multi-use street course, pump tracks, transition, and bowl areas, and shaded green spaces designed to serve users of varying ages and skill levels, while maintaining clear sightlines, low-impact lighting, and landscape buffering.

Questions were addressed regarding drainage, parking, safety, accessibility, and projected usage, with staff noting that attendance is expected to be spread throughout the day without creating

GBRB&PD Minutes: January 20, 2026

concentrated traffic impacts. Commissioners expressed appreciation for the public engagement process, design quality, and anticipated community benefits.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve the conceptual design for the North Park Skatepark and Pump Track as presented and to authorize the design team to proceed with the preparation of construction documents and permitting.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

2. SRC Tennis Court Lighting Design

Staff recommended approval of an Additional Services Agreement with Calvin, Giordano & Associates, Inc. (CGA) for the design, permitting, and bidding services related to the installation of lighting on the remaining six unlit tennis courts at the Swim & Racquet Center. This work represents Phase 2 of the Racquet Center lighting project, is included in the FY 2025–2026 Capital Improvement Plan, and will allow completion of lighting on all courts. The agreement is necessary to meet City permitting requirements, is priced lower than the prior lighting design phase, and construction will return to the Board for separate approval.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the Additional Services Agreement with Calvin, Giordano & Associates, Inc. for design, permitting, and bidding services for lighting of the remaining six courts at the Boca Raton Swim & Racquet Center, as presented.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

3. Explorium Exhibit Approvals

Executive Director Harms presented two proposed traveling Explorium exhibits for the Children's Science Explorium at Sugar Sand Park, describing both as engaging, interactive experiences designed to enhance educational programming and visitor engagement. Ms. Harms advised that District counsel reviewed both agreements and include the standard addendum language used for prior Explorium exhibits.

The Life on the Edge exhibit, developed by Sciencenter and supported by NASA, is scheduled to run from September 11, 2026, through January 8, 2027. The exhibit explores extreme environments, astrobiology, and STEM-related careers through immersive, hands-on learning experiences. The total cost is \$44,500, plus inbound shipping and standard insurance, with outbound shipping covered by the lender.

The TreeHouses: Look Who's Living in the Trees! The exhibit is scheduled from January 8, 2027, through May 17, 2027, and focuses on ecosystems, habitats, and the diverse life found in trees through interactive and exploratory displays. The total cost for this exhibit is \$26,000, plus inbound shipping and standard insurance, with outbound shipping covered by the lender.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to approve the agreements with Sciencenter for the two traveling exhibits, *Life on the Edge*, and *TreeHouses: Look Who's Living in the Trees!*, as presented.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

4. Patch Reef Park EV Charger Discussion

Staff presented a proposed Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station Use and Pricing Policy for the Patch Reef Park Paddle & Racquet Club in advance of activating the newly installed chargers. The recommended policy establishes a rate of \$2.00 per hour for the first four hours and \$5.00 per hour thereafter to recover energy and administrative costs and to encourage parking turnover in the absence of on-site enforcement. The policy is consistent with practices in other Florida municipalities, supports fair public access, and directs staff to implement pricing, signage, and monitoring upon Board adoption.

Commissioners discussed charger type, parking demand, comparisons with other municipalities, and user cost impacts. Following discussion, the Board reached consensus to implement a fee structure of \$2.50 per hour for the first two hours, increasing to \$5.00 per hour thereafter, to promote availability while remaining consistent with regional practices.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adopt the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Use and Pricing Policy for Patch Reef Park Paddle & Racquet Club, establishing a rate of \$2.50 per hour for the first two hours and \$5.00 per hour thereafter, and authorize staff to implement the policy.

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 \$283,045.22.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Executive Director:

Multisport Rink Cover – Sugar Sand Park

Six proposals were received from five firms for the multisport rink cover at Sugar Sand Park. The Board reached consensus to rank proposals at the next meeting, advance the top three firms to interviews at a subsequent meeting, and complete the process within February.

Patch Reef Park Community Center Renovations

The permitting process has been initiated for the renovations to the Patch Reef Park Community Center.

North Park – Eastern Portion Rebid

The eastern portion of North Park has been rebid, with bids due on February 18.

District Counsel:

District General Counsel Jacob Horowitz provided a brief legislative update, noting that Senate Bill 378 and its companion House Bill 6005 are advancing through the Legislature and propose to repeal the statutory requirement for the District to adopt an annual goals and objectives resolution. Mr. Horowitz stated that staff will continue to monitor the bills and keep the Board informed of any developments.

Commissioners:

Commissioner Engel commended the strong public turnout and encouraged residents to keep an open mind about the skate park, noting its broader community benefit. He emphasized the need to adapt to changing circumstances in repurposing North Park. He requested an update on a proposed letter to State Representative Peggy Gossett-Seidman regarding property taxes discussed at the prior meeting.

Commissioner Ehrnst stated that the skate park would be a valuable addition to the community and that the existing skate park is outdated and in need of replacement. He emphasized that North Park serves the entire district, encouraged continued focus on completing the east and southeast sides of the park, and raised the importance of long-term planning for a future field house facility.

Commissioner Wright expressed strong support for the skate park and urged fellow commissioners to remain committed. She emphasized that North Park is public land intended for the entire community and highlighted the significant green space that will remain alongside the skate park and pickleball facilities.


Commissioner Vogelgesang noted impacts to athletic fields from heavy use and expressed support for advancing Phase Two to add additional rectangular fields. She stated that design efforts at North Park are appropriately addressing resident concerns and that the project team is doing a good job balancing community needs.

Commissioner Rollins expressed full support for the skate park, praising the public's enthusiasm and the quality of the design and buffering efforts. He also emphasized the need to move forward on major priorities, including a field house, Phase Two development, and planning related to the FAU agreement, urging proactive coordination with the City to advance these projects.

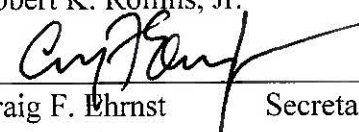
ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED



Robert K. Rollins, Jr. Chair



Craig F. Ehrnst Secretary-Treasurer