

**GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
November 18, 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.-*Via Zoom*  
Susan Vogelgesang  
Erin Wright

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:**

**PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

*Mr. Raul Travieso* expressed his gratitude to the Board for their forward-thinking and unwavering support and excitement about the upcoming covered courts at Patch Reef Park. He emphasized that the Patch Reef Park Pickleball Center would be a flagship facility for Florida and a benchmark for pickleball facilities statewide. He announced the start of a youth pickleball program at Sugar Sand Park, running from December 8, from 2 PM to 5 PM on Sundays.

*Mr. Tom Thayer* mentioned that the November Federation of Homeowners meeting was rescheduled due to the election and invited everyone to attend their regular December meeting, details to be determined. He announced the arrival of Christmas trees from North Carolina, to be sold at the former K Mart garden shop on Palmetto Park Road, starting on November 20th or 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Tom Thayer noted that the November Federation of Homeowners meeting was rescheduled due to the election and extended an invitation for everyone to attend their regular December meeting, with details forthcoming. He also announced the arrival of Christmas trees from North Carolina, which will be available for sale starting November 20 or 21 at the former Kmart garden shop on Palmetto Park Road.

**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 November 4, 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. City Centennial Partnership Discussion**

In 2025, the City of Boca Raton will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a variety of events and initiatives. Executive Director Harms recommended that the District join as a Community Partner for these centennial celebrations. Anne Marie Connolly, Communication and Marketing Manager, and Amy DiNorscio, Amphitheater and Community Events

Manager, attended the meeting to provide details on the planned events and sponsorship opportunities.

Following a discussion, the Board of Commissioners suggested developing more detailed plans and customized partnership ideas for the Beach and Park District's involvement, highlighting the importance of park-focused and community-driven activities to justify financial contributions. A follow-up discussion is scheduled for the next meeting.

**2. Multi-Park Ballfields Addition Design Proposal**

The Sparc Design proposal for enhancing the Little League baseball facilities at Sugar Sand and Patch Reef Parks was presented to the Board for consideration. The proposal includes installing batting cages, pitching mounds, hitting stations, and drainage improvements, with a total estimated cost of \$138,571 out of a \$500,000 budget. The project timeline targets completion by November 2025. Separate lighting improvements, which are not part of this proposal, will be pursued through an additional agreement with Musco Lighting.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the Additional Services Agreement with Sparc Design for \$138,571.00 to enhance the Little League baseball facilities at Sugar Sand Park and Patch Reef Park, as presented.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**3. North Park Tree Trimming Proposal**

To address concerns from neighboring condominium residents about overgrown trees at North Park, the District received the following bids for trimming four Ficus trees, six Bischofia trees, and a 75-foot Ficus hedge:

- Boca Tree Service: \$13,350
- Southern Arbor Services: \$13,700
- Zimmerman Tree Service: \$15,485
- Yellowstone Landscape: \$29,452.85

Staff recommended Boca Tree Service for \$13,350.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Rollins and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve Boca Tree Service proposal for \$13,350.00 to trim the trees at North Park, as presented.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Commissioner Wright      Yes  
**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**4. Patch Reef Park Facility Usage Discussion**

Since early 2022, the YMCA has managed the James A. Rutherford Community Center at Patch Reef Park due to pandemic-related restrictions on city programming. Over the past two years, they hosted summer camps and activities, but the current contract has now expired, requiring a decision on the facility's future. The City of Boca Raton has shown interest in taking over the center for inclusive programming aligned with the new accessible playground project. Mr. Bryan Hunt, Executive Director of the Peter Blum Family YMCA, thanked the commissioners for their partnership and introduced three parents to share their experiences with YMCA programming at Patch Reef Park.

*Public Requests were reopened:*

*Mr. Javier Arbelaez* praised the YMCA for its popular, affordable summer programs, noting his children enjoyed the sports and splash pad. He commended the staff and highlighted the high demand for summer programs, he urged the renewal of the YMCA's use of Patch Reef Park for at least another year, emphasizing its positive impact on his family.

*Ms. Kyss Sims* shared that her child, Adrian, has loved attending Patch Reef Park's YMCA programs for the past two years, eagerly arriving each morning and reluctant to leave. She praised the supportive, family-like atmosphere created by Brian and the staff and highlighted the diverse activities, including field trips, pool days, splash pad visits, and trips to the "pirate park," Adrian's favorite.

*Mr. Michael Shkolnik* praised the facility for fostering a positive environment for kids and teenage counselors. His children look forward to attending, staying until the last minute, and never wanting to leave early. He emphasized the convenience of Patch Reef Park for West Boca families and noted that its space helps meet the high demand for the popular program. He highlighted the program's competitive, affordable pricing, especially beneficial for families with multiple children, and urged commissioners to renew the YMCA contract for at least another year due to its value to local families.

Mr. Hunt thanked the Board for considering the Patch Reef Park James A. Rutherford Center renewal, noting it is integral to the YMCA's three-year strategic plan for programming and community outreach. He expressed hope for at least another year to continue serving the community and appreciated the opportunity.

***Discussion:***

A discussion followed, underscoring the importance of reviewing the City's proposal for future programming to ensure the facility maximizes community benefits. The Commissioners requested that an amendment to the current YMCA agreement be presented at an upcoming meeting for formal review.

**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 \$432,764.66.

**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:**

**Swim & Racquet Center**

Shower repairs in all four locker rooms at the Swim & Racquet Center have been completed, with final inspection confirming the work today. The total cost for addressing the construction defects was \$147,486.

**Patch Reef Park Playground**

Construction of the new inclusive playground at Patch Reef Park is underway. The playground has been fully demolished, showing significant progress.

**Swim & Racquet Center Pool Resurfacing**

The Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District is currently accepting bids for the resurfacing of the pool at the Swim & Racquet Center, with submissions due by December 6, 2024.

**Sugar Sand Park Columns Repair Project**

The Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District has initiated repairs on the exterior steel columns of the Sugar Sand Park Community Center.

**District Counsel:**

**JJ Morley Update**

Hampton Johnson of the Johnson Anselmo Law Firm informed District counsel that he is awaiting a response to the counteroffer made to Mr. Morley. District Counsel will provide updates as soon as they have more information.

**Commissioners:**

*Commissioner Rollins* apologized for attending remotely due to a severe cold and not wanting to risk others' health. He looks forward to joining in person once fully recovered and thanked everyone for their understanding.

*Commissioner Engel* looks forward to seeing Commissioner Rollins at the next meeting.

*Commissioner Ehrnst* expressed best wishes to Commissioner Rollins.

*Commissioner Vogelgesang* wished Commissioner Rollins a swift recovery and extended Thanksgiving wishes to all. She also asked if the District is active on Instagram.

*Commissioner Wright* requested that the city open all twelve pickleball courts at Patch Reef Park for Wednesday night open play, noting long 45-minute wait times with only six courts.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

GBRB&PD Minutes: November 18, 2024

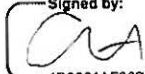
**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Vogelgesang to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Signed by:



Erin Wright

Chair

Craig F. Ehrnst

Secretary-Treasurer