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GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 19, 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: Golf at North Park was moved to the first discussion item.

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Greg Galanis supported bringing golf back to North Park and requested its inclusion on the upcoming joint meeting agenda with City Council. He also read a letter from a former Ladies Golf League organizer highlighting the league's popularity and how much members missed the executive course.

Fran Nachlas supported an inclusive, accessible golf facility at North Park.

Joel Rask – Advocated for complementary family-oriented golf and questioned changes to the North Park website.

J.P. Pilot described the difficulty of obtaining public tee times and supported additional golf access.

Dave Morantz emphasized affordable opportunities for youth and beginning golfers.

Bobby Epstein supported a shorter course, practice facilities, and possible revenue generation.

Robert DuKate advocated for golf on the west side and discussed course accessibility and City coordination.

Derek Arnett supported affordable, family-friendly short-course golf and practice opportunities.

Mike Loving described growing neighborhood demand for youth and family golf.

Mark Griffith criticized the pace and direction of North Park planning and supported a championship golf course.

Harold Chaffee urged the District and City to move forward with golf.

Karen Pruznick supported preserving green space and restoring public golf.

Chase Maher supported a family-oriented golf gathering place near North Park.

Ryan Luering emphasized affordable public golf and urged progress without further delay.

Antonio Justo described interest among FAU club golfers and potential collegiate participation.

Briana Hagquist supported other recreational priorities, including trails, paddle sports, and girls flag football.

Michael Schneider supported golf and practice facilities as community amenities.

Angela Mazzei supported affordable, convenient family golf at North Park.

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Greg Galanis (additional comment) cited another publicly supported golf redevelopment as a potential example.

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 October 5, 2026.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Golf at North Park

Executive Director Harms reviewed the history of the North Park conceptual plan and clarified that golf remains under consideration for the western portion of the property, although no funding for golf construction is currently budgeted. The purpose of the discussion was to determine whether the Board wished to pursue an updated golf study to identify the most appropriate and financially feasible type of golf facility.

The proposed evaluation would assess potential golf concepts, market demand, construction and operating costs, projected revenue, financial sustainability, site limitations, private investment opportunities, and impacts on existing municipal golf facilities, to minimize District funding and ongoing taxpayer support. Executive Director Harms noted that Deputy City Manager Andrew Lukasik had expressed the City's interest in participating in the evaluation.

Discussion focused on developing a unique, affordable, family-friendly golf facility that would complement rather than compete with the City's existing courses. Potential amenities included an executive or par-3 course, a wedge course, a Himalayan putting course, and a driving range.

Commissioners also discussed resident accessibility, preserving space for other recreational facilities, including a field house, and the potential cost of making the existing pedestrian tunnel ADA-accessible.

Staff will obtain proposals from three qualified consulting firms, focusing on identifying a suitable, unique, and financially responsible golf concept rather than repeating the previous community needs assessment, and will return with the proposals for Board consideration.

In response to a public comment, Executive Director Harms clarified that revisions to the District website reflected projects currently approved and under construction, not a decision to eliminate golf.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to direct the Executive Director to obtain three proposals from qualified consulting firms to evaluate the feasibility of developing unique, affordable, family-friendly golf amenities on the western portion of North Park, including an executive course, par-3 course, driving range, wedge course, Himalayan putting course, and other potential golf amenities. The evaluation would include construction and operating costs, financial feasibility, site considerations, and compatibility with the City's existing golf courses, in coordination with the City of Boca Raton. The proposals will be brought back to the Board for consideration.

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MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

2. 2027 District Meeting & Holiday Schedule

Executive Director Harms presented the proposed 2027 District Meeting and Holiday Schedule for the Board's consideration, noting that several meeting dates had been adjusted to accommodate holidays.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the 2027 Board Meeting and Holiday Schedule as presented.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

3. Audit RFP Process

Executive Director Harms reviewed the process of selecting an independent auditing firm. She explained that the District could either renew its existing agreement with Grau & Associates for another year or proceed with a competitive selection process, as the Board previously discussed.

Proceeding with an RFP would require establishing a three-member Auditor Selection Committee. The proposed committee would consist of Commissioner Craig Ehrnst as Chair, Tiffany Lucia, Deputy Director of Recreation Services, and Carlisa Jenkins, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, both with the City of Boca Raton. District staff would provide administrative support to the committee.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to establish an Auditor Selection Committee consisting of Commissioner Craig Ehrnst as Chair, Tiffany Lucia, and Carlisa Jenkins to proceed with the competitive auditor selection process.

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 $1,110,180.91.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Executive Director:

Roller Rink Cover Update

Executive Director Harms reported that the City had advised the District that the roller rink cover project would require site plan approval, despite previously indicating that it would not be necessary. Staff is awaiting clarification, and the additional requirement may delay the anticipated construction schedule.

CAP Center Ribbon Cutting – Patch Reef Park

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Community Accessibility Program (CAP) Center at Patch Reef Park is scheduled for October 23, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The event is open to the public.

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Staff Appreciation
Ms. Harms thanked District and City staff, along with support personnel, for their dedication, hard work, and contributions to the District's ongoing projects and operations.

District Counsel: No Update

Commissioners:

Commissioner Wright expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming ribbon-cutting at the CAP Center at Patch Reef Park and the expanded recreational opportunities the renovated facility will provide for the community.

Commissioner Vogelgesang encouraged outreach to TOPSoccer families to inform them of the CAP Center ribbon cutting and the recreational opportunities available at the facility.

Commissioner Ehrnst expressed concern regarding the unexpected site plan requirement for the Sugar Sand Park roller rink cover and suggested addressing the issue at the upcoming joint meeting with the City if it remains unresolved. He also offered support for bringing in additional temporary staff, if needed, to assist with the District's ongoing projects and inquired about the status of planned improvements to the Willow Theatre.

Commissioner Engel requested that the City consider giving District residents priority tee times and resident rates at the Boca Raton Golf & Racquet Club. Staff agreed to follow up with the City regarding the request.

Commissioner Rollins supported Commissioner Engel's request for priority tee times and resident rates for District residents. He also expressed concern regarding continued cellular service issues at Sugar Sand Park and requested further investigation. Commissioner Rollins concluded by recognizing Executive Director Harms and staff for their dedication and hard work.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Robert K. Rollins, Jr. Chair

DocuSigned by
Craig Ehrnst

Craig F. Ehrnst Secretary-Treasurer