

**And the GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SUGAR SAND PARK - 300 SOUTH MILITARY TRAIL
July 15, 2013**

The MEETING was called to order by CHAIRMAN Rollins at approximately 5:15 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Steven M. Engel
Dennis R. Frisch
Robert K. Rollins, Jr.
Earl L. Starkoff
Susan Vogelgesang

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Lenore Wachtel
828 Forsyth Street, Boca Raton

Ms. Wachtel expressed her appreciation to the Board for the amenities it provides to the community. She supports additional funding for Gumbo Limbo; extending its hours of operation to 5:00 p.m.; and increasing partnership participation. As a volunteer with the non-profit Florence Fuller Summer Camp, she was advised by the summer camp staff that they do not take the children to Gumbo Limbo as they charge \$2.00 per child. In her opinion, there should be a waiver for non-profit camps in the City of Boca Raton.

Michele Peel
7391 NE 8th Court, Boca Raton

Ms. Peel noted that over 400 tickets have been sold for the Turtle Hatchling Release event. She advised that the steering committee is prepared to present the results of the Gumbo Limbo strategic planning process to the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Starkoff and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the minutes of the special meeting of June 24, 2013.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Frisch to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 1, 2013

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REGULAR BUSINESS:
Budget 2013-2014

a) Swim & Racquet Center

Commissioner Starkoff noted that there is a significant number of tennis center supervisory and administrative staff. He requested a review and clarification of the item.

Except for beach parks, Commissioner Starkoff observed that all together: there are 40 full time groundskeepers, 5 part time groundskeepers and 5 irrigation technicians at Patch Reef Park, Sugar Sand Park, Estridge, the Swim & Racquet Center and DeHoernle Park. He inquired about the status of engaging an “Agronomist” to assist in establishing standards at District facilities.

Mr. Koski stated that he has been in contact with a University of Florida PhD in Agronomy who operates a consulting business. His CV has been provided to the Board. He plans to meet with the individual at the Spanish River Complex to determine his interest in providing the District with consultation on operation and maintenance procedures at District parks.

Discussion ensued about filling vacant positions shown on the City’s budget. Mr. Koski noted that the District will budget the same amount of funds for City operations as last year (\$13.8 million). The City must request additional funding to fill any vacancies.

Mr. Koski stated that funds have been included in the budget for a master plan for the Swim & Racquet Center. He has examined the existing agreement with Zimmer Consultants and will be prepared before the adoption of the final budget to make a recommendation to employ Mr. Zimmer to prepare a master site plan for the Swim & Racquet Center. The plan is to demolish the former Chuck’s Steakhouse and construct a freestanding building to house the pool equipment. A separate building will be recommended to accommodate the City office building entryway to the pool and the locker rooms. In addition, consideration will be given to building a maintenance building for the tennis facility and possibly some improvements to the Pro Shop.

b) Sugar Sand Park

Commissioner Frisch suggested a report on the operation of the Carousel. Mr. Koski will review the issue and prepare a report.

Mr. Koski will provide a listing of part time and full time employees at each District facility. He noted there are a number of vacant positions.

Commissioner Rollins suggested engaging a management consultant to prepare an analysis to maximize personnel costs.

Commissioner Frisch requested an explanation of the line item “operating costs for special activities” budgeted at \$69,200.

Commissioner Engel inquired about a timetable for Leathers and Associates to begin their work on the Science Playground. Mr. Koski advised that Leathers and Associates have begun their preliminary work and consultations. They met with Ms. Sandra Gottfried last week on site.

Commissioner Vogelgesang questioned the expense of \$35,300 for weatherproofing the science playground as it is undergoing a renovation.

In response to the weatherproofing question, Mr. Koski advised that the District will move cautiously on facilities that have master plans in place: Red Reef Park; Gumbo Limbo; the Science Playground and the Swim & Racquet Center.

Commissioner Vogelgesang sought an explanation of the line item "General Fee" in the proposed City budget. Mr. Koski will investigate.

In addition, Commissioner Vogelgesang inquired about the discrepancy in the cost of janitorial supplies between Sugar Sand Park \$21,000 and Patch Reef Park \$10,000. Mr. Koski stated that Sugar Sand Park is a larger facility with a gymnasium and Theatre.

c) Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate

Mr. Koski furnished documentation prepared by Mr. Merv Timberlake which shows that the rolled-back rate for the upcoming year is 0.9676. The District needs to provide to the Property Appraiser two items 1) what the District's rolled-back rate will be and 2) the time and date of the first public hearing on the 2013/2014 budget.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Starkoff and seconded by Commissioner Engel to adopt the rolled-back rate of 0.9676 for fiscal year 2014.

Discussion:

Mr. Koski noted that going to the rolled-back rate is a decrease to a taxpayer whose property value has remained the same since last year.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

MOTION was made by Commissioner Vogelgesang and seconded by Commissioner Starkoff to set its first public hearing on 2013-2014 taxes and budget for Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 5:15 p.m. at the Sugar Sand Park Community Center.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

APPROVAL OF INVOICES:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Frisch and seconded by Commissioner Starkoff to approve the invoices as presented totaling \$3,429,376.70.

Discussion:

Mr. Koski noted that the bulk of the cash disbursements were to the City of Boca Raton for operation and maintenance for the months of October/November/December 2012.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Executive Director

Mr. Koski anticipates providing a proposed 2013-2014 budget and capital improvement items for review and discussion at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Koski advised that he is still engaged in discussions with the City of Boca Raton regarding DeHoernle Park Phase II and beach renourishment projects.

District Counsel - None

Commissioners

July 4th Event

Commissioner Engel asked Commissioner Starkoff for his overview of the July 4th event at DeHoernle Park.

Commissioner Starkoff remarked that a lot of what the City did went well. The fireworks display was as good as ever. The Police did an outstanding job. City staff did a good job putting the event together within that venue. The venue as currently developed could change with Phase II offering increased parking and pavilions. The shuttle service worked well. Overall, the City and constituents enjoyed the event. If there is a debriefing of the event he would like Mr. Koski to attend.

Commissioner Frisch requested information on the costs attributed to the District beyond the fireworks and staffing and extra maintenance after the July 4th event.

Spanish River Athletic Facilities

Commissioner Starkoff requested a final report on Phase I costs.

AGENDA ITEMS:

July 22 – Discuss the 2013-2014 Budget:

- a) Information Technology
- b) Capital projects
- c) IRIS Water for Estridge

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Frisch and seconded by Commissioner Starkoff to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:30 p.m.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED



Robert K. Rollins, Jr.

Chairman



Dr. Dennis R. Frisch

Secretary-Treasurer