

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Recreation Advisory Commission

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 3, 2020, AT 9:00 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting was called to order on December 3, 2020 at 9:02 a.m., via Virtual - Zoom Webinar. All Commissioners were present.

Nicholas Coniglio, Chair
Amy Bahl, Vice-Chair
G. Ellen Howe
Grier Pressly
Kristen Schonwald-Vila
Alexandra Woodfield
Leslie Wyrzes
Peter Harris, Alternate Member
Pamela McIver, Alternate Member

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Coniglio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Woodfield and was seconded by Commissioner Schonwald-Villa to approve the Agenda. On call for a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2020, MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made by Vice Chair Bahl and was seconded by Commissioner Pressly to approve the minutes. On call for a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

V. STAFF REPORT & DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Carolyn Stone- Director of Business Development and Operations
Rod Gardiner- Assistant Direct of Recreation
Mark Bresnahan- Business Development and Operations Manager
Tony Chateauvert- Golf Manager & Head Professional

Carolyn Stone - Director of Business Development and Operations, stated that we'll be holding the RAC meetings via Zoom until Town Council determines boards and commissions can meet in person again. She also informed us that a RAC commissioner was stepping down due to moving off the Island effective Dec 31, 2020. Ms. Stone mentioned that the Mandel Recreation Center (Mandel) will be celebrating its 1 year anniversary on Dec 6 and that it was nominated for the Addison Mizner Award. She also noted that Phipps Ocean Park, by the Preservation Foundation,

1 will be undergoing a master plan revamp by Raymond Jungles LLC, and a survey is available to
2 residents and requested the commissioners provide their input since Phipps Tennis Center is
3 there.
4

5 Mark Bresnahan - Business Development and Operations Manager, Mentioned that the Mandel
6 Birthday celebrations will be virtual. He also stated that our QR code is the best way to keep
7 informed about what's going on at the Mandel. Mr. Bresnahan stated that we just released partner
8 trainings/small group trainings through the fitness center and we now offer women's lacrosse.
9 Fitness Friday's is something we've been doing as a staff to help promote exercise and mental
10 health states and hope in the future we can expand this to include the whole town, employees and
11 residents.
12

13 Commissioner McIver had a question about virtual classes and whether or not we're hosting any.
14

15 Mr. Bresnahan answered saying we are currently holding a few classes virtually. Our Italian class
16 is virtual and through our fitness center, if you're a member, they have access to virtual classes.
17

18 Commissioner Wyrzes had a question about the fitness center memberships and if they'll be
19 combined with Tennis at any time or some other kind of membership.
20

21 Mr. Bresnahan answered saying that questions come up a lot and he and Ms. Stone have spoken
22 about it and anticipate presenting something of that nature in the next budget cycle for FY 22.
23

24 Commissioner Harris was curious about how the election ran at the Mandel and if there's an
25 overview of how things went.
26

27 Mr. Bresnahan answered saying we did accomplish a smooth election with the First Lady visiting
28 and voting here. One thing we learned was to have a more distinct in-and-out procedure to help
29 with flow and to provide more space.
30

31 Commissioner Howe asked if masks were required during voting.
32

33 Mr. Bresnahan answered that we had signage throughout saying masks are required inside the
34 building but it was up to election officials once they were in that room.
35

36 Rod Gardiner - Assistant Director of Recreation, mentioned the Seaview Park athletic field is
37 having some drainage issues and we're working closely with Hedrick Brothers construction and
38 Public Works to rectify them. Despite these issues it's getting tremendous use not only by the
39 schools but also by our programs and families utilizing it. Mr. Gardiner noted that tennis has been
40 extremely busy. Revenue has been up despite all the rain we had.
41

42 Commissioner Harris had a question in regards to tennis and how revenue projections, pre-
43 COVID, relate to the budget and if were behind/ahead?
44

45 Mr. Gardiner stated that for FY 20, which ended September 30, we beat our revenue projections
46 and as far as this current fiscal year for October/November we're 15% ahead of what we
47 anticipated.
48

49 Tony Chateauvert - Golf Manager and Head Professional, mentioned that although the weather
50 was awful rounds of golf are still up. He mentioned that these reports only mention numbers and
51 not his staff that work, daily, weekends and all the holidays, and how hard they work. They
52 deserve some kudos. Mr. Chateauvert mentioned they got a new POS system along with a

1 website revamp and have made tremendous strides with Facebook and Instagram followers.

2
3 Commissioner Harris had a question about Tony now offering golf instruction and if he's
4 competitive with the rest of the pros.

5
6 Mr. Chateauvert response was that he charges the same rates as the other pros.

7
8 Commissioner Pressly had a question of whether or not they do equipment demonstrations.

9
10 Mr. Chateauvert answered saying that the shop doesn't sell golf clubs but they have done some in
11 the past and he can reach out to the new PGA Superstore and see if they'd be interesting in
12 coming in to do some.

13
14 Chair Coniglio offered a suggestion that on bigger, busier weekends, to set up a pop-up shop
15 outside to give more exposure to what we have in store.

16
17 Mr. Chateauvert responded that's a great idea and with the holiday's coming they'll investigate it.

18
19 VI. COMMENTS FROM THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSIONERS

20
21 Chair Coniglio went over some brief instructions comments from commissioners for the
22 meetings. He stated we're going to limit time to 3 minutes a person that way we can get to
23 communications from citizens - where we know a discussion about Pickleball will ensue.

24
25 Vice Chair Bahl read her letter of resignation to everyone and thanked everybody for being so
26 kind and wonderful. She stated she'll be around and thoroughly enjoyed her time serving on the
27 RAC.

28
29 Commissioner Howe stated she'll save her comments until after the presentation for Pickleball.

30
31 Commissioner Pressly stated his farewells to Amy and gave kudos to all the staff for their hard
32 work.

33
34 Commissioner Schonwald-Vila stated how impressed she is with the entire Recreation
35 Department and all we've done and stated her farewells to Amy.

36
37 Commissioner Woodfield stated that it's been a challenging time for the Recreation Department
38 during COVID, but gives us kudos for the job we have been doing. She also stated her goodbyes
39 to Amy.

40
41 Commissioner Wyrzes stated that she was thankful that the tennis programs have been able to
42 stay open during this pandemic and thanked the staff for making that happen.

43
44 Commissioner Harris stated his farewell to Amy and that he's glad to be a part of the Recreation
45 Department.

46
47 Commission McIver asked who oversees the parks in the Town since it's not under the
48 Recreation Department as many other municipalities and stated her farewells to Amy.

49
50 Ms. Stone answered saying Public Works has a parks division since most of our parks are passive
51 and require lots of landscaping. So for now they are in charge of them.

Chair Coniglio stated that the Mandel Recreation Center is doing well and he's gotten many comments about the expanding programs were offering from happy families. He's excited to see what our full potential may be once we get out of COVID limitations.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Gary Patsley - Citizen

Gary Patsley - 230 Clarke Ave Palm Beach, FL 33480, wrote a letter to the RAC stating his concerns of how Pickleball is not accommodated for very well in the Town of Palm Beach. He stated it's such a rapidly growing sport and he feels like we're missing a huge opportunity to develop more revenue income from it. He believes Phipps Ocean Park Tennis Center could be the answer for creating a decent Pckleball program in the Town of Palm Beach.

Chair Coniglio thanked Mr. Patsley for being the forerunner for this and he looks forward to the future and collaborating with him and others to make something happen for Pickleball in the Town of Palm Beach. He then passed it off to Ms. Stone to give a background on what's to come at Seaview Park Tennis Center.

Ms. Stone gave a brief background stating that back in 2016 when conversations were happening for the Mandel construction, Pickleball wasn't very high on those lists so that's why more thought wasn't put into making things available here at the Mandel for Pickleball. She also stated that in the Town there is a green space mandate, an ordinance, so if the Town were to construct something down at Phipps, green space would need to be made up some place else in the Town. She also mentioned that Seaview Park tennis courts, anticipated in the summer of 2022, will be going under renovation so we could possibly be doing something with that related to Pickleball, even though we need to maintain six courts for tennis league play.

A discussion then ensued about Pickleball and the commissioners concerns and hopes for the future of being able to provide some kind of program in in the Town of Palm Beach. Overall consensus was that Phipps Ocean Park Tennis Center would be the best place to house a Pickleball program for the Town. A program that includes strategic marketing including clinics and lessons, since it's an intuitive game; but once people pick it up it'll take off. The next steps are to make a short term solution at the Mandel/Seaview Park with the outside basketball court and open play and help get things started with the Preservation Foundation and Town Council.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS- NONE

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on Town Council actions from November 10, 2020

1. Review of EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 18-2020 Authorizing The Town Manager To Arrange For Public Meetings By Use Of Communication Media Technology And For Attendance By Use Of Such Technology By Elected And Appointed Officials During A Declared Public Health Emergency

Ms. Stone stated we'll be meeting virtually until the Town Council decides boards & commissions will move back to in person chambers.

2. Review of Boards and Commissions, Relative to Total Members and Ratio of Regular and Alternate Positions.

1 Ms. Stone went over how Town administration has asked each department
2 director to look over their board/commission and what the appropriate number of
3 members to serve would be from the viewpoint of how efficient/effective it is.
4 She mentioned that she went through, when doing her own research, several
5 questions and how they pertained to our commission, for example "is there a
6 professional requirement for the commission, does the body make quasi-judicial
7 decisions, do members need to serve as an alternate to learn the ins and outs,
8 etc." She then stated that the primary function of this commission is advisory and
9 serving as an ambassador with providing resident perspective for the staff while
10 incorporating their professional expertise from various backgrounds. She
11 mentioned that reduction of the commission would be best to do it now, if they
12 all agree, due to the resignation of our co-chair and two regular members terming
13 out this coming April. Bringing this commission to four regular members and
14 two alternates, ideally the alternates would move up to regular members. And, if
15 agreed upon to have a total of seven members, there would be one regular
16 position open to advertise for in the spring.

17
18 Commissioners then stated their opinions about the reduction of the commission.
19 Commissioners said that ultimately this board is one of the easiest to be a part of
20 since you don't have to have a specific background to be on the commission, so
21 limiting that would be a little sad, but overall, if needs to be done right now, this
22 is definitely the right time to do so.

23
24 **Motion was made by Commissioner Pressly and was seconded by Commissioner Howe to advise**
25 **Town Council to reduce the Recreation Advisory Commission from 10 members to seven regular**
26 **members. On call for a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

- 27
28 3. Approval of FY '21 meeting Dates proposed are February 25, May 5, September
29 23 and December 1.

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31 **Motion was made by Commissioner Howe and was seconded by Commissioner Woodfield to accept**
32 **the FY '21 Recreation Advisory Commission proposed meeting dates. On call for a vote, the motion**
33 **passed unanimously.**

34
35 X. ANY OTHER MATTERS

36
37 Ms. Stone just wanted to remind and encourage everyone to take the Preservation Foundation
38 survey that the Town pushed out and to send it to all their resident friends to take as well.

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40 XI. ADJOURNMENT

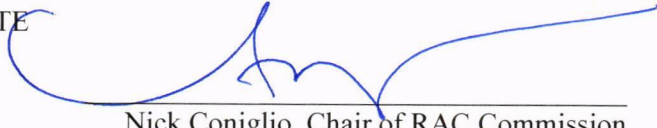
41
42 Chair Coniglio asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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44 **Motion was made by Commissioner Woodfield and seconded by Vice Chair Bahl to adjourn the**
45 **meeting. On call of a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

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47 The Recreation Advisory Commission meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

48
49 MINUTES PREPARED BY MICHELLE PALLANTE

50 DATED May 20, 2021

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52 
Nick Coniglio, Chair of RAC Commission