

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SUGAR SAND PARK - 300 SOUTH MILITARY TRAIL
March 17, 2015

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

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

CHANGES TO AGENDA:

Commissioner Starkoff requested that the approval of invoices be addressed immediately after the approval of the minutes. The Board concurred.

Commissioner Engel arrived.

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Jim Miller

480 E. Boca Raton Blvd., Boca Raton

Mr. Miller, President of the Friends of Gumbo Limbo, referred to the Gumbo Limbo ANCA report and advised that some of the recommendations/programs outlined in the report are currently being addressed. The Friends will hold a workshop on April 4th to discuss organizational/structural issues.

Michele Peel

7391 NE 8th Court, Boca Raton

Ms. Peel, Friends of Gumbo Limbo liaison to the District, stressed the importance of access to the hammock and mangroves south of the nature center. The Friends' short-term priority is to reopen the trail; at least to the tower. The long-term objective is to determine the optimal way to achieve the goal of having access to all of the hammock and mangrove features. In addition, she asked the Board to approve the replacement beach vehicle that was researched and recommended by City staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Rollins and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 2, 2015.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

APPROVAL OF INVOICES:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Frisch and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the invoices as presented totaling \$211,590.58.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of Athletic User Fees

Ms. Briann Harms, District Assistant Executive Director, gave a power-point presentation on City/District Sports Usage and Statistics. The information provided was limited to rectangular fields and addressed the resident and non-resident users of the facilities and the impact that those users have on the facilities, as well as the historical prospective of the number of users. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Starkoff inquired if the 2013/2014 maintenance schedule was reviewed by the District to determine if the recommendations outlined in Dr. Busey's report were implemented. Mr. Koski responded that the City has consulted with Dr. Busey; the City did not confer with the District on the issue.

Commissioner Starkoff requested data on whether closure time adjustments were implemented in the 2014/2015 maintenance schedule.

Mr. Koski, Interim District Executive Director observed that 25% of youth sport activities are being assigned to FAU.

Commissioner Rollins stated that the issue has always been about the relationship between user fees and the practical recovery of maintenance expenses. He commented that it is the obligation of the District to provide recreation facilities, and the fees received are insignificant compared to what it costs to maintain the fields.

Commissioner Engel perceives a pattern of increasingly blurred differentiation between resident and non-resident user fees.

Commissioner Starkoff stated that he was unaware of the particulars pertaining to the policy decision that local businesses sponsoring Cobra Adult Sports were afforded the opportunity to declare their rosters as residents.

Commissioner Frisch offered that fees could be generated by charging to line or groom the fields.

Mr. Koski stated that he would like to see a uniform policy (not uniform fees) between the City and the District that applies equally to all facilities. The policy between the entities has to be clear and consistent in order to be fair, equitable and non-arbitrary. The concept of a fee needs to be determined; what is it expected to cover.

Since SABR no longer wants to play at Sand Pine Park, Commissioner Starkoff questioned why lacrosse and football were not scheduled to use those fields.

Ms. Harms stated that one of the issues that City staff has brought to her attention about scheduling District fields, is that there is a pressure that is felt, based on conversations previously had with former District Executive Director Robert Langford, to keep District fields "pristine" and not to schedule individuals on them.

Mr. Koski responded that he does not recall the topic being discussed amongst the Commissioners. The District expects and funds a level of service on its fields. He does not believe it was ever the intention of the Board to say “don’t let somebody use our fields because we want them to look pristine”.

Commissioner Rollins understands the sensitivity of the City regarding field conditions and feels that the City is trying to give the District a better product today.

Commissioner Starkoff stated that there is an inconsistency of knowledge of the programming, versus the needs of the populous. Consistent standards are not being applied. There are no consistent policies for fees or scheduling. He feels that this is an area that needs improvement, and should be discussed with City staff.

It was the consensus of the Board to try to balance the use of the public versus the condition of the fields. The District expects a certain level of service, but not at the expense of the ability of the public to use the fields. The following items were noted:

- The ratio of resident and non-resident users should be monitored over time to determine if it is causing a detriment to the condition of the fields or the ability of residents to use the fields.
- Facilities should not be designated for one group of users as “home” parks; scheduling should remain flexible at multiple locations.
- Additional fields are needed to solve scheduling and maintenance issues and to open up more fields for free-play for taxpayers and residents.
- The Board agreed that the City policy for usage of fields and charges for fields should be consistent with the District policy – there should be no differences.

Commissioner Engel advised that the City has a policy whereby a percentage of each department’s budget should be generated by fees within that department; the District does not have that policy. A philosophical discussion could resolve the conflict.

Commissioner Starkoff suggested the following fee philosophy points for Board consideration. When the Board has reached a consensus, it should be presented to City staff to establish.

- Are the fees to generate overhead revenue?
- Are the fees to generate revenue for the general fund?
- Are the fees for non-residents to pay some share of expenses?
- Should non-resident fees be used to promote residential usage?

Mr. Koski and Ms. Harms will meet with Mr. Gomez, and Mr. J. D. Varney to discuss the issues in greater detail.

2. Consider CIP expenditure request from City for beach cleaning tractor

Mr. Koski recommends approval of the City's capital expenditure request for the purchase of a beach cleaning posi-track #8301 unit replacement vehicle at a cost of \$37,450.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Frisch and seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the expenditure of \$37,450 for the purchase of a beach cleaning posi-track #8301 unit.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

3. Discuss Gumbo Limbo American Nature Center Association Report

Copies of the report have been provided to the Board of Commissioners and to Miller Legg and Associates. Miller Legg has been asked to review the report and dialogue with the City and the Friends of Gumbo Limbo to determine that whatever proposal Miller Legg presents to the Board that everyone is in harmony and agreement on the recommendations.

Commissioner Starkoff requested information regarding which entity paid for the report. If the recommendations in the report go forward, the District should be in on the approval for those expenses in advance of the additional steps being taken.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Executive Director - None

District Counsel - None

Commissioners

Lighting Improvements at District Facilities

Commissioner Rollins inquired about the status of the proposal from Zimmer Consultants to upgrade lighting at District facilities. Mr. Koski responded that Mr. Zimmer is currently selecting light fixtures and will be present at the next meeting.

Patch Reef Park

Commissioner Vogelgesang advised about a new tennis program at Patch Reef Park entitled "Aces for Autism" held on Saturday afternoons from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

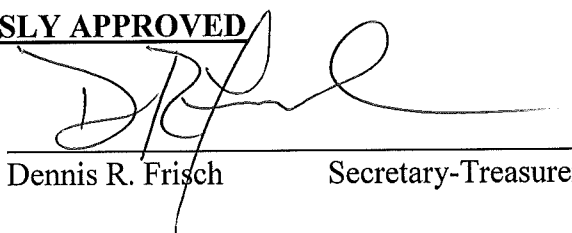
April 6 - Proposal to Upgrade Lighting at District Facilities – Zimmer Consultants

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Frisch and seconded by Commissioner Engel to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED


Susan Vogelgesang Chairman


Dennis R. Frisch Secretary-Treasurer