TOWN OF PALM BEACH

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

A Recreation Advisory Commission meeting was called to order on Wednesday, November 2, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the Town Council Chambers. On roll call, all of the appointed officials were found to be present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chairwoman, Pamela McIver led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. COMMENTS FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSIONERS – Chairwoman McIver asked the citizens in attendance that if they had comments to make regarding the Community Center that they please wait until that item was addressed and the presentation was given. She then asked the commissioners if they had any comments.

Commissioner Matt Smith stated that he wanted to thank all the residents who attended the meeting yesterday regarding the new community center project. He said that they listened to what people were suggesting and the committee is making adjustments to the plans to increase the green space and shrinking the building.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Mr. Steven Hall of El Dorado Lane spoke in reference to his concerns regarding the proposed recreation center. He encouraged everyone to work together to attempt to resolve the issues which have been brought forward.

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Roberta Mambrino and seconded by Commissioner Ellen Howe. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 MEETING MINUTES - Commissioner John Hartz made the motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Mambrino, all were in favor

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Department Update** – Mrs. Beth Zickar, Director of Recreation updated the commission on the progress of projects that were currently going on these included: the flooring and carpeting at the Par 3 Clubhouse, weather screening for the second floor of the clubhouse, electrical upgrades, requests for proposal for golf instruction services, request for proposal for a new golf course management software solution.

B. **Community Center Update** – Chairwoman McIver gave a brief overview of the status of the project thus far. Mrs. Zickar then thanked the volunteers and residents for their dedication and passion exhibited during this process. She reviewed the feedback received at the community meeting on November 1 and comments received from ARCOM. She stated that staff was working to address the concerns. Mrs. Zickar stated that revisions were being made to the current plan and another public meeting was scheduled for November 15, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Other important dates include: ARCOM review on November 30 and then development review with the Town Council in December.

Mr. Nelo Freijomel, architect for the project, gave a presentation to the commission regarding the changes that would take place prior to the next public meeting. He also spoke to the decision making process regarding rebuilding versus renovating the facility and answered questions from the commission.

Mr. Ainsley of Plantation Road stated a business plan for the community was being formulated by Ken Ballard Associates and funded by Friends of Recreation and should be completed by the end of December.

C. **Friends of Recreation (FOR)** – Commissioner Smith explained that the Friends of Recreation was a 501c3 with a specific objective of raising $5 million to meet the Mandel Foundation's challenge grant and also hoped to build an endowment for the new community center. He stated that the FOR was working to address the concerns of the residents regarding the project and acknowledged the importance of community feedback to ensure we have the best recreation/community center for the Town of Palm Beach.

Chairwoman McIver then opened the floor for comments from the public.

> Mrs. Wendy Victor stated that the endowment is critical to the project and questioned if there would be enough parking for a new facility. She asked the commission to try to be very transparent throughout the process and keep the public informed.
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> Mrs. Sophia Maduro stated that the mandate for that space has changed and is very different from the vision and mission of the rec center when it was first built. She felt that the survey that had been sent out was not specific to the rec center and suggested that another survey be sent out.
> Mrs. Julie Araskog of 1490 Via Manana stated that she was glad a business plan was being developed, since participation has declined over the years. She asked if the size of the gym could be reduced so that it wouldn't look so massive.

Commissioner Nicholas Coniglio spoke about program participation. He suggested developing statistical reports which demonstrate the programming that is most popular with the patrons, work to improve on those classes/activities and strive to grow other programming opportunities.

Mr. Ainsley stated the community is changing and if you don't reinvest in your community if you don't continually improve your community in subtle substantial ways people will go other places. We want new residents and new families to come to the Town.

Commissioner Mambrino stated there will be objections to certain things about this project but people need to understand what we are doing here is for the whole community.

Mr. Boodheshwar, Deputy Town Manager spoke to everyone about their concerns and felt that with compromise we will be able to get to a point where there is community consensus. He said we have to embrace the uniqueness of this community in the planning and we are making this very clear to the consultants. He said that this has been a great pause for the community and those who have been involved in the project take this very seriously. Mr. Boodheshwar stated that we will react to the community's needs, listen to everything that has been said and give great consideration. He hoped that when we meet again in two weeks to present the revisions, based on the input, that we would be closer to community consensus.

Mr. Smith felt that the new facility will improve and change programming dramatically. He suggested creating a sub-committee to focus on programming. Mrs. Zickar suggested that at the next meeting staff can come back with some ideas for the Commission to consider.

Mrs. Aiken stated that she was unsure why participation was declining or how to draw people to the facility. She questioned if the community could support the facility and if we needed a bigger facility.

Mrs. Zickar stated that staff needed to look at creative, new programs for children and adults and refresh those programs regularly, staying with trends and continuously solicit feedback from the residents. She felt that if we provide high quality programs in a safe inviting environment people will come.

Susan Watts of 44 Cocoanut Row stated that she agreed with most of what Commissioner Aiken said and felt that the business plan needed to be linked to demographics, making sure the project is Town serving. She stated that she really enjoyed the tennis program and how Dejan has grown the program.

Chairwoman McIver stated that on November 17, 2016, there will be a special recreation commission meeting at 11:00 a.m. to see the revised plans for the community center.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Approval of 2017 Meeting Schedule** – Commissioner Mambrino made a motion to approve the 2017 meeting schedule, seconded by Commissioner Alexandra Woodfield, all were in favor.

B. **Presentation by Dejan Minic, DM Tennis Enterprise -** Mr. Dejan Minic, Head Tennis Professional spoke to the commission and reviewed his plans for the future of teaching services at Seaview Park and Phipps Ocean Park Tennis facilities.

IX. STAFF REPORT - In addition to the written report provided by staff, Assistant Director, Rod Gardiner, Golf Manager Tony Chateauvert, and Dockmaster Mike Horn provided highlights of the report to the commissioners and answered various questions.

X. ANY OTHER MATTERS – None

XI. ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Chairwoman McIver adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.