



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Recreation Advisory Commission

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022, AT 9:00 AM

1 I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

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3 The Recreation Advisory Commission (RAC) meeting was called to order on Thursday, May 12,
4 2022, at 9:04 a.m. On roll call, all commission members were present.

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6 II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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8 Chair Coniglio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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10 III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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12 **Motion was made by Commissioner Harris and was seconded by Commissioner Schonwald-Vila to**
13 **approve the Agenda. On roll call, the motion passed unanimously.**

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15 IV. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 24, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

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17 **Motion was made by Commissioner Watts and was seconded by Co-Chair Pressly to approve the**
18 **February 24, 2022, meeting minutes. On roll call, the motion passed unanimously.**

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21 V. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE & STAFF REPORT

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23 Chair Coniglio said a few farewell words to Commissioner Schonwald-Vila due to moving off the
24 Island. He also said some words to Board Clerk Michelle Pallante as she is leaving the Town to
25 pursue a new career opportunity.

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27 Commissioner Schonwald-Vila said a few words of thanks to Assistant Town Manager Carolyn
28 Stone, Director Mark Bresnahan, Mr. Rod Gardiner and others. She stated that she's learned so
29 much and has grown while serving on the Recreation Advisory Commission.

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31 Director Bresnahan thanked Commissioner Schonwald-Vila for her dedication to the RAC and
32 for her active membership while serving. He then gave a quick recap of the past few months in
33 Recreation.

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- He recognized tennis tournament winners, Mr. Gage Davidson men's singles winner and Nina Reid, female singles winner, along with Doubles winners Kim Goodwin & Rob Crespi.
 - He mentioned our USTA Division 7 team won their division and will be moving up to division 6 next season.
 - The Grand Opening 2.0 and Navy SEALs event was amazing and mentioned we would like to do an event every year.

- Over 500 kids attended the event and enjoyed a variety of activities including push-up and plank challenges.
- Would like to incorporate a season kick-off next October, November or December to welcome seasonal Town Residents. Also asking for additional ideas if any.
- Spring Celebration, April 16, was a huge hit, a couple hundred people attended the event.
- Earth Day 2022 event on April 22, our first time, in collaboration with Palm Beach Day Academy, Palm Beach Public School, The Preservation Foundation, The Garden Club etc. was a success. Susan Lehner was a big support **planning and aiding the kids through the event.**
- Palm Beach Rush Soccer Club, new initiative, will be using Seaview Park Field and the Field house. They are hoping to create three teams. It'll be a year commitment. **Noted that over 155 Rush Clubs are present in 50 countries.**
- Pines Project, meeting with The School District this afternoon to review certain points that overlap onto their property. Is hopeful to get this project started soon, believes it'll be a few years to see it through though. **Goal is to expand the field and get rid of invasiveness.**
- Court number 7 lined with Pickleball lines. Giving it a trial run, through October more than likely. **Semi-Permanent lines were added for public experiment and review will be done in November regarding status. Public commentary will be coming in afterwards.**
- The Tennis Team Logo is moving forward, and we'll hopefully be ordering products soon and have them in before start of next season.
- Friends Of Recreation \$10k donation was fully utilized for Camp Palm Beach. It sponsored Town employees' kids attending camp. They also made another \$10k donation to help purchase a new reservation system for the Recreation Center, **aid the reservation process.**

Tony Chateauvert, Golf Manager and Head Professional- Golf Manager Chateauvert provided a report stating Golf is thriving. Maintaining the course has it's challenges he said however Tim Campbell and his staff are doing phenomenal keeping up with it. The range turf is in the process of being replaced. There's a new cart path on hole 18, with hole 14 being worked on currently. He mentioned 52k rounds were played last season. The shop has a new water and ice machine along with a ball machine that holds 8k balls. Sabrina Gordon has taken over merchandising and is doing a fantastic job. The shop is forecasted to bring in over 600k in revenue. Lastly there's a new PA system throughout facility. **Everything has been kept up to date despite regular usage of the facilities. Feedback from residents has been positive so far with the improvements and facility state.**

VI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Joan Parker- Palm Beach Towers 44 Coconut Row- Expressed that her interest in the Town is Tennis. She's been on a Tennis Team since 2013-2014 and plays five days a week. She has concerns about what's going on, on court 7. She stated that it's terribly confusing and hard to watch the lines properly with the Pickleball lines there. She suggested maybe court 7 could be assigned to tennis instructors. Another concern she mentioned is the reservation system. She said there's not enough time in the morning to get courts, to many pros giving lessons **during prime time.** She suggested having pros in the afternoons instead of "prime time" 9:30am. She ended by saying she enjoys playing and it's a great part of her life. **She was also opened to taking in any other suggestions to fix the issue. Also, would love to have more tennis courts added in the future if option was made available.**

All commissioners thanked Ms. Parker for her concerns and suggestions brought forward.

1 A discussion then ensued about pickleball, court 7, prime time issues and how to make
2 everything work fluidly together. Ideas from limiting the number of tennis pros on the courts
3 at “prime time” to having them use court 7 were brought up. Also having an incentive to have
4 the Pro’s go down to Phipps now to get a jump on it since renovations of Seaview will be
5 starting next year and they will have to go down there any way. Another suggestion that was
6 brought forward was to make court 7 an activity court and put a backboard back so that way
7 people could practice on it. Fees for pickleball were also discussed and how to market it
8 properly.
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10 VII. COMMENTS OF RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSIONERS
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12 Commissioner Dayton- Thanked everyone for including her, mentioned she’s honored to be on
13 the board. Briefly stated she played on court 7 yesterday and that it was difficult. Also mentioned
14 that it might not be the best idea to put the Pros on court 7 because then it’d limit people being
15 able to book pickleball.
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17 Commissioner Harris- Mentioned that there really isn’t a place to play pickleball in Palm Beach
18 and right now we’re a tennis place. Maybe in two-three years we’ll have traction of pickleball,
19 and we’ll be able to make it work. He then spoke of golf next and that that the course is a real
20 jewel however he has some concerns for safety, mentioned the cart path for hole fourteen, the
21 putting green and parking. **Court 7 being an all activity court may help with solving the issue
22 of spacing for playtime.**
23

24 **Seaview improvement is set for summer 2023 and the expected duration should be between
25 6-8 weeks and if needed could be a bit longer.**
26

27 Director Bresnahan chimed in and spoke about the parking situation and how we’re hoping to get
28 some more double-parking spots down there ASAP, along with opening the course more east on
29 hole 14 and the range and angling t-lines.

30 **Director Bresnahan doesn't have an agenda other than to make Palm Beach a healthier
31 town and also wants residents to be content and share their opinions to better the town and
32 its facilities.**

33 Commissioner Jamison- Mentioned he was on the board many years ago and is thankful to be
34 back. Briefly stated for Rush Soccer maybe not have the younger kids be committed for a full
35 year but having the thirteen/fourteen-year-old age group and so forth be fine. **Also wants to see
36 competitive teams succeed and be as notable as the more leisure teams that were present in
37 the previous seasons.**
38

39 Commissioner Pressly- He complimented the staff. Thanked Commissioner Schownwald-Vila
40 and Clerk Pallante for their time on the board. He ended his comments by saying that it’s been
41 imperfect so far to reconciling pickleball demand with Tennis but that we need to give it our best
42 shot, see what demand is and continue to see how things go until the permanent courts are done at
43 Phipps.
44

45 Commissioner Schonwald-Vila- Thanked everyone for their times and comments.
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47 Commissioner Watts – Thanked commissioner Schonwald-Vila for her time, welcomed
48 commissioner Dayton and Jamison. Ended by saying this is a wonderful commission and let’s
49 continue onward and upward.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

a. FY 2023 Proposed Fees Schedule

Gave more of a breakdown for the Tennis fees this morning as it was missing from the original back up. Overall, fees went up 5%. The biggest change was to the Family Pass now having a limit to how many people are in a household, which is now five people. Fitness Center fees, eliminated six-month pass, looking for people to buy an annual pass. Biggest increase was daily fees, really trying to encourage people to buy a pass instead of dropping in. Facility Rental fees stand the same aside from cleanup fees on hourly rate and additional staff needed. Rentals have ticked up considerably, so we're interested to see how this coming year goes. Suggestion of possibly opening to Non-Residents in the future if we wanted to have increased revenue compared to now. As for Golf fees, slightly higher jump this year due to demand and upkeep, overall, still a reasonable increase around 10%. **. Renting out the playground and front lawn were proposed. Rentals have been consistent despite previous COVID restrictions, however having rentals offered to non-residents would bring in more revenue and resident priority rule could still apply if rentals were done. Cons brought up were noise, hours and availability, and resident priority.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Schonwald-Vila and seconded by Commissioner Watts to approve the Proposed Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2023. On roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

X. ANY OTHER MATTERS

- Chair Coniglio brought up the cross walk again that would connect Lake Trail to Seaview Ave. Director Bresnahan commented saying it was brought to Town Councils attention and they will continue with hopefully making it happen.
- **Cost of goods did increase with reason, however a reminder of affordability of all facility was made known and constant advertisement is done regarding rentals made available for both residents and non-residents usage.**
- Chairman Coniglio then thanked everyone who volunteers their time and attends meetings.
- Director Bresnahan then mentioned that the open seat with Schonwald-Vila's vacancy will be advertised by the Town Clerk's office and appointment will hopefully take place by September.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Coniglio asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Harris and seconded by Commissioner Schonwald-Vila to adjourn the meeting. On roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, the Recreation Advisory Commission meeting adjourned at 10:31 am.

Nicholas Coniglio, Chair

Michelle R Pallante

Board Clerk Michelle Pallante

5/20/2022

Date

*Due to departure of Michelle Pallante, minutes were reviewed with minor revisions and updated notes by Recreation Admin Assistants Faika Fareau and Helen Hotac on 9/29/22



STAFF REPORT
Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting
October 6, 2022

MANDEL RECREATION CENTER

Fitness Center

There have been over 640 three-month or more memberships sold since the opening of the Fitness Center in December of 2019. It is an incredible number considering the timing on the opening of the building and the onset of the pandemic. The fitness center annual membership sales continue to increase. All annual members now have access to the InBody composition machine, the Somadome meditation pod, and the Normatec compression therapy for no additional charge.

Group Fitness class participation continues to grow. The current offerings of group fitness classes for the fall are: core strength & stability, circuit training, Vinyasa power yoga, yoga for mobility, total body conditioning, yoga for strength, and flow & fly yoga. Personal training sessions are expected to hit an all-time high this season.

Programming

Camp Palm Beach ran from May 31 to August 5, and was an incredible success. The camp hosted up to 75 participants over the course of the 10 weekly sessions. The camp was at or near capacity each day of camp and was divided into three age groups: Dolphins group (ages 5-7), Stingrays (ages 8-10), and Club Teen (11-13). Field trips included visits to the Slime Factory, Craft Haus, Science Museum, the Zoo, Bowling, Ice Skating, Rapids and Calypso Bay Waterparks, Urban Air, and DEFY. Some of the activities that kept the campers entertained on-site included games, crafts, tournaments, themed parties, talent show, What's Cooking Kids, and a Mobile Escape Room. The ever popular Fun Day, held on the last day of camp, was a big hit with the kids as staff put on a big cookout and the athletic field was filled with games, giant inflatables, and water slides.

Fall session is in full swing with the addition of Mommy and Me Palm Beach, Author Club with Conserve Our Wild, and Little Hands Art with Rhythm and Hues. There has been considerable demand for team sports this session. Fall Soccer with Select Soccer Academy is currently full in the youngest age group and two age groups are full in the Youth Basketball League with Perseverance Basketball. Tot Tumbling and Gymnastics are always popular and are already at capacity. Story Time Soccer, Lacrosse, and Flag Football are filling up quickly.

Palm Beach Rush, a competitive soccer program for ages 8-12, began training at the Mandel Recreation Center in late August and has been met with excitement. The program had its first social game on Sunday, September 18.

Additional highlights and notes:

- Two new staff members have joined the Recreation Department Family: Faika Fareau, Administrative Assistant, and Ryan Reckley, Assistant Director. Please welcome them if you see them around Town.
- The RecConnect publication continues to go out weekly to keep everyone informed of the schedule and happenings around the Mandel and the rest of the Recreation Department. The publication currently reaches over 2,000 inboxes weekly.
- There are 1,888+ followers on Instagram; be sure to follow townofpalmbeachrecreation on Instagram or Palm Beach Recreation Department on Facebook.
- There has been an increase in facility rentals this summer and fall at the Mandel, everything from birthday and holiday parties to cooking classes and luncheons.
- The Town employee's VIEW (Voices of Inclusion and Equity in the Workplace) Committee held well attended lunch and learn events in the After School Room, one for Juneteenth and another for National Hispanic Heritage Month.
- 186 Town employees participated in the July hydration challenge of drinking 64 ounces of water each day for 14 days, all part of helping participants establish better habits to live happier, healthier, and longer lives.
- The Palm Beach County City Managers hosted their monthly meeting at the Mandel in September, with over 25 representatives from city managers' offices across the county.
- The Palm Beach City Association is hosting an election event for the candidates on October 18, in the fieldhouse.
- The Mandel was the central polling location for the primary election held on Tuesday, August 23; the room will also host the general election on Tuesday, November 8.
- Acoustical paneling was added in the fieldhouse, staff have already received positive comments on its impact.
- New tables were installed in the classroom, the tables give a much more professional look with the ability to be flexible with use since all the tables are on wheels.
- The billiard table in the game room was recovered in September.

SEAVIEW PARK

Seaview Park continues to be a very busy place! The playground is probably the busiest piece of outdoor property per square foot on the island! The playground area was replenished with new wood chips. The rest of the outdoor beds and gardens around the park received a fresh mulching in early September. All exterior hard ground surfaces and some vertical surfaces were pressure washed in early September.

The dominant turf, Bermuda Latitude, is growing and held up well in the extreme summer weather. Staff applied various items over the summer (as much organic as possible) to offset the effects of high temperatures and an unusually dry South Florida summer. The irrigation system received much needed maintenance, to ensure adequate and consistent hydration to the turf. The overall health of the turf has improved dramatically from late spring to early fall.

Staff continues to enhance the outdoor facilities with continued turf maintenance improvement, landscape maintenance, clay court maintenance, minor building maintenance, and wind screen repair and replacement.

TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL PROGRAMS

Tennis

Late spring to early fall, the Phipps Ocean Park and Seaview Park Tennis Centers were busy in the mornings at both facilities and in the evenings at Seaview. The tennis centers continue to host open play and lessons, while the first session of fall junior clinics has started at Seaview. The intermediate clinic has been growing in popularity throughout the summer on Saturday mornings at Seaview. The ladies teams began practicing in September as they get ready for the start of their season. The four PBCWTA teams (Open, D1, D5, and D7) will start their matches in October.

Head Pro Dejan Minic, USPTA/PTR, and his staff of teaching professionals continue to be very busy. He and his staff had a busy summer as the junior tennis summer camp was successful with 8 weeks of morning tennis. Tennis lessons continue to be a popular choice of play for residents.

Staff are making plans for apparel and accessory purchases to be done now that the new logo is finalized. The hope is to have some apparel and accessories ready for this upcoming season!

Staff are in the early planning stages for a refresh of the Seaview Park Tennis Center scheduled for this coming summer. The refresh will likely include new lighting, fencing, added shade structures, and resurfacing the courts.

Pickleball

Two clay pickleball courts are lined on court #7 at the Seaview Park Tennis Center. Staff developed policies and procedures for renting out the clay courts. The opportunity to rent the court for Pickleball is secondary to any tennis reservation. A new dedicated pickleball pro, Chaz Perryman, started in September and is now teaching lessons and clinics. Chaz has won a number of tournaments in singles and doubles and has a passion for spreading the joy, knowledge, and growth of the sport.

Staff are continuing to work with the Preservation Foundation and with colleagues in Public Works to include pickleball in the master plan for the redevelopment of Phipps Ocean Park.

PAR 3 GOLF COURSE

Overview:

This was an exceptional year in every way. Lessons, shop sales, rounds and the restaurant were all up in a big way. The Palm Beach Par 3 has become a leading golf destination in South Florida. Last fiscal year was by far a record breaking year with 52,000 rounds of golf and \$3.6M

in revenue. This fiscal year concluded September 30th, and finished with 54,000 rounds and more than \$4.35M in revenue!

Shop sales were at an all-time high last year with \$420K in sales, but this fiscal year they hit \$675K! Kudos to Tony Chateauvert and Sabrina Gordon, their efforts to improve the appearance and selection of apparel and offerings at the shop led to the shop winning the SFPGA Merchandiser of the Year Award for the entire south Florida Section!

Staff received approval from Town Council to add eight additional parking spots to the course to help ease the parking crunch due to the popularity of the course and restaurant. Approval is now being sought from ARCOM. If approved, work will get started as soon as possible. Staff also received approval to complete a refresh of the main clubhouse bathrooms. Staff are hopeful this work will be completed before the start of season, but if there are any delays, the work will be pushed to the late spring.

Course Conditions

Starting in May, the course was closed for maintenance on Tuesday mornings to allow staff to work on the golf course without interfering with golfers. In addition, the course was closed for aerification and DryJecting three times during the summer and early fall. The result has been remarkable with greens and tees being in excellent condition despite the huge volume of play.

A new cart path is being routed along the ocean side of #14, similar to what was done on #18 last year. This will greatly enhance the enjoyment of the golfers and really open up the view for a nice ride along the dunes of the Atlantic Ocean. Tim Campbell and his team have done a remarkable job.

Teaching Program

The teaching program continues to do exceptionally well. Gene George, Bob Hite, Tim McCoy and newcomer, former Tour player Trevor Dodds have all had exceptional years, which resulted in the highest grossing year in lessons in history. Daily golf clinics offered throughout the summer were a big success.

RECREATION DASHBOARD

Revenue	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Cost recovery % for FY22
Tennis	\$ 229,140	\$ 220,338	\$ 245,471	\$ 348,178	\$ 418,042	93.20%
Recreation	\$ 305,340	\$ 157,199	\$ 230,911	\$ 565,206	\$ 821,079	74.80%
Golf	\$ 2,245,084	\$ 2,455,267	\$ 2,288,355	\$ 3,651,435	\$ 4,342,191	144.30%

*2022 numbers as of September 28th