



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Recreation Advisory Commission

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Recreation Advisory Commission (RAC) meeting was called to order on Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Upon roll call, all Commissioners were present for the meeting except Commissioners Jamison and Missner.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Pressly led the pledge of allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Vice Chair Harris, seconded by Commissioner Watts to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. Approval of the April 20, 2023 Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Vice Chair Harris, seconded by Commissioner Dayton to approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2023, meeting. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

V. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE AND STAFF REPORT

A. Staff Report

Director Bresnahan provided a brief update on the shade structure and Club Caddie, the new Point of Sale (POS) software program and website recreation and tennis. He reported that the Recreation Department has been breaking records in most of the recreation programs, golf, and tennis. He provided a brief report on the tennis program and the Seaview Court Project. Ms. Watts inquired about the bidding process for the court project and about why the Recreation Department is not overseeing the project. Mr. Bresnahan responded. Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding new upgrades at the Phipps and Seaview courts. He provided information on revenue for the Tennis Program for the year.

Director Bresnahan provided an update on the Recreation Programs, including Camp Palm Beach, Cooking with Kids, Mommy & Me, soccer, lacrosse, and special events. He thanked the Friends of Recreation for sponsoring 20 town employees kids to attend Camp Palm Beach. Halloween Happenings is coming up on October 27, he thanked Dawn Helton and Lauren Bayard for leading the organization of the popular event. He spoke regarding the Rec Connect e-newsletter and how there is over a 50% open rate. He

provided an overview of Recreation program revenue, with over triple the revenue in 2023 compared to 2018 (\$926k vs \$305k).

Director Bresnahan commended Tony Chateauvert and the staff at Par 3 for the exceptional success of the golf program. He spoke regarding the increases in revenue for Par 3 over the past several years. The course hit \$3M in revenue for the first time two years ago, last year was \$4M, and this year was \$5M. He provided an update on projects that are being done at Par 3, including parking expansion, relocation of the cart path along hole 17, and painting of the clubhouse. Mr. Chateauvert expressed appreciation for Mr. Bresnahan and his investment in the employees and the facility. Mr. Chateauvert provided background information on the success of the Par 3 course over the past few years. He provided additional information on improvements being made at the facility including doubling the size of the practice putting green. He spoke regarding the Par 3 Shop and commended Sabrina Gordon for her work on making the Shop so successful. He discussed that the golf shop was adding two additional staff members. He spoke regarding the future of the facility and the popularity of the events they put on such as the one club one putter tournament.

VI. COMMENTS FROM THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Dayton spoke regarding the Tennis program not getting the same attention as the Golf program, including the Pro Shop, employees, events and facilities.

Vice Chair Harris expressed appreciation that items that are raised by Commissioners are addressed by Town staff. Mr. Bresnahan stated that he is always available to meet with Commissioners. He spoke regarding a branding plan to implement a new logo and spoke regarding a dramatic increase in Pro Shop sales over the past year. He stated that he will address issues if they are brought to his attention and attempt to implement recommendations by Commissioners. He spoke regarding staffing and events at Phipps. He addressed a question from Mr. Harris regarding additional parking on the maintenance side of the building and stated that in FY2027 there will be a complete renovation of the maintenance building. Mr. Harris requested that future reports also show the expenses as well as the revenue. Mr. Bresnahan provided approximate excess revenue for golf and explained that any excess revenue stays with the Golf program and will go towards improvements. He explained that Tennis and Recreation do not have excess revenue. He also provided a brief update on the Phipps Ocean Park project in response to a question from Mr. Harris. Mr. Harris requested an update on the project in the next meeting packet.

Chair Pressly commended Mr. Bresnahan and staff on the success of the Recreation Department. In response to a question from Mr. Pressly, Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding the timeline for the Seaview Court project. In response to Chair Pressley's inquiry, Mr. Chateauvert spoke regarding the impact of The Park Golf Course in West Palm Beach on Par 3.

Commissioner Roush expressed concern that the Seaview Tennis Center is neglected in comparison to Par 3 and spoke in support of expanding the merchandising in the Pro Shop. She inquired about the replacement of Ryan Reckley, to which Mr. Bresnahan responded.

Commissioner Watts echoed the comments from Commissioners Roush and Dayton and expressed appreciation to Mr. Chateauvert on the success of Par 3. She spoke regarding the importance of hiring a replacement for Mr. Reckley who is knowledgeable about tennis and teams. She inquired about ways to improve the Pro Shop and asked if there could be space used in the Mandel Center for the Pro Shop. Mr. Bresnahan responded. She asked if the Recreation Department had any input on the Phipps Ocean Park renovation and Mr. Bresnahan discussed that the Preservation Foundation and Town Council would be the proper entities to which to provide recommendations and that he would pass on any recommendations from the Commission. She inquired about whether there were any funds left over after the budget for tennis, and Mr. Bresnahan discussed upcoming projects. She stated that there are staff members in the Pro Shop who are not very welcoming and knowledgeable about what is occurring at the courts. Mr. Bresnahan expressed he is always available to speak with any Commissioners or members of the public with any complaints or recommendations and would like to hear about issues as they happen and not wait. Chair Pressly stated Mark has made it loud and clear, his door is open and his phone line is open. He asked if there was an update on the canopies, Mr. Bresnahan responded. Ms. Watts stated that the sprinklers came on during a match at Seaview and requested that there is better coordination between the departments when there are home tournament matches. Mr. Bresnahan addressed the issue with the sprinkler and spoke regarding upcoming coordinated efforts.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT PLEASE

Lawrence Kaplan, Ibis Island Road, expressed appreciation to the RAC, Mr. Bresnahan and Mr. Chateauvert for the work that the department has done. He spoke in support of the new POS software and spoke in support of continuing to invest money in the care of the golf course. He spoke in support of expanding the hours of operation of the Phipps Tennis Courts. He spoke in support of continuing to expand youth sports. He spoke regarding special events for tennis.

Discussion ensued regarding the hours for Phipps Tennis Courts and Mr. Harris requested that staff make it a priority to expand the hours of the facility.

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Old Business

1. a. FY2023 Proposed Fees

Chair Pressly announced that the fees that were approved by Commission have been implemented.

b. Tennis/Pickleball lesson and Clinics Residents/Nonresidents

Chair Pressly stated that the approved Resident/Nonresident fees have been implemented.

c. Seaview Park Tennis Center - Court 7

Chair Pressly stated that the pickleball lines have been removed and Mr. Bresnahan stated that he has not received any complaints.

B. New Business

1. a. Approval of FY 2024 meeting dates
 1. Friday January 26, 2024
 2. Friday, April 19, 2024
 3. Thursday, October 24, 2024

Motion was made by Vice Chair Harris, seconded by Commissioner Watts to approve the FY 2024 meeting dates. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

b. Seaview Park field drainage

Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding the issues with the Seaview Park fields drainage and explained a potential solution, rope drainage, for addressing the issue.

Chair Pressly spoke in support of the department pursuing this type of technology.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Harris, seconded by Chair Pressly to authorize Director Bresnahan to move forward with investigating the rope drainage solution for Seaview Park. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

c. Palm Beach Par 3 - old clubhouse bathrooms

Mr. Bresnahan provided background information on the proposed project and requested the Commission's approval to move forward. Mr. Chateauvert provided additional information.

Mr. Harris requested that staff look at projects for the Tennis facilities and bring those forward to the Commission. Mr. Bresnahan stated that the funds that are expended for Par 3 are enterprise funds and funds that are expended for the tennis facilities are part of the Recreation Department budget and must go through the budget process.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Harris, seconded by Commissioner Roush, to authorize Director Bresnahan to move forward with renovating the Par 3 old clubhouse bathrooms. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

IX. ANY OTHER MATTERS

A. Discussion with Head Tennis Pro Dejan Minic

Mr. Minic spoke regarding his contract with the Town and provided background information on his company's work for the Town. He spoke regarding the scheduling of the pros at Phipps and at Seaview and how his pros are impacted and can't work when there is a home tennis match. He spoke regarding pickleball and options for accommodating the increased demand for pickleball and parking at Seaview. He spoke regarding staffing and acknowledged that they need to hire additional staff for season and addressed maintenance of the courts, it has been very

good. He spoke regarding the Town's courts competing with six other private clubs in Town. He spoke regarding an upcoming tennis event and stated that they are offering additional social events during the year, but we try to work around the big events at the other clubs.

Mr. Bresnahan provided additional information on the Club Caddie software program and how it will assist with operations and customer service. He also stated that Phipps Ocean Park Tennis Center is open 4 days a week until 5pm.

Mr. Minic spoke regarding continuing to improve the program and bring more players down to Phipps. He spoke regarding the issue of private tennis pros who are not supposed to be giving lessons, but they are giving private lessons although it is difficult to prove. Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding options for addressing this issue and spoke regarding the challenges. Discussion ensued on how to address this issue. Chair Pressly stated that there is a consensus of the Commission that staff more strictly enforce the rules regarding private pros giving lessons at the tennis courts.

Commissioner Dayton inquired about the profitability of the tennis program, to which Mr. Bresnahan responded. He spoke regarding the growth of the program and future projects. Ms. Dayton expressed concern that the necessary projects are not being completed and Mr. Bresnahan responded.

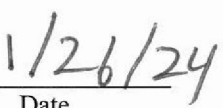
Vice Chair Harris spoke regarding the tennis pro being a contractor and not a Town employee. He spoke in support of the tennis program being staffed by employees of the Town. Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding the current tennis pro contract.

Commissioner Roush expressed concern that the tennis pros do not have as much ownership because they are not employees of the Town.

Commissioner Watts expressed appreciation for Mr. Minic and inquired about the portion of revenue from Mr. Minic's company that went to the Town. Mr. Minic explained further about his company and spoke regarding challenges that he sees in response to a question from Ms. Watts. Mr. Bresnahan stated that the Town is going out to bid to contract for a company that specializes in maintenance of tennis courts.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Dayton, seconded by Vice Chair Harris to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 a.m. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

	
X Board Chair	Date