



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Recreation Advisory Commission

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021, 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 Wednesday, May 5,
4 2021, at 9:00 a.m., electronically via Zoom Webinar. On roll call, all commission members were
5 found to be present.
6

7 II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

8
9 Chair Coniglio led the Pledge of Allegiance.
10

11 III. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

- 12
13 A. Results of Election of Commission Chairperson
14 B. Results of Election of Vice Chairperson
15

16 Mark Bresnahan, Director of Recreation, announced the results of the election for Chair and
17 Vice-Chair. Nicholas Coniglio was elected Chair and Grier Pressly was elected for Vice-Chair.
18

19 **Motion was made by Commissioner Vila, and seconded by Commissioner Harris to approve of the**
20 **results of the election of Chair and Vice-Chair. On roll call, the motion passed unanimously.**
21

22 IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

23
24 **Motion was made by Vice-Chair Pressly, and seconded by Commissioner Vila to approve the**
25 **agenda. One roll call, the motion passed unanimously.**
26

27 V. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 25, 2021, MEETING MINUTES

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29 **Motion was made by Vice-Chair Pressly, and seconded by Commissioner Harris to approve the**
30 **February 25, 2021, meeting minutes. On roll call, the motion passed unanimously.**
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32 VI. STAFF REPORT & DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

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34 Chair Coniglio requested the Commission to hold any discussion for Pickleball until the Old
35 Business item and hold comments until the entire staff report has been completed.
36

37 Director Bresnahan provided an update on the happenings around the Mandel Recreation Center.
38 He started by recognizing Dawn Helton for twenty-five (25) years of service to the Recreation
39 Department. The Governor's Office issued a new Executive Order regarding public meetings and
40 Covid-19 safety which will be disseminated to the Commission as information is finalized. The

1 'Marching Through March Challenge' goals and top finisher, a town employee, Reggie Williams
2 was recapped along with the return of the Spring Celebration and its overwhelming success even
3 with the Covid-19 protocols in place. Director Bresnahan notified the Commission of the Friends
4 of Recreation grant of \$10,000.00 to fund the Camp Palm Beach Scholarship for Town
5 employees. He briefly spoke regarding the media article in Modern Luxury Magazine and the
6 great advertising it provided. Lastly, he provided an update on Pickleball including suggestions to
7 keep the nets up during the week, the possibility of a permanent net, how to add activity to the
8 court, and taking steps to fast track the inclusion of Pickleball at Phipps Park.
9

10 Rod Gardiner, Assistant Director of Recreation, provided updates for the Seaview Park turf,
11 tennis court usage, tennis court conditions, and the tennis teaching services plus team play. He
12 explained the turf at Seaview Park has been doing very well even with all the programs on the
13 field. The tennis court usage has increased over the last several months due to the shutdowns
14 pertaining to Covid-19 and the continued encouragements for outdoor activity. The tennis
15 teaching revenue has increased thanks to the lessons and clinics offered by our tennis
16 professionals. Assistant Director Gardiner briefly touched on court conditions, which are great.
17 He also commented on the Palm Beach County Women's Tennis Association noting that our D5
18 team won their division.
19

20 Tony Chateauvert, Golf Manager and Head Professional, provided an update on golf play that has
21 increased significantly. He reviewed the Raymond Floyd Open during his recap, which included
22 three (3) Hall of Fame golfers and a sold out event that raised \$45,000.00 benefitting the First Tee
23 of the Palm Beaches and the Par 3 Foundation. The sales in the Pro Shop are projected to exceed
24 \$300,000.00 for the fiscal year. Mr. Chateauvert explained rounds of golf through April have
25 increased significantly and projected to reach 50,000 rounds for the year. He gave Tim Campbell,
26 Golf Superintendent, kudos on the turf with all the additional foot traffic. Mr. Chateauvert closed
27 his presentation by reviewing some photos of the High School Caddies from Seminole, Greyson
28 Clothiers and their airstream trailer, and provided suggestions for future outings, a Rolex clock
29 tower, shading for the driving range and adding additional staff to help with the high demand.
30

31 Director Bresnahan provided one final update regarding the Summer Camp Palm Beach
32 registration being close to sold out.
33

34 VII. COMMENTS OF RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSIONERS

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36 Chair Coniglio thanked Dawn for her 25 years of service and Director Bresnahan for sharing the
37 advertisement in the Modern Luxury Magazine. He also praised staff for how well the tennis and
38 golf programs are running, specifically expressing excitement for the covered driving range and
39 other enhancements suggested. Mr. Coniglio also provided an update regarding the Friends of
40 Recreation request to hold a relaunch event at the Mandel Recreation Center due to the pandemic.
41

42 Vice-Chair Pressly formally recognized the contributions of the Friends of Recreation and echoed
43 the comments of Chair Coniglio in regards to the covered driving range for the Par 3. He also
44 commented that he would be happy to get involved in this item.
45

46 Commissioner McIver congratulated Carolyn Stone on her advancement to Assistant Town
47 Manager. She echoed the previous comments regarding Friends of Recreation and suggested
48 using the Shiny Sheet to thank them publicly. Ms. McIver offered suggestions to provide training
49 or assistance for the Pickleball players, provide additional information to new incoming residents
50 for next season, and continue to strive for excellent customer service. She also inquired about the
51 restart of tennis mixers.
52

1 Discussion ensued regarding clarification on current clinics available for Pickleball, how the
2 potential future tennis mixers will be managed by a tennis professional moving forward, and how
3 to recognize the Friends of Recreation's contributions formally.
4

5 **It was a consensus of the Commission to direct Chair Coniglio and staff to draft a letter formally**
6 **recognizing the Friends of Recreation for their grant and support, and provide the letter to the**
7 **Shiny Sheet for publication in "Letters to the Editor."**
8

9 Commissioner McIver also suggested a marketing committee or communications volunteer for
10 extra support.
11

12 Commissioner Watts provided comments on her appointment to the Commission, congratulations
13 to the Chair on his appointment, and thanks to staff for onboarding her in preparation for the
14 Commission meeting. She complimented the idea of a relaunch for Mandel and the golf statistics
15 provided by Mr. Chateauvert. Ms. Watts suggested using the golf merchandising model for the
16 tennis program and asked staff to look for more efficient ways to get connected with other Tennis
17 players or share their availability.
18

19 Discussion ensued regarding tennis merchandise shipping delays on products and the addition of
20 Club Caddie to help increase merchandising in the golf program.
21

22 Commissioner Harris welcomed Commissioner Watts, complimented Director Bresnahan on the
23 Modern Luxury Magazine article and asked it be provided to the commissioners, and provided
24 ideas to the Commission regarding the Par 3. He suggested putting together a plan for Par 3
25 improvements and asking the three recreation foundations to assist with funding those
26 improvements. Mr. Harris also raised safety concerns regarding holes thirteen (13) and fourteen
27 (14).
28

29 Discussion ensued regarding ways to manage better safety on the golf course and in the parking
30 lot. Staff explained a meeting with Chair Coniglio has been scheduled to discuss future
31 improvements at Par 3 and a draft list will be put together at that time.
32

33 VIII. COMMUNICATION FROM CITIZENS

34

35 There were no communications from citizens.
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38 IX. OLD BUSINESS

39

40 A. Mandel/Seaview Park Temporary Pickle ball Update

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42 Chair Coniglio started the discussion of Pickleball with what impact the potential loss of
43 a tennis court at Phipps Park would mean to tennis. He went on to explain his support for
44 doing what is needed to create a robust Pickleball program. Mr. Coniglio suggested gaining
45 awareness and gathering input from the Pickleball players and other clubs in the community.
46

47 Discussion ensued regarding the need for awareness of the sport, how to manage the different
48 levels of players abilities to set up matches, and support for a permanent court at Phipps Park.
49

50 Staff provided details on how the department is currently creating awareness for Pickleball such
51 as Rec Connect, taking advantage of every interaction with residents to talk about the sport, and
52 the Word on Wellness through the Civic Association.

Discussion ensued further including suggestions for a Pickleball tournament or grand opening for the potential Phipps Park court, offering gameplay to Camp Palm Beach to get children interested, and encouraging using the inside courts during the hot or inclement weather.

It was the consensus of the Commission to allow staff to move forward with fast tracking the Pickleball courts at Phipps Park.

Director Bresnahan gave a brief update regarding the café at the Mandel. Currently, the RFP for the vendor is still under the 'Cone of Silence' however, the process is moving along. The café will be available for smoothies, coffees and Grab & Go items once a vendor has been selected. Kitchen items that need to be cooked will not be available due to food and beverage regulations with regards to the space.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2022 Proposed Fees Schedules

Director Bresnahan provided a review of the proposed FY2022 Fee Schedules. The suggested increases were in golf, tennis and the fitness center. Mr. Bresnahan went on to explain each area and the main factor on proposed increases were mainly due to inflation. The golf program will have minor increases on golf green fees, ball buckets, and resident annual passes between \$300 and \$700. Additionally, dynamic pricing will be used to maximize revenue and increase play during underutilized times. The tennis program will have a 3% increase in all annual and seasonal fees, including certain 12-play passes. The Mandel Recreation Center classroom rental fee was proposed to be decreased and certain fitness center fees were proposed to increase slightly.

Discussion ensued regarding the elimination of the annual family pass for the Par 3. Staff provided clarification and use of this pass.

Motion was made by Commissioner McIver, and seconded by Commissioner Watts to accept the proposed FY2022 Proposed Fee Schedules. On roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

XI. ANY OTHER MATTERS

A. Next Commission Meeting

The Commission inquired about the next meeting date and if the meeting will be in person or virtual. Staff explained the new Executive Order from the Governor will be discussed at the May Town Council meeting and decision will be forthcoming.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Recreation Advisory Commission was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 5, 2021.


Antonette Fabrizi, Board Clerk Date
9/24/21


Nicholas Coniglio, Chair