



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

A Special Recreation Advisory Commission meeting was called to order on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, at 9:01 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 – None

IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS – None

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - Motion was made by G. Ellen Howe to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Carla Termini Cove. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation Master Plan for the Town Docks and Accessory Structures

Beth Zickar, Recreation Director, gave an overview of the Town Docks Master Plan. Gordon Thomson from W.F. Baird & Associates gave a presentation on the draft of the master plan. Key points included:

- Public outreach;
- Project vision;
- What is needed and the market demand;
- Dock layouts with three different alternatives and a comparison;
- Rates and revenue – noting that we are below market rates;
- Construction costs;
- Potential grant opportunities
- Dock details and costs included;
- Kayak launch and recommendation to move to an alternative site;
- Replacement of the dock buildings and a review of each building;
- Parking suggestion on all three lots with the addition of parking lot gates;
- Replacement of the bulkhead;
- Work timeline.

Chair Matt Smith requested the opinion of Dockmaster Mike Horn. Mr. Horn expressed he preferred option 3 because he felt it had the best mixture of slips and potential for both large and small boats. He expressed a concern with the proposed northern most dock, citing the wind and the weather may pose challenges for boats trying to dock and tugs may be needed to assist the larger boats, coming in and departing. Mr. Horn also stated that upon completion of the new docks there may be a slower period and 100% occupancy should not be expected at opening.

Chris Ramos, Captain from the Lady Kathryn V, explained the wind could cause an issue, but he believes that boats would still use the larger slips on the proposed northern most dock. Captain Chris Ramos expressed support for proposed dock alternative 3.

Discussions ensued regarding the possibility of adjustments to dock alternative 3. Gordon Thomson explained why each dock configuration was proposed and that the Palm Way Dock would be initially used by transient and smaller boats until the Intracoastal Waterway is dredged to a deeper depth, which would allow larger boats to take advantage of this facility.

Chairman Matt Smith expressed support for the small town feel of the Docks, was in favor of the parking plan, with the exception of moving the parking lot to the north and agrees with not putting in the kayak launch. In addition, he supports the proposed sizes for the new buildings. He expressed support for both alternative 2 and 3 and requested to see a conceptual visual with the slips full.

Gordon Thomson, consultant from W. F. Baird, addressed questions regarding the parking lot, the need to preserve green space, the impact on the Banyan trees in the park and the desire to leaving the parking lots in the same location as they currently exist. Additional questions included: rates, financing of project, cost of construction, life expectancy of the docks, increase costs in maintaining the new docks, need for a business plan for the docks and the need to conduct environment surveys prior to construction starting.

An e-mail was received and read into the record from John David Corey, 426 Australian Avenue. Mr. Corey expressed support for the project, but was concerned with several elements.

Zachary Shipley, 228 Seaspray Avenue, expressed three concerns. The first was regarding how hurricane resistant a floating dock may be. Second consideration should be made to install a wave energy absorbent bulkhead. Third concern was regarding the significant increase being proposed for the rate increase.

Vice Chair Nick Coniglio would like to make sure we include those people who are currently using the docks in included in the decision making process.

Dennis Keefe, 455 Australian Avenue, felt it is a fine draft master plan. Concerned with parking along South Lake Drive which is currently diagonal. Previous master plan calls for parallel parking. Mr. Keefe questioned which of the dock alternatives would call for the need for more parking. Discussions regarding amount of parking needed for each

alternative ensued. Mr. Keefe expressed opposition to winter construction. He expressed support for a new bulkhead.

Gordon Thomson answered questions from the commission on a living bulkhead.

B. FY 2019 Budget Development – Proposed Fee Revision

Beth Zickar, Recreation Director gave an overview of the fee surveys and recommendations for fiscal year 2019, which included fee increases at golf, tennis and docks. The creation of a Maintenance & Improvement Fee for the Recreation Center was proposed. A motion to approve the proposed fee revisions was made by Alexandra Woodfield. Motion was seconded by Amy Bahl. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. ANY OTHER MATTERS – None

IX. ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.