



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Recreation Department

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

MEETING AGENDA

September 24, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

Held Virtually via Zoom Webinar

Click here to join: <https://zoom.us/j/95766840990>

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting was called to order on September 24, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., via Virtual - Zoom Webinar. Commissioners Howe and Pressley were not present.

Chair Coniglio welcomed everyone and thanked them for being on time.

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

Ms. Stone went over the rules of the meeting and how things would be run.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Coniglio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF JUNE 3, 2020, MEETING MINUTES

Carolyn Stone- Director of Business Operations and Development

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

Commissioner McIver mentioned that she sent in a note about how the minutes showed it looked as if she were a co-presenter in two sections and just wanted to make sure that wasn't the case, even though she did comment in those sections.

Carolyn Stone- Director of Business Development and Operations answered and said other commissions do put commenters on top however we can change it.

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

Ms. Stone mentioned Covid was an excellent opportunity for us to demonstrate our nimbleness and our creativity. During the Covid shut down time period we were able to grow our mailing list substantially for our rec connect in our E news and also our social media. Ms. Stone stated that there are 67 cities or municipalities in the county of Palm Beach and we are one of the only ones that are actually having fall programming occurring and basically offering a full slate of programs. It clearly was shown during the pandemic that people care about recreation and they care about opportunities to exercise and to be outside.

Rod Gardiner- Assistant Director of Recreation, spoke about Seaview Park and the turf on the multipurpose field. He mentioned it's in pretty good shape and a top dressing was applied as stated it would be back in the June meeting. The big news for Seaview Park is that on August 27 the playground reopened. Mr. Gardiner mentioned we have signs out there asking people to social distance and practice safety, but it is a play at your own risk type of thing. Mr. Gardiner then spoke about the Tennis Centers, Seaview and Phipps Ocean Park. He mentioned that once we closed down, we still continued daily maintenance on the tennis courts to prepare them and make sure that they would be ready for an expedited return to play. We were able to reopen on May 1 and participation has far exceeded our expectations. He revealed from May to August '19 compared to May to August of '20, overall play has increased 78% between the two. It's been very busy and the majority of that play has been residents. Mr. Gardiner also stated that we have passed our previous record in revenue, which was fiscal year 2017, we were at almost \$235,000 right now we're at \$238,000 and climbing. The majority of that difference has actually been resident play. In 2017 our resident non-resident ratio was 60/40. 60% resident as it stands right now we're at 67% resident. The last thing Mr. Gardiner mentioned was we completed quite a few projects at Seaview and Phipps and some are still on going,

Commissioner McIver asked if there were/have been any instances or concerns about Covid among the staff or among any other participants in our programs.

Mr. Gardiner answered yes there is concern but no as far as we know there have been no exposures on the tennis courts, Rec Center, Seaview park, docks or golf that we're aware of. We've been as safe as we can be with intentional practices and luck.

Commissioner Woodfield had a question regarding the playground and whether or not the equipment is being cleaned/sanitized.

Mr. Gardiner responded by saying we do what we can and we have reached out to other municipalities to see how they are doing things.



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A discussion then ensued about the playground.

Commissioner Harris asked about the Pro's at tennis and how they did this summer.

Mr. Gardiner answered saying they've done very well. From May –Aug they had a 262% increase in lessons.

Mark Bresnahan- Program Development and Operations Manager- started off with speaking about the after school program. He mentioned we normally allow 30 students to join but currently that is limited to 15. We do require the participants to wear a mask the entire time that they are inside and also require them to wear a mask outside when social distancing is not possible. Mr. Bresnahan also stated that we have launched a number of youth programs already and the majority of our adult programs will launch two weeks from today. He then presented our QR code that we have for our programs brochure. He mentioned we are limiting the class sizes as well and that's really dependent on where we're holding the class. Some of our most popular programs right now, with current registration on going, are our hip hop class, and there's actually a waitlist for it, and our story time soccer program, which is an outdoor program. Mr. Bresnahan then mentioned Stephanie Bogdan, our new fitness center manager- she's been with us for a few months now and if haven't had an opportunity to meet her, he really encourages you to stop by and introduce yourself. Our fitness center staff is running a "What's what" lecture series, which is just a 10 minute talk once a month. We're posting on Facebook Live. Mr. Bresnahan also stated introduction of a 10 class pass, so you can join any fitness center class offered. With classes launching in two weeks they'll be eight fitness center classes to mix and match. Another fun thing we're about to unveil is a photo contest. We're anticipating getting some great shots of Palm Beach from it and we plan to offer some small prizes. One of the things that he's working on is the Cafe. It's kind of the missing piece of the Mandel right now. We do certainly have a grab and go kind of vending in there but this time next year he would really like to see a fully operating Cafe. What we're thinking along the lines is high end specialty coffee, some great smoothie drinks and also a lot of fresh grab and go sandwiches and salads. One last thing if you haven't done so already, he really encourages everyone to follow us on our social media.

Chair Coniglio commented saying he loves the 10 class pass. He also mentioned that he loves the collaborations we've been doing with the Civic association and maybe we can look into doing some with the Four Arts. He also loves the idea of transforming the Café into a cool gathering spot for everyone to utilize. Lastly he commented about Instagram and creating some kind of hashtag for people to tag us.

Tony- Report stands as written. On April 30th the course reopened and bounced back. They've been following strict guidelines for Covid. He mentioned staff were there every day to get things ready and have online payment set up before re-opening. Mr. Chateauvert mentioned that rounds are up 52%. He mentioned that they're 400 rounds

short for 38k rounds for the year, which is just under a 1000 short from last year. Lessons and clinics are through the roof. Employees have stepped up to the plate. Hole #12 cart path has been rerouted. It now goes around the 12th green and to the 13th hole. We have bees, which are located next to the 13th hole, and it's been a great success. The shops being re-carpeted after 6yrs and he mentioned they have a new cart fleet coming.

Commissioner Balh commented that she loves the honey and thinks it's an awesome program. She mentioned they love Gene George, a golf pro, that her twins have been taking lessons from him.

Commissioner Harris mentioned he loves Tony's' enthusiasm. He has one idea for the Par 3. Stated the only area, in his opinion, that could be improved is from hole 3 to 4, a cart/walking improvement, maybe look into putting a bridge over the pond in that area.

Chair Coniglio mentioned the Par 3 Course is immaculate and that it's busy and bustling. He loves the bee program and asked if they, the commissioners, could watch when they are being harvested next.

Ms. Stone answered and said that anyone interested in watching the bees be harvested could shoot her an email and she'll let them know when the next time will be. Ms. Stone wanted to make a comment about an article she read in the wall street journal review sections. It was about a call to civic service. A call to forgo the private sector and to work in government.

VI. COMMENTS FROM THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSIONERS

Chair Coniglio- He spoke on a few things already. He thanked everyone for their reports. He said we have exceeded all expectations and he's proud to be a part of this committee.

Vice Chair Bahl- Said what she's needed to in previous sections and thanked everyone working for the town and that she's been very active at the par 3.

Commissioner Schonwald-Vila- Thanked the entire team. She said it's been awesome to see the Rec come alive and loving our residents.

Mr. Bresnahan thanked commissioner Schonwald-Vila for the lessons on Instagram.

Commissioner Woodfield- Mentioned she brought up her concerns earlier and then echoed the praise about the jobs being done around the department. She also mentioned she's proud to be a part of this group that has much success.

Commissioner Wyrzes- Thanked everyone for all their hard work.

Commissioner Harris- mentioned how nice it is to attend a Zoom meeting that is so uplifting and that people are doing such a great job. Thank you everyone.

Commission McIver- Suggested doing a welcome back advertisement in the shiny sheet, since we do have a bunch of wonderful and exciting things going on. Mentioned it'll make staff feel good and it'll tell the community what we've been doing. She also asked



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about the open alternate spot for the board.

Ms. Stone stated that Town Council is reviewing sizes of all boards and commissions, that's why the open alternate position hasn't been advertised yet.

Commissioner McIver asked who the participant "Jim Palmer" is.

Ms. Stone answered and said Jim is from our IT department and he is present just in case we have any technical issues.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Michael Leiderman- Citizen

Michael Leiderman, - 2295 S. Ocean Blvd, Palm Beach- Thanked us for the wind socks and hooks at Phipps. He mentioned that there are still some issues in the parking lot. Vehicles are entering through the exit, ignoring the signs. This has led to several instances of cars nearly colliding with each other or hitting pedestrians. He suggested to do a "Do not enter" sign at the exit and also (re)paint large arrows on the pavement. He also asked about the annual and seasonal passes getting an extension due to COVID-19 and the open alternate position.

ACTION: Ms. Stone said we will speak to public works and our safety department about these issues.

Mr. Gardiner stated that Annual and seasonal passes have already been extended for 44 days due to the closures from Covid.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. FY21 Budget Development

Mr. Gardiner stated that the FY21 Budget has been adopted and the fees have not been changed from your, the commissions, recommendations.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Meeting dates for FY2021

Ms. Stone states that we'd like to amend the meeting schedule just a touch. If we could move the Nov 4, 2020 meeting to Dec 2, 2020.

Whereas the 2021 dates would be moved to Thursday Feb 25, 2021; Wednesday May 5, 2021; Thursday Sept 23, 2021 and Wednesday Dec 1, 2021. We checked the town calendar to make sure we wouldn't have any issues going forward with these dates.

Commissioner McIver asked if we'd be going back to regular in person meetings in December due to reading an article in the Shiny sheet saying Town Council had

mentioned something about this.

Ms. Stone answered saying that The Town Council has decided that they will be meeting in person starting October, but that all boards and commissions should meet virtually through the end of this calendar year. So our December meeting then would be virtual. Primarily, they're thinking about residents and their travel plans. Town Council will make a decision, moving forward, I believe in December for the 2021 year.

Commissioner Schonwald-Vila asked about Residents being able to rent out tables in the playground for small group gatherings for kids.

Mr. Bresnahan answered saying this has been in discussion and is in the works.

Commissioner McIver asked about the Mandel being a polling place and if any special accommodations are being done for that.

Mr. Bresnahan answered saying things have been going pretty well here in regards to polling. With the upcoming election we do anticipate more traffic. We will have reserved parking for this upcoming election. And no we are not an early polling location.

X. ANY OTHER MATTERS
None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Coniglio asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The Recreation Advisory Commission meeting adjourned at 10:09 am.

Note: Disabled persons who need an accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are requested to contact the Recreation Department at 561-838-5485 or through the Florida Relay Service by dialing 1-800-955-8770 for voice callers or 1-800-855-8771 for TDD callers, at least (5) working days before this meeting.

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by this (Board, Council, Committee, Commission) with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.