

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR “VIRTUAL” MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 8, 2020

The “VIRTUAL” MEETING, conducted through the Zoom platform, was called to order by CHAIRMAN Susan Vogelgesang, at 5:15 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Craig F. Ehrnst
Steven M. Engel
Robert K. Rollins, Jr.
Susan Vogelgesang
Erin Wright

CHANGES TO AGENDA:

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

The following people emailed their public requests that Ms. Harms read into the record:

Mr. Jim Miller, representing the Friends of Gumbo Limbo, is pleased that considerable progress is being made on the tower project and provided the following updates: the City has completed a study of conceptual designs and preliminary cost estimates for ramps for the Tower; Friends together with the donors, Sherilyn Jones and Stephen Kosowsky, have agreed with a plan to build a ramp that will make the Tower ADA compliant to the projected full height, the preliminary cost estimate with that plan is \$1.2 million; the District has committed \$600,000 in the FY20-21 budget towards constructing an ADA compliant public observation Tower, Friends have already raised and committed \$500,000 for a total of \$1.1 Million Dollars and has approved a resolution to commit up to \$100,000 additional funding for the project; the donors have agreed to an amendment of their agreement with Friends for an additional 6 months to January 2021; a new amendment to the agreement between Friends and the District is being compiled to reflect this understanding.

The following people called into the meeting:

Ms. Nancy Jo Feinberg congratulated Commissioner Wright on a good campaign and suggested that the District create a committee for advice on constructing a golf course with both public and private club professionals as well as consult with the USGA. She mentioned the necessity for proper drainage; inquired about the soil composition and what type of grass will be used; the choice of foliage and suggested that the District work with the City to ensure that the upkeep is properly funded.

Mr. Harold Chaffe inquired about the status of the golf course.

Mr. Raul Travieso, president of Boca Raton Pickleball Club and USA Pickleball Ambassador for South East Florida, requested that the District opt to build six pickleball courts at Patch Reef Park.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the minutes of the Regular “Virtual” Meeting held on August 17, 2020, at 5:15 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Ehrnst	Yes
Commissioner Engel	Yes
Commissioner Rollins	Yes
Commissioner Vogelgesang	Yes
Commissioner Wright	Yes

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Pickleball at Patch Reef Park

Ms. Dawson, Facilities Manager, presented the Board with options to convert two tennis courts into pickleball courts at Patch Reef Park. One option is a four-court layout (approximately \$25,000) and the other option is a six-court layout (approximately \$55,000). The six-court pickleball configuration would require “squaring” the baseline fence, removing the water fountain and capping the line, removing the player’s shade structure, and removing trees on the south side so additional asphalt can be laid. An RFP to bid the project out will be needed if a six-court layout is chosen.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Engel to instruct staff to prepare a design-build RFP to convert two tennis courts at Patch Reef Park into six professional pickleball courts and present all options with a maximum budget of \$60,000.

Discussion:

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Ehrnst	Yes
Commissioner Engel	Yes
Commissioner Rollins	Yes
Commissioner Vogelgesang	Yes
Commissioner Wright	Yes

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

2. Ocean Strand Change Order

Maracore Builders presented a change order for \$127,000 to make Phase 1 of the Ocean Strand Pedestrian Park ADA compliant. The change order reflects the most cost-effective option to open the park with ADA accessible paths and picnic areas.

Discussion ensued regarding shaded picnic areas, the wood ramp transition to a 6 ft wide asphalt path; the width of the pathway; a wood ramp vs. composite.; the placement of the entranceway; permitting; dock pilings; the kayak beach accessibility; the grade of the asphalt path; and how to use the \$6,250 that remains from the District’s contribution to Art in Public Places.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Rollins and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve Maracore Builders change order for \$127,000 to make the Ocean Strand Pedestrian Park ADA Compliant.

Discussion:

Commissioner Ehrnst believes that either the entire project needs to be rebid due to the increase in the cost from \$100,000 to \$227,000, or the ADA compliant work should be bid out separately.

Mr. Michael Cirullo, District Counsel, advised that the current RFP provides the District the right to increase or decrease the scope of work and provides a mechanism for change orders in the contract.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Ehrnst	No
Commissioner Engel	Yes
Commissioner Rollins	Yes
Commissioner Vogelgesang	Yes
Commissioner Wright	Yes

MOTION PASSES 4-1

Commissioner Ehrnst believes that the District should take the additional time and additional due diligence and rebid the project since the value of the contract more than doubled.

Budget Discussion

Ms. Harms, Executive Director, presented the Board with a revised budget that included the following adjustments since the last meeting:

- Current ad valorem taxes were reduced in FY2020 to reflect the amount that the District will refund to the Tax Collector totaling \$365,000 which considers previous taxes collected on the Royal Palm Polo parcels over multiple years.
- Ad valorem taxes for FY2021 were reduced by \$140,800 to reflect the amount that will not be collected from the Royal Palm Polo Club.
- City O&M includes \$202,000 for Red Reef Golf, equivalent to the approved amount for FY2020, and a reduced amount from the FY2021 request of \$266,900, which includes requests for two new mowers. Ms. Harms recommended approving the \$202,000 and deferring the request for additional mowers until clarification is obtained on the closing of the Municipal golf course and how that equipment will be utilized.
- Ocean Strand Phase 1 was moved from FY2020 to FY2021 and increased by \$127,000 for a project total of \$227,000 for FY 2021.
- Pickleball courts have been added as a line item and reflect \$50,000, an increase of \$25,000, for FY2021.

Commissioner Engel suggested that counsel investigate what future annexation of properties into the District would entail.

Ms. Harms will ask the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's office for assurance, in writing, that the District boundaries are 100% correct.

3. Gumbo Limbo Tower Discussion

An amendment to the Gumbo Limbo MOU, reflecting an additional \$100,000 commitment from the Friends, will be presented at the September 21, 2021 meeting.

4. Employee Health Insurance

Ms. Harms presented a new FMIT Employee Healthcare Plan for FY 2021, United Health Care Choice Plus, Plan 14 for \$33,499.30 which is a 5.2% increase from last year's policy. The current healthcare plan renewal would be an 8.9% increase over last year.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Rollins and seconded by Commissioner Wright to change the current FMIT Employee Health Plan to the United Health Care Choice Plus Plan 14 for \$33,499.30 which is a 5.2% increase over last year's plan.

Discussion:

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Ehrnst	Yes
Commissioner Engel	Yes
Commissioner Rollins	Yes
Commissioner Vogelgesang	Yes
Commissioner Wright	Yes

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Ms. Harms and Commissioner Rollins met with the property insurance representative from FMIT to discuss making changes to reduce rising premium costs. Commissioner Rollins reviewed the rates and believes it is a solid program that is not unreasonable and recommended going out to bid next year.

A report of all District losses over the last ten years has been requested for review. One way to reduce the premium a small amount would be to self-insure some items such as the tennis courts at Patch Reef Park and Swim & Racquet Center and the outdoor basketball courts and hockey rink at Sugar Sand Park. Staff will review the statement of losses and make a recommendation on coverage at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF PAYROLL AND INVOICES:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the payroll and invoices totaling \$ 94,509.02.

Discussion:

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Ehrnst	Yes
Commissioner Engel	Yes
Commissioner Rollins	Yes
Commissioner Vogelgesang	Yes
Commissioner Wright	Yes

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Executive Director:

Golf Course

On September 22, 2020, the City Council will discuss the approval of the golf course design that was submitted in January. The City will provide the District with any questions prior to the meeting on the 22nd. Ms. Harms, District Counsel, and Commissioner Ehrnst will attend the meeting to answer any questions.

Counsel:

Commissioners:

Commissioner Engel would like to know if the rumors that the City is interested in purchasing the Boca Raton Country Club Golf Course is true so the District can act accordingly. Transparency would be appreciated.

Commissioner Ehrnst asked the Board's consideration for him to speak directly to District counsel to discuss the District's CRA request and if needed, have District Counsel reach out to the City attorney to see what their position is on the District's CRA request.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Engel to allow Commissioner Ehrnst to explore conversation related to the CRA with District counsel and the outcome of that conversation may authorize counsel to have further conversation with the City's legal staff relating to the CRA.

Discussion:

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Ehrnst	Yes
Commissioner Engel	Yes
Commissioner Rollins	Yes
Commissioner Vogelgesang	Yes
Commissioner Wright	Yes

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Commissioner Rollins is hoping to get the approval for the golf course design from the City and he would be disappointed if the City decided to buy the Boca Raton Golf & Country Club. He believes that if the City did purchase the Boca Raton Golf & Country Club, it would allow other recreational options in the Boca Teeca area.

Commissioner Vogelgesang would like to have a municipal golf course in east Boca. She stated that if something goes awry with the golf course, it will allow the District to work with and have a different relationship with the City.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Gumbo Limbo MOU
Budget Discussion
Golf Course Discussion
District Insurance

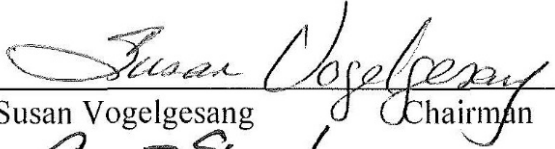
ADJOURNMENT:


MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Ehrnst	Yes
Commissioner Engel	Yes
Commissioner Rollins	Yes
Commissioner Vogelgesang	Yes
Commissioner Wright	Yes

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED


Susan Vogelgesang Chairman


Craig F. Ehrnst Secretary-Treasurer