



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

A Recreation Advisory Commission meeting was called to order on Wednesday, January 12, 2018, at 10:31 a.m. in the Town Council Chambers. On roll call, all of the appointed officials were found to be present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chairman, Matthew Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. COMMENTS FROM RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSIONERS – Chairman Smith welcomed the new members Kristen Vila to the commission. Chairman Smith shared he had made the Recreation Advisory Commission Annual Report to the Town Council at the January meeting, he felt it was received very well.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS – Mr. Bradford Gary, 229 Onondaga Lane, spoke about the need to incorporate recreational boat launches for kayaks and canoes in the Town Docks Master Plan and the need to ensure the docks are town serving.

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - Motion was made by Chairman Smith to amend the agenda to remove item number VIII(B) Master Plan for Town Docks Presentation due to this item being placed on the agenda twice. Motion was seconded by John Hartz, Jr. Motion carried unanimously. Motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Chairman Smith and seconded by Commissioner Woodfield. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 1, 2017 MEETING MINUTES – Chairman Smith made the motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Termini Cove, all were in favor.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Presentation of the Master Plan for the Town Docks

Ms. Beth Zickar, Director of Recreation gave an update on the status of Master Plan for the Town Docks. She shared the presentation being made at today's meeting was publicly noticed to give residents the opportunity to communicate concerns, make suggestions and help establish priorities as the master planning process moves forward. She introduced Gordon Thomson, lead consultant from W.F. Baird & Associates and Dennis Kissman from Marina Management Services.

Gordon Thomson explained the purpose of the presentation was to present the goals of the project, the project scope, the schedule and then open the floor up to discussion to receive feedback from the residents. Mr. Thomson defined the goal of the project is to renovate the docks to a state of the art facility that reflects the elegance of the Town of Palm Beach. He reviewed the scope of work within the project and provided a status of the work product. The project schedule was discussed. The floor was opened to comments by Commissioners.

John Hartz, Jr. stated he liked what Mr. Gary had to say and requested Mr. Gary compose a list of his comments and schedule individual meetings with Commissioners.

The floor was then opened to comments from the public.

John David Corey, 426 Australian Avenue – Mr. Corey said he lives in the Royal Park neighborhood and has the following concerns about the project:

1. He would like to see equal or a reduction in intensity of the facility.
2. Increase green space
3. No increase in parking
4. Increase screening of existing parking
5. Reduce paving width of South Lake Drive. Mr. Corey acknowledged this item might be outside the scope of this Master Plan.
6. Improve and help any Lake Trail connections that run through the facility
7. Improve sidewalk connections
8. Study ADA requirements
9. Keep Lake Drive Park as a passive green space.

Dennis Keefe, 455 Australian Avenue – Mr. Keefe is a Board Member of his building and a representative of the Royal Park Homeowner's Association. Mr. Keefe said he wants to associate himself with the comments of the previous speaker. He presented two (2) documents. The first was the Master Plan for Lake Park Drive which was prepared 10 years ago. He shared that this plan was accepted by the Town and he would like to see this move forward. The goal is to preserve and protect Royal Park and their neighborhood. He felt it is important that the element of the Master Plan for the park which proposed eliminating angled parking on Lake Park Drive was very important. He also stated he did not want to see an increase in capacity at the docks, but he did support an increase in the quality of the facility. The second document presented was a discussion on sea level rise projection for South Florida. He felt this was a perfect opportunity to address the height of the seawall at the docks.

Beth Zickar, Recreation Director, explained that the Lake Drive Park Master Plan is referred to as the Bonci Plan. She said it is anticipated that the Bonci Plan and the Town Docks Master Plan, once completed, will complement each other.

Nick Coniglio, Recreation Advisory Commission, Vice Chair, stated he hoped that the Town would look at both projects as one, so we have an idea of where we are

headed. He said hearing from the residents, he believes they view this as one project.

Jeff Cloninger, 411 Brazilian Avenue – Mr. Cloninger has been a member of the Royal Park Homeowner's Association since its beginning, 15 years ago. He stated that the docks are great the way they are. He believes the Town should improve and enhance the facility, but don't enlarge. He also stated he believes the dock and park issue should go hand in hand.

Gordon McCoun 434 Chilean Avenue, Elliot House – Mr. McCoun stated he would like to echo what has previously been said. He believes people move to this area for the aesthetics and if the town changes this it would do more harm than good.

Hank Holmes, Peruvian Dock – Mr. Holmes complemented Mike Horn and his staff for the great job they are doing. He said the current facility has insufficient office space, problems with the Wi-Fi, and electrical issues. Mr. Holmes stated the design should be floating docks. He does not believe that any boats larger than the Lady Katherine VI should be allowed. Mr. Holmes said that the renovation should be phased in over three years. He also expressed concerns about accepting low bid on this project and encouraged the Town to be careful on the specifications.

Amy Bahl, Recreation Advisory Commission member – Ms. Bahl commended Mike Horn for the great job he is doing at the Town Docks. She agreed that the Town needs new docks and also upgrades to facilities.

Alan Eades, 315 South Lake Drive – Mr. Eads has been involved in the Royal Park Homeowner's Association since 2006. Mr. Eads provided a history of the changes that have been proposed for Lake Trail Park over the years. Mr. Eads discussed the two plans which are currently being discussed – marina plan and the park plan. He said the two plans go hand in glove. Mr. Eads explained that the Lake Trail Park plan developed a concept which eliminated the angle parking on South Lake Drive. This concept helped to resolve two issues: traffic complications due to congestion and the need for green space. The Royal Park Homeowner's Association supports the parking changes proposed in the plan.

Dr. G. Ellen Howe, Recreation Advisory Commission member – Dr. Howe expressed support for the floating docks.

Carla Termini Cove – Recreation Advisory Commission member – Ms. Cove toured the docks and became aware of the need to look at the entire infrastructure. She shared that the electric and Wi-Fi service are in need of upgrades. Ms. Cove requested the consultant ensure the plan looks at safety when proposing a design, ensuring a high quality material is recommended. She also expressed concern about the Dock Master's Office and the need to design appropriate space. Ms. Cove spoke on the need to present financing options for the Town Dock project, within the plan.

Christopher Vecellio, 196 Via Del Mar – Mr. Vecellio stated he felt it was important to maintain a compromise of both smaller and larger boats at the docks. He shared that parking is always a challenge at the facility and need to find a balance between the green space and the need to address the parking situation. The upgrade of the docks is a great plan. Upgrading the electricity will allow the boats to not have to utilize their generators. The floating dock concept is the way to go. He shared the new design should ensure piling locations do not interfere with the mooring of the vessels. Mr. Vecellio also spoke about the need to improve Wi-Fi, and to include appropriate facilities for the Dock Master and Police. The addition of recreation facilities could be an enhancement, but he did acknowledge that this might attract more patrons and add to the parking challenges.

Mr. Bradford Gary, 229 Onondaga Lane – Mr. Gary recommended the Town consult with an attorney that specializes in admiralty law. He also spoke about floating docks not being a panacea. He shared that in high seas floating docks will break up.

Mike Horn, Dockmaster – Mr. Horn shared that he believes the docks need to modernized. The majority of people state they prefer floating docks. He said the shore power is currently inadequate and that parking is a challenge every day from Thanksgiving to Easter. Mr. Greer Pressly, Recreation Advisory Commission member inquired if there were other docks in the area that could be visited. Mr. Horn suggested a visitation to Rybovich, Palm Harbor and Admiral's Cove.

Miguel Rosales, 426 Australian Avenue – Mr. Rosales stated he felt the scope of work of the project is too limited. He suggested including the park and the Lake Trail in the master plan.

Matt Smith made a motion to recommend to the Town Council that the park should be included in the Town Docks master plan to make it all one project. Amy Bahl seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Recreation Center and Seaview Park Improvements –

Beth Zickar, Recreation Director, discussed the Oakley Debbs' Memorial Soccer Jamboree which was held on Saturday, November 25, 2017 at the Recreation Center. This event was very successful with approximately 300 participants and their parents/guardians. This event raised money for both Red Sneakers for Oakley, a non-profit which is dedicated to raising awareness of the dangers of food allergies and the Oakley Debbs Memorial Field, which will be the official name of the multipurpose field upon the completion of the renovation.

Work on the Recreation Center and Seaview Park Improvements has been limited to those items of a design development nature. We continue to wait for notification regarding the status of the pending litigation.

Dr. G. Ellen Howe inquired if the Recreation Center project can move forward even if the litigation is pending. It was explained that due to the nature of the filing,

which is challenging the variances, the Recreation Center project cannot move forward until.

C. Program Development

Beth Zickar, Recreation Director, discussed the software solution being recommended to assist in communicating program changes and facility closures to patrons. Current services available on the Town website were outlined. Matt Smith made a motion to approve moving forward with the proposed application, Rainoutline.com. Carla Termini Cove seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. It was requested that the search continue for software that will allow for online tennis court reservations.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual Report to the Mayor and Town Council

Matt Smith reviewed the information shared at the annual report presented to the Mayor and Town Council. He requested a copy of the report be sent to all Recreation Advisory Commission members

B. FY 17 Recreation Enterprise Fund Report

Beth Zickar, Recreation Director, reported on the unaudited report for fiscal year 2017. Overall, operating expenses for fiscal year 2017 were up 9% from fiscal year 2016. This is due to the completion of several maintenance projects at the Par 3 Golf Course which included the installation of the weather screening on the veranda and the painting of the interior and exterior of the building and the reassignment of a Maintenance Laborer from Public Works to the golf course. In addition, Seaview Tennis Center and the Recreation Center incurred some additional maintenance expenses as a result of Hurricane Irma and infrastructure issues that required repairs and replacement. Overall, gross revenue was up 4.0%, with all divisions exceeding their cost recovery goals.

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, Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 12:21 p.m.