

**GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF**  
**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
August 19, 2024

The MEETING took place at the Swim & Racquet Center and was live-streamed for viewing & listening through Zoom. The meeting was called to order by CHAIR Erin Wright at 5:15 p.m.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

*Mr. Michael Jaremko* expressed concerns about the appearance of the corner at the intersection of NW 2nd Avenue and Clint Moore Road, noting the old concrete tennis courts and overgrown vegetation. He requested that the area be landscaped with grass to enhance its appearance and align it with the other corners at the intersection.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS:**

Mr. Horowitz, District General Counsel, emphasized the need for clarification regarding the maker of the motion for the allocation of funds for resurfacing at Don Estridge Middle School, which was unanimously approved (5-0) at the last board meeting. He noted that Commissioner Rollins had provided the second to the motion. To ensure the accuracy and completeness of the meeting minutes, he requested confirmation of who originally made the motion. Commissioner Vogelgesang then volunteered, without objection, to be recognized as the maker of the motion.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 5, 2024, at 5:15 p.m., as amended.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

**1. Miller Legg Additional Services Agreement No. 4**

Executive Director Harms presented the Board with the proposed Miller Legg Additional Services Agreement No. 4 (AS4) for consideration. The scope of the agreement covers essential services required by the City of Boca Raton. It includes the North Park- East Buffer Pilot Plot / Phase 1 Services, Pedestrian Tunnel Design Services, and 67th Street Preliminary Design Services for \$147,750.00. Mike Kroll and Lumi Fuentes, representatives from Miller Legg, were available to answer questions.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the Miller Legg Continuing Services Agreement No. 4 for \$147,750.00, as presented.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Kroll explained that the AS4 agreement became necessary as a result of the site planning process with the city, and he provided a detailed review of the scope of work.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**2. Budget Discussion**

The Board of Commissioners reviewed the proposed FY 2024/25 budget, totaling \$54,127,300 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. This budget, supported by revenues from taxes, park fees, and other sources, demonstrates a strong financial foundation with an anticipated fund balance of \$4,101,000 by year-end.

The City of Boca Raton's proposed budget for parks managed on behalf of the District amounts to \$26.7 million. The District's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects are a key part of the budget, with a total allocation of \$28,153,100. Major initiatives include:

North Park Project: \$10,000,000  
Patch Reef Tennis & Pickleball Center: \$10,500,000  
Sugar Sand Park Projects: \$5,978,100

During the discussion, the Board expressed appreciation for the streamlined budget process and the clear explanations provided by Executive Director Harms, District Financial Advisor Mr. Timberlake, and city staff. Commissioner Ehrnst suggested exploring a slightly reduced millage rate of 1.07 mills. Millage rate options will be prepared for discussion at the First Public TRIM Compliance Hearing on September 3, 2024.

**APPROVAL OF PAYROLL AND INVOICES:**

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the payroll and invoices as presented, totaling \$2,455,159.68.

**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:**

**Peace Pole Dedication**

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Peace Pole Dedication at Sugar Sand Park will occur on September 14, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.

**Patch Reef Park Pickleball**

The clearing for the Patrick Pickleball Center has begun.

**Patch Reef Park Playground**

A preconstruction meeting for the playground is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20th, at 8 a.m. Signage will be placed at the playground to announce the upcoming renovations.

**DeHoernle Park Maintenance Building**

The DeHoernle Park maintenance building is making progress. The team is currently working on interior finishing, with landscaping being the next step as the project nears completion.

**District Goals & Objectives**

District goals and objectives will be discussed per the newly passed Florida Statute at the next District meeting.

**District Counsel:**

Beginning October 1, 2024, all Special Districts are required by Florida Statute to adopt goals and objectives annually. The statute mandates that each District publish an annual report evaluating its success in meeting the goals and objectives established at the start of the year. This topic will be included on the next agenda for discussion.

**Commissioners:**

*Commissioner Vogelgesang* praised Ms. Harms for her thorough work on strategic planning and thanked Chuck King for his upcoming article on Claire McDonough. She mentioned the pending city approval for signage at Patch Reef Park to inform the public about forthcoming playground improvements and suggested similar signage for North Park. She also requested that staff update Mr. Jaremko (public speaker) on the planned improvements at North Park. Additionally, she shared her positive discussion with Andrea Virgin about the Center for the Arts project at Mizner Park, encouraged colleagues to meet with Ms. Virgin, and expressed support for the project's focus on enhancing pedestrian safety, family-friendliness, and cultural offerings.

*Commissioner Rollins* acknowledged Mr. Jaremko's concerns about the tennis courts and suggested exploring the cost of replacing them with grass, noting that future west-side developments may be years away. He hoped the Center for the Arts project would seek appropriate funding sources, as the city might be better positioned to assist financially. He also congratulated Ms. Harms and Mr. Timberlake on their excellent work on the budget, noting how the process has become smoother and more refined over the years.

*Commissioner Ehrnst* supported removing the unused tennis courts, suggesting they be cleared and replaced with grass since they are no longer needed. He also advocated for developing the three acres on the southeast corner of North Park, noting its prime location with potential. After visiting WonderWorks in Orlando, he was impressed by the hands-on

exhibits and believes a similar attraction could benefit the community, especially if run by a third party.

*Commissioner Engel* inquired about trees being removed near the Patch Reef Park pickleball project. He recently participated in Bocas Got Talent, which raised significant funds for Myla's Beleaf, a charity supporting local families affected by pediatric cancer. He praised the staff for their outstanding work and expressed gratitude for their efforts.

*Commissioner Wright* agreed with Commissioner Rollins regarding the Center for the Arts project and the budget.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**



Erin Wright

Chair



Craig Ehrnst

Secretary-Treasurer