

**GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF**  
**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
February 2, 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  
Steven M. Engel  
Robert K. Rollins, Jr.  
Susan Vogelgesang  
Erin Wright

**PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

*Robert DuKate* asked for clarification on the new North Park RFP and site plans, citing difficulty accessing files and confusion about the skate park's location. He raised concerns about proximity to condominiums, trail and tunnel access, park hours, and confirmed the distance from residential property lines.

*Michael J. Schneider* opposed placing a skate park near residential areas and suggested Spanish River Park as a better alternative. Expressed preference for golf uses and raised concerns about skate park demand and broader state property tax policies.

*Henry Dirksen* raised concerns about ongoing noise from the pickleball facility affecting nearby homes and asked what steps are being taken to mitigate sound impacts.

*Art Turpel* thanked staff and commissioners for advancing the Sugar Sand Park covered-roof project, supported a simpler, more cost-effective design, and urged the board to avoid further delays. He also expressed support for the proposed cell tower, citing poor cell service at the park.

*Ivy Sullivan* spoke about the severe noise impacts from pickleball in her Parkside community, describing significant neighborhood division and ongoing litigation within her HOA. She urged the board to visit [pickleballnoiserelief.com](http://pickleballnoiserelief.com) to review nationwide lawsuits and research, and to consider residential impacts when planning pickleball facilities carefully.

**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 January 20, 2026, at 5:15 p.m.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

**1. Patch Reef Park Paddle & Racquet Club Pro Shop Design**

Executive Director Harms presented a proposal from Walters Zackria & Associates (WZA) to develop two conceptual design options for renovating the Patch Reef Park Paddle & Racquet Club Pro Shop to accommodate increased traffic from the addition of eighteen courts, including options to maintain or expand the building footprint and add amenities such as restrooms. Commissioners discussed the cost, scope, and fiscal implications, with staff explaining that a more comprehensive design is required due to potential changes to layout, plumbing, roofing, and pedestrian flow. The proposal totals \$222,495, including \$164,680 for programming and schematic design, \$52,815 for re-roofing design and construction administration, and up to \$5,000 in reimbursable expenses, and does not include future design phases, permitting, or construction costs.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to approve the WZA proposal for the conceptual design for the Paddle & Racquet Club Pro Shop for \$222,495, as presented.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**2. Cell Tower RFP**

Staff presented the proposed RFP for cell tower installations at District-owned parks, outlining the scope, design expectations, and minimum financial contributions. Following discussion, the Commission amended the RFP to clarify that proposals may be submitted for one or multiple parks, that evaluations and rankings will be conducted on a park-by-park basis, and that the District retains the discretion to accept or reject any proposal at any location. The Commission also directed that the proposal submission timeframe be extended beyond 30 days due to the scope of the RFP.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the Cell Tower RFP, as amended.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**3. Bid Ranking of Rink Cover**

Staff reported receiving six proposals from five vendors for a cover over the Sugar Sand Park multi-sport rink. The proposals were submitted by Recreation Design & Construction (\$3,529,793), MBR Construction (\$4,297,269), Shiff Construction (\$4,861,260), Vercetti Enterprises (\$5,215,211.69), and Butters Construction, which submitted two separate proposals: a metal canopy system (\$4,400,000) and a proprietary fabric canopy system (\$3,800,000).

Mr. Goren, District General Counsel, reviewed the statutory requirements for the competitive ranking process, including the requirement to select no fewer than three qualified firms. Commissioners discussed significant cost differences, proposal details, long-term durability, vendor workload, and the importance of identifying project managers prior to ranking.

**A MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ehrnst to defer the ranking, proceed with interviews of the proposers at a future meeting, and then complete the ranking.

*Discussion:* The Board agreed to conduct proposer presentations at the next District meeting on February 17. The Chair confirmed that any previously submitted draft rankings were null and void. Staff was directed to allow equal presentation time of 10 minutes per proposal, including separate presentations for both Butters Construction options, followed by Board questions and public comment.

**An Amended MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to defer the ranking, invite all proposers to present at the next meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup> and conduct the ranking that same evening.

**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 \$521,119.24.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Executive Director:**

*North Park Project Update*

City staff conducting the Public Works Review (PWR) for the North Park project have added a requirement after the site plan was finalized and approved, resulting in a potential cost increase to the District of at least \$250,000. The PWR process, required for permitting, has been ongoing for approximately one year and has included multiple rounds of comments. Staff have requested that the City reevaluate this late addition and have communicated concerns to City management. A response from the City is pending. The project is currently out to bid, with bids due on February 18.

*North Park Traffic Garden Safety Fair*

The North Park Traffic Garden Safety Fair will take place on Wednesday, February 18. City departments and community partners will be present to promote bicycle and child safety. The event will include helmet fittings, free helmet distribution, and additional giveaways for children. Participating agencies include FDOT, Boca Raton Mobility, Boca Raton Police Department, Boca Raton Fire Department, Safe Kids Palm Beach County, Drowning Prevention Coalition, Boca Raton Library, Boca Raton Ocean Rescue, and the Children’s Science Explorium.

*Gumbo Limbo Nature Center Decking Project*

Construction of the decking surrounding the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center is scheduled to begin on February 9 and is anticipated to be completed by June 16. The project will be completed in two phases to maintain access to the aquariums throughout construction. During construction, two entry and exit doors will remain available at all times. The project is funded by the District and managed by the City, as the facility is City-owned.

**District Counsel:**

Mr. Goren provided an update on pending legislation in Tallahassee, noting that House Bill 6005 and Senate Bill 378 would repeal statutory goals, objectives, and reporting requirements currently applicable to special districts. He emphasized that the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District is fully compliant with existing law and that the proposed changes, if adopted, would apply to future years and could impact special districts statewide. Both bills remain active and undecided, and staff will continue to monitor their progress.

**Commissioners:**

*Commissioner Engel* commented on the long-term fiscal impacts of proposed tax reductions, stressing that government services ultimately must be paid for and warning of potential millage increases. He encouraged residents to contact state legislators to better understand the local consequences of tax policy. He also requested updates on the Boys & Girls Club project at North

Park. He emphasized the need for consistent criteria among commissioners when ranking bidders, particularly regarding prior experience with the District.

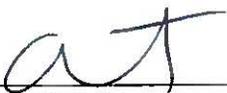
*Commissioner Vogelgesang* thanked Chuck King for his effective and positive social media outreach highlighting District parks and facilities, and inquired about the status of the annual ethics training.

*Commissioner Rollins* reported on a recent trip to Tallahassee, noting he was unable to meet with the District's state representative despite multiple attempts. He shared that discussions with the State CFO focused on legislative pressure to reduce ad valorem taxes and noted that enforcement appears to target compliant entities rather than those abusing the system.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

  
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Erin Wright Vice-Chair

  
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Craig F. Ernst Secretary-Treasurer