

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 18, 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

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: The District Recommendations for the FY2027 CRA Budget moved to item #1 on the agenda.

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Cil Ciliberti opposed further development of North Park and stated the Boys and Girls Club is not appropriate for the location.

Briana Hagquist raised concerns about overdevelopment, wildlife impacts, parking, and the proposed cell tower, and said the Boys and Girls Club is not appropriate for the location.

Michael J. Schneider submitted condominium resolutions opposing the skate park and Boys and Girls Club as incompatible with the residential area.

Robert Dukate opposed the proposed skate park and raised questions about notice, security, staffing, hours, fees, and safety requirements.

Mark Griffith encouraged the Board to revisit the prior concept for a world-class golf facility.

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 May 4, 2026, at 5:15 p.m.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. District Recommendations for the FY2027 CRA Budget

The Board discussed recreation priorities within the CRA redevelopment area as part of the fiscal year 2027 CRA budget process. Executive Director Harms reviewed potential recommendations, including improvements to the downtown tennis center, downtown walkability enhancements, continued interest in a downtown community/recreation center, and support for Sanborn Square renovations and activation programming.

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of using District CRA contributions for recreational purposes. Commissioners recommended that the CRA prioritize downtown recreational improvements, including maintaining and improving the existing downtown tennis facilities, consideration of a field house or gymnasium, an aquatic center, and additional family-centered programming such as movie nights. The Board also requested greater transparency regarding how District CRA contributions are allocated and spent.

There was consensus for Executive Director Harms to send a letter to the CRA Chair outlining the District's recommendations.

2. Grau Contract Approval

The Board discussed renewal of the District's audit services agreement with Grau & Associates for FY 2026 pursuant to the one-year renewal option contained in the existing agreement. Grau & Associates has served as the District's auditor since 2021.

The proposed amendment provides for annual financial audit services for the fiscal year ending September 2026, including examination of compliance with Florida Statutes and required reporting, review of internal controls and compliance procedures, and assistance with the preparation of the District's financial statements. The Board expressed support for continuing the firm's services under the renewal option.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the amendment to audit services with Grau & Associates for the fiscal year ending in September 2026, as presented.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

3. CAP Program – Hearing Loop

The Board considered the installation of a hearing loop system at the Patch Reef Park Community Accessibility Program (CAP) Center as part of ongoing facility renovations and accessibility improvements. The proposed system would improve speech clarity and reduce background noise for individuals with hearing loss. The project includes installation in two rooms in the Community Center. Executive Director Harms stated that the hearing loop would be integrated into the building and should be installed before the flooring is completed. The proposed change order from Shiff Construction would increase the total construction cost by \$23,166.25.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to approve the proposed change order for the Hearing Loop System in the amount of \$23,166.25.

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 \$1,715,862.99.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Executive Director:

District Office Flooring Replacement & North Park Bid Deadline
Flooring replacement at the District offices will begin on June 3.

North Park Bids

GBRB&PD Minutes: May 18, 2026

The North Park bids are due June 5 and will be publicly opened downstairs due to the flooring work.

CAP Center at Patch Reef Progress Update

Demolition at the CAP Center at Patch Reef has been completed. Plumbing installation for the new ADA restroom is underway, and electrical work is being completed this week.

Patch Pickleball Glare Mitigation Installation

Installation of the glare-mitigation wind screen at Patch Pickleball is scheduled for this week.

District Counsel: No report.

Commissioners:

Commissioner Wright requested that the District schedule a joint meeting with the City Council to discuss District projects and address misinformation presented during public comment at recent City Council meetings. She stated that the meeting would allow the Council to hear directly from the District about its projects and operations.

Commissioner Vogelgesang supported a joint meeting with the City Council and said the Board should prepare a clear agenda in advance. She emphasized that the District should be specific about its requests, wishes, and any clarifications needed.

Commissioner Engel discussed the potential impact of proposed state legislation that could eliminate most property taxes on homesteaded properties. He stated that approximately 40% of the District's revenue comes from homesteaded residential property taxes and expressed concern that the loss of this revenue would significantly affect the District's ability to fund capital improvements and operations. He encouraged residents to contact their legislators regarding the importance of preserving local government and special district property tax revenue.


Commissioner Ehrnst suggested that, during the upcoming budget process, the District consider preparing alternative budget scenarios in the event property tax legislation moves forward.

Commissioner Rollins agreed that the District should monitor the proposed property tax legislation and asked District Counsel to keep the Board informed. He also supported reaching out to legislators to explain the District's interest in maintaining property tax revenue.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED


Robert K. Rollins, Jr. Chair


Craig F. Ehrnst Secretary-Treasurer