

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 6, 2025

The MEETING took place at the Swim & Racquet Center and was live-streamed for viewing & listening through Zoom. CHAIR WRIGHT 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

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Mr. Robert DuKate raised concerns about public safety related to the city's proposal for an at-grade railroad crossing near North Park. He requested that the District send a letter to the FEC and the Federal Railroad Administration advocating for safety considerations, citing the increased activity at North Park and the potential dangers of a four-lane highway through a park. On behalf of Mr. Harold Chaffee, he inquired if the District has any knowledge of an apartment complex planned at the NE corner of Clint Moore and NW 2nd Avenue.

Mr. Art Turpel, representing SABR, expressed gratitude to the staff and others involved in the completion of a new parking lot at FAU Glades, which has significantly improved conditions. He also commended the District's efforts to ensure the bathrooms are now cleaned more regularly. He inquired if the public would have an opportunity to ask questions or provide feedback following the presentation on the Sugar Sand Park Rink Cover.

Mr. Matt inquired about plans or discussions regarding the Boca National Golf Course on Northwest Second Avenue.

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 December 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

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Election of Officers

Chair

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to elect Commissioner Rollins for the position of Chair in 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION FAILED 3-2

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Wright to elect Commissioner Wright for the position of Chair in 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION PASSES 4-1

Vice-Chair

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to elect Commissioner Rollins as Vice-Chair in 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Secretary-Treasurer

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to elect Commissioner Ehrnst as Secretary-Treasurer in 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

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

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

2. Multisport Rink Shade Cover Conceptual Design

Ms. Cristin Peacock, VP of Peacock Architects, a subcontractor for KCI Technologies, presented concepts for improving the multisport rink, focusing on design processes,

community feedback, and environmental considerations. Two design options were proposed: one with a contemporary aesthetic, featuring enclosed structures and polycarbonate panels to address water and sun issues, and another with a traditional style using retractable windscreens and wood-clad columns. Key enhancements included larger benches, lockers, improved dasher boards, ceiling-mounted basketball hoops, retractable court dividers, LED lighting, and sustainable materials. Environmental considerations included ventilation, energy efficiency, native landscaping, and permeable surfaces.

Following the presentation, the discussion focused on various elements, including the use of polycarbonate panels and their impact on airflow and heat, the durability of fans in high-use sports like futsal, and the effectiveness of windscreens in blocking rain. Concerns about maintenance, structural longevity, and aesthetic consistency with existing park architecture were raised.

Public Comments were re-opened:

Mr. Daniel Cavalcanti addressed concerns about futsal balls damaging fans, noting their low bounce and minimal risk unless intentionally kicked. He identified unsupervised groups as a greater risk and expressed confidence in supervised children. He shared insights from a Dallas facility regarding windscreens, noting they help with light rain but not heavy storms. While imperfect, windscreens offer some rain management benefits.

Mr. Art Turpel praised the pavilion designs for usability and reducing wet-play delays (currently 40%). He emphasized the need for an eight-foot roof extension and proper drainage to avoid issues. Mr. Turpel supported solid panels for better rain protection if temperature increases are minimal and called for an efficient divider system. He prioritized functionality and water protection over aesthetics.

Mr. Fred Blimegger raised concerns about facility surface tiles that stay wet in shaded areas, delaying play due to rain and morning dew. He cautioned that roofing might worsen the issue and suggested exploring alternative surfaces like concrete or quick-drying materials to improve safety. Mr. Blimegger emphasized reconsidering the surface type if roofing is added.

Mr. Daniel Cavalcanti acknowledged flooring concerns, noting the current surface was a safer alternative to coarse concrete for futsal players despite slipperiness in shaded areas. He suggested evaluating alternative surfaces if the facility is roofed to ensure satisfaction for hockey and futsal players.

Mr. Dan Martino shared experiences at roller hockey facilities in Stewart and Fort Lauderdale, praising Stewart's quick-drying pavement and Holiday Park's quality rink and sun-cover panels. He recommended visiting these facilities for inspiration, highlighting their effective fan systems, wood roofs, and surfaces suited for Florida's heat.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to select Option #1 with the following provisions: include an add-alternate to compare polycarbonate panels versus mesh, utilize a closed ceiling design, incorporate standard lighting, and obtain pricing details for the canopy extension before finalizing.

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 \$ 65,188.26.

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:

Patch Reef Park Pickleball & Playground

Executive Director Harms shared construction photos showcasing the progress at the pickleball complex and playground.

DeHoernle Maintenance Building

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new maintenance building at DeHoernle Park is scheduled for January 27 at 11:30 a.m.

Federation of Homeowners Meeting

The Federation of Homeowners meeting will take place on January 7, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. Executive Director Harms will provide an update on District projects.

District Counsel:

The JJ Morely matter has been resolved with a settlement amount of \$90,000, as authorized by the Board. Legal counsel facilitated the settlement efficiently, avoiding additional time, effort, or costs. The next steps involve coordinating the necessary document drafting and processing, which is expected to proceed quickly, followed by delivering the ACH check from counsel to the District.

Commissioners:

Commissioner Engel extended his best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2025 to everyone. He congratulated the officers on their excellent performance in 2024 and expressed confidence that they will surpass their achievements in 2025.

Commissioner Ehrnst visited Patch Reef Park, noting its excellent condition and high utilization, particularly with all 12 pickleball courts fully occupied and a waiting list for play, highlighting the importance of facilitating open play for the community. He suggested exploring the possibility of converting existing tennis courts into an indoor tennis facility or a large multi-use facility. Additionally, adding a roof over the basketball rink, similar to the skate park design, was proposed as a valuable improvement.

Commissioner Rollins congratulated Commissioner Wright on her re-election as Chair and highlighted the need to prioritize a new field house. He noted that the existing facility at Sugar Sand Park is in constant use year-round, accommodating various groups daily. Rollins proposed the southeast corner of Clint Moore Road and Second Avenue as an ideal location for a new field house, envisioning it as a multi-use facility with a community center component and space for basketball and other indoor activities. He requested that the "Railroad Crossing Impacts to North Park" be added to the next agenda for discussion.

Commissioner Vogelgesang congratulated the officers on their re-election. She noted that Sugar Sand Park was bustling during her visits, highlighting the demand for park facilities. During the TOPSoccer uniform distribution and orientation for buddies, parking was scarce, reflecting the park's popularity and heavy use. She praised the staff for their hard work and excellent support during the event. Commissioner Vogelgesang agreed on the need for another field house, emphasizing that the existing field house was fully utilized throughout her time at the park.

Commissioner Wright offered congratulations to Commissioner Rollins and Commissioner Ehrnst on their re-election. Regarding the next field house, she stated that it is important to continue discussions with the city, as there may be opportunities for collaboration that benefit both parties. Additionally, the city is holding a public input meeting on the downtown master plan tomorrow night for those interested in attending.


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



Erin Wright Chair



Craig F. Ehrnst Secretary-Treasurer