

**GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT**  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SUGAR SAND PARK - 300 SOUTH MILITARY TRAIL  
**June 2, 2014**

The MEETING was called to order by CHAIRMAN Vogelgesang 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:**

Steve Alley

380 NE 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Boca Raton

Mr. Alley, a member of the City's Environmental Advisory Board, requested the Board consider increasing its Recreation Services budget to enable the City to reinstate the Environmentally Sensitive Lands position. He presented two reasons for urgency in the matter: 1) natural areas are in decline and the cost of inaction greatly outweighs the cost of maintenance; 2) fire hazards/controlled burns.

Mary Coban

17984 Fieldbrook Circle South, Boca Raton

Ms. Coban, a non-resident member of the Racquet Center, requested the Board consider lowering its non-resident membership fees to be competitive with other tennis clubs in the area. In her opinion, a non-resident fee of \$575 to \$600 a year would attract team players resulting in increased revenues.

David Johnson

792 Camino Lakes Circle, Boca Raton

Mr. Johnson reiterated his request to the Board to consider participating with the City in funding improvements to Hillsboro El Rio Park.

Mr. Arthur C. Koski, Interim Executive Director, advised that he contacted the City Manager's office and inquired as to whether the City was interested in having the District participate with the City in the development of Hillsboro El Rio Park. The response was that the City was not contemplating construction of the park and had not changed its scheduling or its funding for the facility. Mr. Koski suggested Mr. Johnson appear before the Boca Raton Council to determine whether the City wishes District participation.

Jim Ball

761 Camino Lakes Circle, Boca Raton

Mr. Ball, a Boca Raton resident since 1973, stated that there is controversy in the neighborhood with regard to the development of Hillsboro El Rio Park. He expressed concern about the impact

development would have on the bird sanctuary and wildlife. Plans include a boardwalk and pier, which he felt was in conflict with boaters and nature. Children will also have to cross the road to get to the park.

David Ramsey

763 Camino Lakes Circle, Boca Raton

Mr. Ramsey stated that he is opposed to improvements to Hillsboro El Rio Park due to the impact on nature. Having lived on the El Rio waterway for 24 years, he has seen wildlife degrade over the years. Putting a boardwalk in that area will impact the bird sanctuary and create additional trash along the canal. He is concerned about plans for a pier and boating as some areas are very shallow.

Tom Thayer

4821 N. Dixie Highway, Boca Raton

Mr. Thayer requested that the Board consider in its Red Reef Park master plan redesign, the possibility of developing an ocean front or Intracoastal Waterway restaurant. In addition, he extended an invitation to the Board to attend the monthly Boca Raton Federation of Homeowners meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Michele Peel

7391 NE 8<sup>th</sup> Court, Boca Raton

Ms. Peel, liaison to the Friends of Gumbo Limbo, noted the following; Gumbo Limbo attendance has increased 20%; for the first time, an afternoon summer camp has been added; the Friends currently has approximately \$175,000 of projects under development in conjunction with the City; the center is currently operating with two out of eight full time positions vacant; she appreciates the continued prioritization of the salt water pumps and piping project.

Arthur Bernstein

4845 Hunters Way, Boca Raton

Referencing Patch Reef Park, Mr. Bernstein suggested ways to improve park management: 1) increase the number of Park Rangers on duty during high park usage; 2) Park Rangers need to better supervise activities and have the authority to confront patrons when any infractions occur; 3) monitor parking by reserving a portion of the western area of the park for pavilion/playground/basketball parking. The reserved parking area would be closed to all day football parking.

Commissioner Starkoff requested that staff act on some of the points made by Mr. Bernstein. Specifically, schedule additional Park Rangers at all parks over holiday weekends and periods of high usage. Confirm with the City that we are sufficiently staffed to serve the public. Before the football season commences, establish the type of procedures required to handle traffic flow on those days. In conjunction with the Park Rangers and athletic staff communicate those procedures to host user groups and determine how to offer them a pleasant park experience.

Commissioner Engel suggested the idea of hiring off-duty police officers during high traffic periods.

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

Commissioner Rollins stated that his comment on page 2 under Regular Business Item 1, fourth paragraph, last sentence should be amended as follows: **“He expressed concern about the impact that employees of City/District businesses would have on facilities”**.

Commissioner Frisch stated that his comment at the top of page 3, first paragraph should be amended as follows: **“Commissioner Frisch felt that verifying the employment of local employees would be challenging”**.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Frisch and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 19, 2014 as amended.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

**1. Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Discussion**

For comparison purposes, Mr. Koski furnished both the 2013 and 2014 Estimate of Taxable Value provided by the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser. The comparison indicates that District taxable value has increased, although net new construction has decreased. The increase will allow the District to go to the rolled-back rate in fiscal year 2014-15. He envisions no change in the operation and maintenance expense that the City had for the current fiscal year as applied to fiscal year 2014-2015. Supervisory and Technical expenses should remain constant for the next fiscal year. The District’s budget estimate for fiscal year 2013-14 to the Community Redevelopment Agency was quite accurate, and will not change significantly in the coming year.

The focus of the budget discussions for the upcoming year will be the prioritizing of capital projects, estimating when those capital projects can commence construction, and when funds will be expended. The top priority should be the completion of the pumping and piping system at Gumbo Limbo. The estimated cost of this project is between \$1 million and \$1.5 million. The implementation of Phase II of DeHoernle Park and the amended master plans for the Swim & Racquet Center, Red Reef Park and Patch Reef Park need to be discussed and to decide whether those projects will commence in the current fiscal year or in fiscal year 2014-2015. The Board also needs to discuss the direction of the millage rate. An outline of the proposed 2014-2015 budget will be provided at the June 16<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

**2. Request to Host United States Tennis Association’s National Women’s Intersectional 2015 Team Event at the Racquet Center**

The District received a request dated May 29, 2014 from Mr. J. D. Varney, City of Boca Raton Recreation Services Superintendent recommending the hosting of the 2015 subject event at the Racquet Center. A final accounting of 2013 revenues and expenditures for this event was included.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Frisch and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the hosting of the USTA National Women’s Intersectional 2015 Team Event at the Racquet Center.

*Discussion:*

Commissioner Starkoff noted that the final budget for the 2013 USTA Women's Team Event listed "overtime pay" but omitted "regular time pay". He felt that the final budget should have included the cost of the facility.

Mr. Koski stated that the philosophy of providing a facility free of a user fee, with subsidy for the event with personnel who are currently on staff and who will be there, should be equitably applied to all special events.

At the request of Commissioner Rollins this event will be advertised on the District website.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**MOTION TO RECONSIDER** the approval of the 2015 USTA Tennis Event at the Racquet Center was made by Commissioner Frisch.

**MOTION PASSES 4-1**

*Commissioner Starkoff votes no*

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Frisch and seconded by Commissioner Starkoff to amend the USTA Tennis Event at the Racquet Center to request the USTA set their entrance fee at a level that is at least consistent with the fee charged in 2013 anticipating the expenses and the income.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**APPROVAL OF INVOICES:**

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Frisch and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the invoices as presented totaling \$36,114.30.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Executive Director**

*Resident/Non-Resident Policy*

Included in the agenda packet was information gathered by Mr. Buddy Parks, Deputy Recreation Services Director from members of the National Park & Recreation Association inquiring as to how other agencies define their policies or definitions of what constitutes a resident.

Mr. Starkoff took issue with the fact that to-date, Mr. Mickey Gomez has not yet provided information regarding the listing of user groups, the fees they collected and how the fees were divided between their current policy of residents and non-residents.

### *Red Reef Park Amended Master Plan*

Mr. Koski will meet with Mr. Mike Kroll, Principal of Miller-Legg, to discuss the total scope of work and the budget for the amended master plan for Red Reef Park. This item will be placed on the June 16<sup>th</sup> agenda.

### *Sugar Sand Park Playground*

Mr. Marc Leathers and his sub-consultants reviewed the available plans of the existing science playground. Ms. Sandra Gottfried has requested and was granted permission to have experts on various disabilities participate, at no charge, in the planning process and construction of the facilities.

### *DeHoernle Park – Phase II*

Mr. Koski has given direction to the sub-consultants to begin preparation of the necessary site plan for submission to Development Services for land use approvals. The initial City review of the maintenance facility has been completed.

### *2012 Audit*

Mr. Koski has received a draft of the 2013 Audit from Grau and anticipates receiving the final audit within a short period of time.

### *Security Cameras*

Mr. Koski is collaborating with Greg Stevens, City Recreation Services Superintendent, on the cost and time frame for installing security cameras at Sugar Sand Park, Patch Reef Park, Swim & Racquet Center and the Spanish River Athletic Facilities.

## **District Counsel**

### *Red Reef Park*

Directing his comments to Mr. Tom Thayer who suggested locating a restaurant at Red Reef Park, Mr. Koski advised that the City adopted an ordinance requiring that property owned by the District or City lying east of the Intracoastal Waterway be limited to beach or park purposes. Concurrence by the Boca Raton City Council would be needed to modify or amend that ordinance.

## **Commissioners**

### *Patch Reef Park*

Commissioner Starkoff inquired about the location of the maintenance facility at Patch Reef Park. Tinu Pena, Principal of Motre' was present, and advised that preliminary consideration is being given to locating the maintenance facility towards the southern end of the park on the western side.

Commissioner Frisch suggested Motre' explore the possibility of designating an area in the park for a police sub-station.

### *Job Descriptions*

Commissioner Rollins inquired about the status of receiving job descriptions for the Park Rangers and athletic staff. Mr. Koski responded that he is awaiting the receipt of those documents.

*Security Deposit*

Commissioner Rollins suggested consideration be given to instituting a security deposit for the rental of pavilions and permits. The deposit would be non-refundable if the facility was left in an unacceptable condition.

*Swim & Racquet Center*

Commissioner Vogelgesang inquired about the status of the subject project. Mr. Koski advised that he is prepared to give direction to Zimmer Consultants to begin construction documents. This item will be placed on the June 16<sup>th</sup> agenda.

*Shared City Employees*

Commissioner Frisch would like to discuss the issue of sharing City employees such as Mr. Steve Alley's request for the Environmentally Sensitive Lands position and other similar positions placed on a future Board agenda.

*District Requests*

Commissioner Starkoff, noting that the District has recently received two requests for District participation and support relating to City property and employee positions, sought direction from staff, in conjunction with the City, as to whether the District is being asked to take positions that are inappropriate to initiate or assume. Mr. Koski advised that a formal request has to come from the Boca Raton City Council to the District for District participation.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**


- June 16 - Resident/Non-Resident Policy
- Budget FY 2014-15
- Approval of Miller Legg Agreement for Red Reef Park
- Approval of Merv Timberlake Agreement for Financial Services
- Zimmer Consultants – Swim & Racquet Center Project
- Shared City Employees

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Frisch and seconded by Commissioner Starkoff to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

  
 Susan Vogelgesang Chairman

  
 Earl L. Starkoff Secretary-Treasurer