GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 20, 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 *absent*
Steven M. Engel
Robert K. Rollins, Jr.
Susan Vogelgesang
Erin Wright

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Cil Ciliberti commented on preserving the open green space at North Park and expressed opposition to locating the proposed Boys & Girls Club building at the site. While supporting other planned recreational amenities, he stated that the proposed building would detract from the park's original vision and suggested a different location be considered.

Briana Hagquist spoke in support of preserving parks, wildlife, and green space, and opposed locating the Boys & Girls Club at North Park. She also requested clarification during the budget discussion regarding the financial relationship between the District and the City in the operation of District parks.

Art Turpel thanked the Board for its stewardship of the District's parks and recreational facilities. He encouraged the Board to continue investing in capital improvements and maintaining the current millage rate to support future recreational needs.

Linda Morgenstern thanked the Board members who opposed the proposed surf park at North Park and expressed concerns regarding noise impacts associated with recreational facilities. She requested an update on the skate park noise studies and inquired whether complaints had been received regarding pickleball noise at Patch Reef Park.

Michael J. Schneider stated that several condominium associations oppose locating the skate park and Boys & Girls Club at North Park and reiterated support for Spanish River Park as an alternative location. He also suggested holding a public town hall meeting if future discussions regarding proposed property tax changes are scheduled.

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 July 6, 2026, at 5:15 p.m.

Motion Passed 4-0

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Park Security Systems Maintenance Contract

A recommendation was presented to approve an Annual Security Systems Maintenance Work Order with ER Tech Systems Group, Inc. d/b/a Broadcast Systems. Executive Director Harms explained that the work order would establish a blanket purchase order in the amount of $20,480.88

to provide for repairs and maintenance of the District's security camera systems, including damage caused by weather and other incidents, such as a camera at Sugar Sand Park that was recently struck by lightning. The work order establishes a not-to-exceed annual authorization, does not obligate the District to expend the full amount, and ensures the District pays only for services actually performed.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to approve the Annual Security Systems Maintenance Work Order with ER Tech Systems Group, Inc. d/b/a Broadcast Systems for $20,480.88, as presented.

Motion Passed 4-0

2. Patch Reef Park Pro Shop Renovation Design

Representatives from Walters Zackria Associates presented the schematic design for the proposed renovation of the Patch Reef Park Paddle & Racquet Club. The presentation outlined improvements intended to better accommodate the facility's increased use following the addition of 18 covered pickleball courts and the continued growth of pickleball and tennis programming. Proposed renovations include a centrally located reception area, expanded restroom facilities, two new multipurpose rooms created from underutilized space, improved interior circulation, and architectural enhancements. Staff noted that the original renovation concept, estimated at approximately $2.5 million, had been refined through collaboration with the architect to reduce the preliminary construction estimate to approximately $2.18 million while preserving the project's primary operational improvements.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the Schematic Design for the Patch Reef Park Paddle & Racquet Club Improvements (WZA Project No. 2210-07), as presented.

Motion Passed 4-0

3. Budget Discussion:

a. City Budget Requests

The Board reviewed the City of Boca Raton's proposed FY 2026/2027 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program for District parks. Staff reported that the proposed park operations budget increased by approximately $1.09 million (5.15%) over the prior fiscal year, reflecting higher personnel costs, contractual services, utilities, equipment replacement, and facility maintenance. The Board was advised that the budget also includes organizational changes transferring Park Rangers to the Police Department and Ocean Rescue to Fire Rescue, with those costs now shown separately. The proposed Capital Improvement Program totals approximately $3.3 million and includes funding for facility preservation, infrastructure improvements, equipment replacement, and ongoing capital projects. Staff recommended supporting the Capital Improvement Program, with the exception of the proposed Red Reef Beach lifeguard tower replacement project, noting that additional information regarding the project's scope, design, procurement strategy, and updated cost estimates should be presented before District funding is considered.

b. District CIP

Executive Director Harms presented the District's proposed Capital Improvement Program, including resurfacing the Sugar Sand Park playground, replacement of the Swim & Racquet Center pedestrian bridge, implementation of a fuel load reduction program, continued funding for DeHoernle Park Phase II, expansion of security cameras at Patch Reef Park, and the Paddle & Racquet Club renovation. Commissioners discussed future athletic field needs, the potential use of synthetic turf to increase field availability, parking improvements at DeHoernle Park, and maintaining adequate funding for future capital projects.

c. Preliminary Budget Presentation

Executive Director Harms reviewed the preliminary Fiscal Year 2027 budget prepared using the rollback millage rate of 1.0331 mills. She summarized projected revenues and expenditures, explained major budget categories, including general government expenses and required CRA payments, and discussed anticipated operating costs for North Park once construction is complete. Staff recommended establishing an operating reserve to prepare for those future expenses, and the Board expressed support for including the reserve in the proposed budget.

d. Budget Presentation by Commissioner and Treasurer Craig Ehrnst

Executive Director Harms read a statement from Commissioner Ehrnst, who was unable to attend the meeting, requesting that the Board consider adopting a 1.00 millage rate. Commissioners agreed to revisit the recommendation after Commissioner Ehrnst could present his proposal and answer questions at a future meeting.

e. Set Tentative Millage Rate for FY2027

The Board reviewed the proposed tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 and the estimated tax impact to property owners. The proposed tentative operating millage rate sets the maximum rate that may be adopted during the budget process while allowing the Board to reduce the rate at the public hearings if desired. Following discussion, the Board established the tentative Fiscal Year 2027 operating millage rate at 1.0331 mills.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to establish the tentative Fiscal Year 2027 operating millage rate at 1.0331 mills.

Motion Passed 4-0

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL AND INVOICES:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the payroll and invoices as presented, totaling $3,162,313.25.

Motion Passed 4-0

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Executive Director:

Sugar Sand Park Roof Project Completed Under Budget

The Sugar Sand Park roof replacement project, which included the Field House, pavilions, gatehouse, and ballfield facilities, was completed under budget. The final project cost totaled $2,177,707, resulting in savings of $89,704 from the approved project budget.

City Council Workshop – North Park Skate Park
The Board was reminded that the proposed North Park skate park would be presented during the upcoming Boca Raton City Council workshop on July 27th. It was explained that the workshop presentation is informational only and that no action or vote will be taken by the City Council.

Skate Park Noise Information
Executive Director Harms responded to questions raised during Public Requests regarding potential noise impacts from the proposed skate park. She explained that the planned concrete skate park would generate less noise than facilities with metal ramps, would be located more than 400 feet from the nearest residential buildings, and that landscaping and fencing would provide additional buffering. She also noted that no noise complaints had been received following the installation of sound mitigation measures at the Patch Reef Park pickleball facility.

District Counsel:
District General Counsel, Mr. Goren, updated the Board on the pending litigation challenging the proposed constitutional amendment, "Save Our Homes from Excessive Property Taxes," noting that a hearing was scheduled for July 29 in Tallahassee. He explained the legal process, potential appeals, and possible impacts on the November ballot. Mr. Goren also advised the Board of recent legislative changes affecting the TRIM process and millage rate adoption requirements and confirmed that the District's tentative millage rate had been established in accordance with current state law.

Commissioners:
Commissioner Vogelgesang thanked the District for its expression of sympathy following the passing of her father-in-law. She also suggested inviting City staff to present information regarding resident versus non-resident participation in recreational programs, noting that she had received constituent concerns about non-resident usage of the Patch Reef Park pickleball courts.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Motion Passed 4-0

Robert K. Rollins, Jr. Chair

Craig F. Ehrnst Secretary-Treasurer