

GREATER BOCA RATON BEACH & PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SUGAR SAND PARK - 300 SOUTH MILITARY TRAIL
May 11, 2015

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:

At the request of Mr. Arthur C. Koski, Interim Executive Director, items number one and three under Regular Business were deleted with explanations.

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Ms. Caroline Hanes

Chairman Vogelgesang entered into the record an e-mail received from Ms. Caroline Hanes referencing the boardwalks at Gumbo Limbo.

Mr. Jim Miller

480 East Boca Raton Road, Boca Raton

Mr. Miller, President of the Friends of Gumbo Limbo stated that if the September 1, 2015 timeline to open the boardwalk and get to the tower is delayed for any reason, a short term, non-ADA provisionary approach should be considered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Engel and seconded by Commissioner Frisch to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 4, 2015.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Work Order for Gumbo Limbo Boardwalks – Miller Legg

This item was deleted with the following explanation: Mr. Koski advised that he received correspondence from City of Boca Raton Municipal Services Director Mr. Daniel Grippo, informing him that the City has decided that they will be the lead governmental entity in the design and development of the boardwalks. The City's existing consultant, Applied Technology & Management (ATM), has agreed to assume the role of reviewing and revising the original plans and specifications

to develop a new set of drawings, utilizing as much as possible from the old set. AMT will also undertake the permitting for the boardwalk that will extend through the mangroves. District staff has offered to have Miller Legg be available, if necessary, to assist in the permitting process; the offer is under consideration by Mr. Grippo. ATM is aware of the urgency of getting Phase I of the boardwalk open. ATM will issue a work order to the City by May 18, 2015 to begin their involvement in the boardwalk project. The District will play no role in the design or construction of the boardwalk; it will be a 100% City project. Since no work will be performed by Miller Legg, there is no need for approval of a work order.

Commissioner Rollins inquired about the cost of the project and the status of meeting the Phase I timeline of September 1, 2015 as presented by Miller Legg. Mr. Koski responded that the construction cost would be established once the project is put out for bid. Completion of Phase I construction is anticipated by the end of the year.

At a recent visit to Gumbo Limbo Commissioner Rollins noticed that a conflict exists between the widths of the balusters located at the southern and northern ends of the boardwalk. In his opinion, the balusters utilized on the southern end would be a more appropriate way to protect the mangroves as a child would not be able to get through the fence.

Commissioner Starkoff expressed concern about losing control of the project budget. He felt that if Miller Legg had provided a more comprehensive estimate of the total work project, the District would have had an idea of what the total project would cost. Now, according to City procedures, the District does not know how many work orders will need to be issued to keep the project close to budget control. With Miller Legg, the District anticipated an 11 month project to have the boardwalk reopened, redesigned, rebuilt, completed and ready for the public. He questioned whether the City would deliver the project with all of the agreed to components in a timely manner.

Mr. Koski responded that the scope of work unanimously agreed to by the District, City staff and the Friends will be delivered by the City in Phase I. He anticipates that the overall project construction cost will be approximately \$2,000,000.

Commissioner Frisch commented that as a fiduciary of the District, he is uncomfortable with an “open checkbook” policy with someone designing the project and submitting a bill. He felt that the relationship between the City and the District needs to be better defined to enable both entities to work together as teammates. He is concerned that due to the three month extension of the project timeline, school children will miss out on part of the educational experience; however, the project needs to get done “sooner rather than later” and open for the public.

From a fiduciary responsibility, Commissioner Rollins is concerned that the District has no input on the project costs and that the District will be held accountable by its constituents. As the City is involved in numerous projects, he requested regular updates on the progress of the boardwalk project.

Noting that Mr. Gomez and Mr. Parks were in attendance, Commissioner Engel suggested that they report the progress of the project to the Board on a regular basis. He reiterated that the District is a partner with the City in the project; not just a funding agency.

2. Payment of City Invoice for Boardwalk Design

Due to the involvement of ATM in the boardwalk project, Mr. Koski recommends the payment of \$7,034.85 to the City of Boca Raton for funds that they paid to ATM for boardwalk design in fiscal year 2013/2014.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Rollins and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve payment of \$7,034.85 to the City of Boca Raton.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

3. Approval of Contract with Zimmer Consultants for Lighting Improvements at District Parks

This item was deleted with the following explanation: Mr. Zimmer advised Mr. Koski that he would be working with a sub-consultant on some of the electrical work. To-date, he has not received the necessary information regarding the scope and the cost from the sub-consultant and, therefore, requested that this item be postponed to the June 8, 2015 Board meeting.

Commissioner Rollins remarked that this delay would extend the project into the fall time when the lights are needed.

This item will be placed on the June 8th agenda.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Frisch and seconded by Commissioner Engel to approve the invoices as presented totaling \$73,920.45.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Executive Director

DeHoernle Park – Phase II

Mr. Koski stated that he did not attend the City’s goal setting workshop; however, he has learned that there was discussion of Phase II, and that the Boca Raton City Council indicated their desire to construct four fields in artificial turf at DeHoernle Park. Since the City’s desire for artificial turf at DeHoernle Park will impact the Board’s decision to determine the field surface at Patch Reef Park,

he suggested addressing the matter directly with the Boca Raton City Council at a joint meeting of the District Commissioners and City Council.

Mr. Gomez advised that the Boca Raton City Council stated that they would build four artificial turf fields at DeHoernle Park in the fiscal budget year 2015/2016.

Commissioner Rollins stated that the District could proceed with the installation of celebration grass at Patch Reef Park, or offer the City an alternative of putting artificial turf at Patch Reef Park if they would allow grass fields at DeHoernle Park. He is concerned about the risk of losing the two fields at FAU, and the displacement of adult/youth programs during the construction or retrofitting of District/City facilities. To move the project forward, he suggested drafting a letter to the City Council putting forth the District's plan. His own preference is to recommend putting Patch Reef fields under sports turf and have all grass fields at DeHoernle rather than to mix the two projects.

Commissioner Starkoff is not in favor of sending a letter to the City Council as he feels it would only delay the project. As independent entities, the City could expeditiously move forward with the installation of artificial turf at DeHoernle at their expense, and the District could immediately proceed to recondition the fields at Patch Reef Park and then move on to other projects.

Commissioner Frisch felt that there were other issues that warrant discussion with the City Council such as the maintenance building, rest rooms at the dog park and the responsibility of maintaining grass vs. artificial turf fields. Rather than a letter, he supports a joint meeting to discuss the issues.

Mr. Koski suggested contacting the City Clerk to see if there is an opportunity to meet with the City Council before they adjourn for the summer. If a meeting cannot be scheduled, the District should then submit its suggestions in writing to the Mayor. To assist him in corresponding with the City Council, he asked the Board if they objected to four grass fields at DeHoernle Park and three artificial surfaces at Patch Reef Park.

Commissioner Starkoff stated that he is not opposed to the artificial surface, but feels that there is an overabundance of artificial turf that has not been requested by the public or needed by the scheduling.

Chairman Vogelgesang asked the Board members to express their thoughts on what type of fields they would like to see at DeHoernle Park and Patch Reef Park.

Commissioner Frisch stated that he has no problem with a combination of artificial turf and natural grass in whatever combination there is, as long as it is done with forethought and planning, sooner rather than later. He has zero issues where the grass or artificial turf goes, as long as the needs of the community are served. He understands the need for artificial turf but prefers natural grass. He supports four artificial turf fields at DeHoernle if the City undertakes the project.

Commissioner Starkoff supports four artificial turf fields or a combination of two artificial and two grass fields at DeHoernle Park. He does not believe that artificial turf should be installed at Patch Reef Park.

Commissioner Engel stated that the first priority of the District should be to meet the needs of the residents of the District. As long as those needs are met, he would support any combination of fields as long as they are properly planned and executed and done in a timely manner.

Commissioner Rollins stated that there is a need for artificial turf in our inventory. He would support a maximum of three sports turf fields at Patch Reef and keep all grass fields at DeHoernle Park.

Commissioner Vogelgesang stated that she would like the City Council to know that the District is in favor of organic versus crumb rubber. She would support celebration grass at DeHoernle Park and sports turf at Patch Reef.

Mr. Koski will request a joint meeting with the Boca Raton City Council. If a joint meeting cannot be arranged, he will draft a letter for circulation to the Board to assist him in expressing their views for submission to the Council. The letter will request a reply before the summer break.

District Counsel – None
Commissioners - None

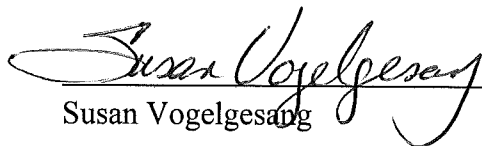
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:


June 8 - Approval of Contract with Zimmer Consultants for Lighting Improvements at District Parks.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Commissioner Frisch and seconded by Commissioner Engel to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED


Susan Vogelgesang Chairman


Dennis R. Frisch Secretary-Treasurer