

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 7, 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 WRIGHT 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 North Park -NW Corner Discussion was moved to item #1.

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Ms. Denisa Marcinkevica proposed an alternative use for the vacant courts at the intersection of Jeffrey Street and Northwest Second Avenue: a new tennis and sports academy for Boca Raton that would emphasize affordability, technology integration, and female coaches.

Mr. Igor Mamut inquired about the correct process for submitting a proposal.

Mr. Michael Jaremko proposed enhancing the area at the northwest corner of 2nd Avenue and Jeffrey in North Park by removing the concrete and tennis courts. He also suggested other necessary city improvements, including repaving Second Avenue from Yamato Road to Jeffrey Street, and repairing the entrance to Boca Teeca. These improvements would involve painting the wall, fixing lights, and improving the area's overall appearance.

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 September 16, 2024, 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

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the minutes of the Final TRIM Compliance Hearing held on September 16, 2024, at 6:00 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. North Park – NW Corner Discussion

On September 16, 2024, the Board asked the Executive Director to consult with the City of Boca Raton about repurposing the old tennis courts at the NW corner of 2nd Ave and Jeffrey in North Park, in line with the interlocal agreement. Previously considered for open grassy space, the Board asked to explore alternative uses, including a traffic garden pilot program.

After discussions with City Manager George Brown and Deputy City Manager Chrissy Gibson, Executive Director Harms confirmed that the City supports resurfacing the courts and restriping the parking lot for the traffic garden, which would provide a controlled environment for children to learn bicycle and road safety skills. This interim use is a cost-effective alternative to sodding and irrigating the space, which would be expensive due to irrigation challenges.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to pursue the beautification concept presented to resurface the tennis courts, restripe the parking lot, and create a traffic garden.

Discussion:

A discussion followed, outlining the reasoning behind opting for a temporary, low-cost solution to avoid unnecessary short-term improvements and emphasizing the importance of using taxpayer funds wisely. It was also clarified that more comprehensive improvements would be undertaken once the property is fully developed, aligning with the long-term master plan.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

2. Multi-Park Security Improvements

Executive Director Harms recommended the approval of Phase 2 security enhancements for Patch Reef Park and the Swim & Racquet Center to the Board. Following the success of Phase 1 at Sugar Sand Park, which included installing additional security cameras and license plate readers, Phase 2 will introduce similar upgrades. These will include new security cameras and license plate readers at the Swim & Racquet Center and Patch Reef Park. The project, costing \$118,235.61 and reviewed by legal counsel, falls within the \$200,000 budget. Executive Director Harms recommended approving the contract with Broadcast Systems to proceed.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Ehrnst and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to proceed with security measures in both parks and approve the Broadcast Systems agreement for \$118,235.61 as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

3. Executive Director Annual Review

The Board conducted a performance review of the Executive Director, evaluating leadership, financial management, communication, staff development, innovation, and accountability. The Executive Director's salary, last amended on May 17, 2022, was set at \$135,000 with an annual 3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). As of September 2024, the salary is \$143,202, reflecting only COLA increases since 2022. A 2022 compensation study indicated that the competitive salary range for similar positions in Florida is between \$149,305 and \$179,305, with an average of \$164,305.

The Board commended Ms. Harms for her leadership as Executive Director, particularly noting her success in project management, fostering strong relationships with the city, enhancing budgetary processes, and promoting transparency. They agreed on the importance of increasing her salary to reflect her valuable contributions and to ensure her continued leadership within the District. A suggested raise to \$165,000 was proposed, recognizing her outstanding performance and the significant value she brings to the community. All commissioners appreciated her proactive approach, professionalism, and dedication to the District.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Rollins and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve an increase in the Executive Director's salary to \$165,000 annually while keeping the 3% Cost of Living Adjustments annually.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

4. Mattice Agreement

Executive Director Harms recommended approving the Mattice Business Services Inc. (MBS) agreement for fiscal year 2025. MBS has provided reliable QuickBooks accounting and bookkeeping services to the District since 2013, playing a pivotal role in financial reporting, payroll processing, and coordination with auditors. For FY 2025, the agreement includes monthly financial reporting, bi-weekly payroll processing for three employees, and audit support. The proposed monthly fee is \$1,980, reflecting a 10% increase, the first since 2021.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Ehrnst to approve the Mattice Business Services Agreement, as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

5. Patch Reef Park Playground Splash Pad Surface Discussion

After several site visits, Executive Director Harms identified issues with surface temperature and damage at the splash pads. This led to a review of alternatives to the Aqua Flex surface at Patch Reef Park. Shiff Construction provided updated quotes, and staff evaluated two alternatives: Life Floor and colored concrete.

- Aqua Flex, which costs \$63,476, offers a non-slip, cushioned surface that is UV-resistant. However, it has high maintenance costs and temperature concerns.
- Life Floor, priced at \$63,369.60, provides a cooler, slip-resistant surface, making it safer but requires regular maintenance.
- Colored concrete, the least expensive option at \$33,344, is durable and cost-effective but poses a higher risk of injury and can become very hot in direct sunlight.

Ultimately, Life Floor was recommended as the preferred option due to its superior safety features and better surface temperature control, despite the need for more frequent maintenance. A change order for formal approval will be brought before the Board at the next meeting.

6. SSP-Multi Sport Rink Cover Design Proposal

Executive Director Harms recommended the approval of a design proposal for a multi-sport rink roof structure at Sugar Sand Park. The project is part of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FY2025. It aims to enhance the existing roller hockey rink by adding a roof to provide weather protection and expand recreational use.

The proposal includes services such as design, permitting, bidding, and construction management provided by KCI Technologies, Inc. Key features include large fans, lighting, basketball backboards, drainage improvements, and the replacement of hockey boards. The total cost of services is \$432,737.35. Two draft concept designs will be presented to the Board for final approval along with public feedback to finalize the plan.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Rollins and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the KCI Multi-Sport Rink Cover Design proposal for \$432,737.35, as presented.

Discussion:

Commissioner Ehrnst clarified that the total cost of services for the project includes construction management and oversight but not the actual construction, which will be handled separately.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Ehrnst Yes

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

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 \$2,214,987.76.

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:

Hurricane Milton Update

As a precaution, the City has closed its buildings and continues to monitor Hurricane Milton closely. All residents are urged to prioritize safety during this time. Residents are highly recommended to sign up for timely updates via text notifications from the City of Boca Raton. You can register by visiting the City's website at myboca.us or searching for "City of Boca Raton Notify Me" to find the sign-up link.

Beach Permits

The new beach permits were distributed to the Board this evening.

Sugar Sand Park Columns Repairs

The columns repair project at Sugar Sand Park is progressing through the permitting process. Before proceeding, the District is awaiting the completion of the City staff's review of the workflow schedule.

Park Signage Installation

Signage installation is currently underway at both North Park and Patch Reef Park. Director Harms appreciated the City staff's assistance coordinating approval for the temporary signage. The Patch Reef playground construction announcement signs are scheduled for installation tomorrow; however, potential delays may arise due to Hurricane Milton.

DeHoernle Maintenance Building Update

The utility connections for the DeHoernle Maintenance Building are currently in progress.

Thank you!

Executive Director Harms expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Board for their trust and support since 2019, for reviewing her performance, and for recognizing her contributions to

the District. She acknowledged each Commissioner's unique role in her leadership growth and extended special thanks to her staff and the District's legal team for their invaluable support.

District Counsel

Mr. Goren announced that the Florida Division of Emergency Management has temporarily waived the in-person meeting requirement under Chapter 189 for government special districts, allowing virtual meetings in response to the incoming hurricane. While meetings must still comply with the Sunshine Law and public records requirements, quorums can now be met virtually during this temporary period. Additionally, he will provide an update on ongoing litigation at the next meeting.

Commissioners:

Commissioner Vogelgesang thanked Ms. Harms for her leadership as Executive Director and praised the staff. She also thanked Chuck King for his creativity and efforts in improving community communications and wished everyone safety during the hurricane.

Commissioner Ehrnst proposed leaving it to the Executive Director's discretion to determine whether a virtual Zoom meeting would be necessary if the upcoming storm causes significant damage. He emphasized the importance of staying informed and holding a virtual or in-person meeting to assess necessary actions, provide direction, and support recovery efforts.

Commissioner Wright suggested permitting staff to work from home on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday to prepare for the upcoming storm.

Commissioner Engel thanked Ms. Harms for her work as Executive Director, echoing Commissioner Vogelgesang's praise. He also complimented Chuck King for doing a great job and concluded by wishing everyone safety during the storm.


ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

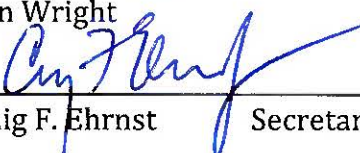
Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED



Erin Wright Chair



Craig F. Ehrnst Secretary-Treasurer