

MINUTES OF THE SEAVIEW PARK COMMISSION MEETING HELD

SEPTEMBER 27, 1995

- I. CALL TO ORDER A meeting of the Seaview Park Commission was called to order by the Chairman, Larry Ochstein at 1:10 p.m. at the Palm Beach Recreation Center.

II. ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE RECORDING

The Commission members in attendance were; Mr. Ochstein, Mr. Shor, Mr. Gavigan and Ms. Drake. Alternate member in attendance was Mrs. Bernard. Absent from the meeting were Mrs. Morris, Mr. Turchan, Mr. Katzenberg and Mrs. Fisher. Staff members in attendance were Mr. Bitzer and Mrs. Walkowich, Mr. Brown, Mr. Hay and Ms. Rockwell.

- A. Classification of May Absence for Ms. Drake - Mr. Ochstein said that Mrs. Drake's absence was excused.
- B. Classification of May Absence for Mrs. Morris - Mr. Ochstein said that Mrs. Morris absence was excused.
- C. Classification of May Absence for Mr. Turchan - Mr. Ochstein said that Mr. Turchan's absence was excused.
- D. Classification of May Absence for Mrs. Fisher - Mr. Ochstein said that Mrs. Fisher's absence was excused.

- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA Mr. Ochstein asked if there were any changes to the agenda, there were none. Mr. Gavigan made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Shor, motion carried.

- IV. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 24, 1995, MINUTES Mr. Ochstein asked if there were any changes to the May 24, 1995, Seaview Park Commission minutes, there were none. Mr. Gavigan made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Shor, motion carried.

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V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update of Tree Loan due October, 1995

Mrs. Walkowich said that the original loan due this October was \$13,500. To date donations total \$11,500 which left a balance of \$2,000. Mr. Ochstein said that it was his understanding that the Recreation Center was going to be the beneficiary again this year from the golf tournament. Mr. Bitzer said that he was not sure on that but he would check into it. Mr. Bitzer said that the golf commission still had to make the recommendation to the Town Council and then the Town Council would make the final decision. Mr. Bitzer suggested that Mr. Ochstein write a letter to the Golf Commission requesting that the recreation center be one of the beneficiaries from this year's Pro-Am and also write a letter to the Town Council asking for an extension on the loan. Mr. Ochstein said that he would take care of that.

B. FY-96 Budget Update

Mr. Bitzer said that the Recreation Department was in good shape with the same level of funding next year. He said that though the tennis court lights were cut from the FY-96 budget, they were left in the five year capital improvement program. Mr. Bitzer said that staff would be keeping statistical information on evening play and would re-visit this project next year. Mr. Ochstein suggested that next year the Commission review this statistical information and then make their recommendation to the Town Council.

Mr. Bitzer said that the money that was to be used for the tennis seating area improvement project had been encumbered and the project would be done later this year.

C. Baseball Field Maintenance

Mr. Brown said that it had been brought to his attention that the baseball field was not being maintained to the proper playing level. He said that the current agreement between the Recreation Department and the Public School was that we would maintain the outfield and they would maintain the infield. He said that since the school had dropped all their sports programs because of budget constraints, possibly there was no motivation for them to properly maintain the field. He said that right now he was looking into the cost of having the Town maintain the infield as well as the outfield. Mr. Brown said that with preliminary figures he had received the cost would be approximately \$1,000 for 1 ton of turface and 2 trucks of clay each year. Also, an initial out lay of \$11,000 for the proper equipment to drag and scrape the clay field may be necessary. However, it may be possible to adapt an existing piece of equipment. An average of 1 man hour per day over a year at a cost of \$3,300 per year. He said that the next step was to take these figures and meet with the Town's Public Works Department and the Palm Beach County School Board's representative and try to come to an agreement on the maintenance of this field. Mr. Bitzer said that staff would keep the Commission up to date on the progress of this project.

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Mr. Gavigan said that he could not believe that with all the problems today with children that the public school does not have an athletic program. Mrs. Bernard said that the schools don't even have money for textbooks with today's budgetary constraints. Ms. Rockwell said that there is a grant for after school programs that the school could apply for, but to the best of her knowledge she didn't think that the Palm Beach Public School had applied. Mr. Ochstein asked if it would be appropriate for the commission to recommend that the school apply for this grant. Mr. Brown said that this year he would be a member of the Public School's Advisory Committee and that the first meeting was scheduled for tomorrow night. He said that he would try to get more information from them for the commission. Mr. Ochstein said that he would like Mr. Brown to let the school know of the commission's concerns and asked Mr. Brown to report back to the commission at their next meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Summer/Fall Program Report

Ms. Rockwell said that this past summer our participation increased by 26%, actual numbers for the summer were a total of 835 participants this year as opposed to 665 last year.

Ms. Rockwell said that 38% of our youth programs are filled, the remaining programs are either close to being filled or are a size large enough that the instructors are pleased. She said that the actual numbers are 161 participants, 48 children enrolled in the after school program and 53 children in sports the remainder are enrolled in other programs.

Ms. Bernard said that she would like Mr. Brown to take a critical look at some information she has for him on the North American Soccer Camp where they bring British soccer players in to teach the children's soccer.

Ms. Rockwell said that currently underway in our Adult Programs was Yoga, Step Aerobics and Body Conditioning, which had nice size groups. The remaining classes would start in October and November.

Ms. Bernard asked Mr. Brown if he was going to reschedule the Teen Association organizational meeting that had been canceled. She said that her daughter and some of her friends from the Day School were interested in the program. Mr. Brown said that he would be rescheduling that meeting and would contact her when the meeting was going to take place.

Mr. Hay said that programs at the tennis center were going well, activity was up and the ladies teams have gotten off to a good start. He said that the Junior Tournament had been scheduled for October 21st and 22nd and he was looking forward to a good turnout.

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Ms. Rockwell said that the Halloween event was scheduled for October 28th and this year's program was going to include Casper's Friendly Castle for children ages 6 and younger and a Creepy Carnival for the older children. She said that the carnival was a new idea the staff had come up with and will take the place of the Haunted House. She said that staff had been doing the haunted house for 15 years and with classes and activities increasing each year, the event was becoming increasingly disruptive, often requiring cancellation of scheduled classes. Also staff felt that it would be nice to try something different this year. Ms. Rockwell said that staff and volunteers would dress like carnival characters and that we were planning on renting actual carnival games from a local company, with popcorn, cotton candy, drinks and a costume contest. She said that staff was also planning on having trick or treating at the interior doors of the recreation center. She said the idea was that each door would be decorated with a particular theme and then behind that door would be a character who would pass out candy to the children.

Ms. Rockwell said that if any of the Commission members were interested in volunteering their time, to let her know. Mr. Shor said that he wanted to make sure that there were plenty of prizes for the children and that he would be more than happy to make a contribution towards the event. Mr. Bitzer thanked Mr. Shor for his generosity.

Mr. Ochstein said that although he hated to see a long standing tradition like the haunted house go by the wayside, he had confidence in the staff's decision to have a carnival and thought it was a wonderful idea, the commission agreed with him.

B. Tennis Fee / Proposed Multi Play Card

Mr. Bitzer said that he had received a letter from Councilman Leslie Shaw, which the commissioners had been sent, regarding the idea of a new fee classification for a multi play card for tennis which Mr. Shaw had proposed at a Finance and Taxation Committee Meeting. He said that Councilwoman Smith recommended that it be brought to the Seaview Park Commission to be discussed and if the commission had any recommendations, that they be brought back to next year's Finance and Taxation Committee meetings.

He said that it was his understanding that the idea behind the multi play card was that a resident could purchase a 10 play card at the current daily fee rate of \$6.00 per play, so the card would cost \$60.00 and then daily fees would be raised two or three dollars.

Mr. Hay said that he had spoken with the Golf Pro to review how the multi play card works at the golf course. He said he thought that there would be more negatives than positives. He said that it was very advantageous in golf to have the card because they are targeting a large group of people, who were mostly non-residents and we would be targeting a very small group of people who were residents. He said that because the play ticket would be just for residents, he felt that revenue would be lost from permit holders who would purchase play tickets rather than an annual permit.

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Mr. Hay said that one of Mr. Shaw's reasons for introducing the play card was to reduce administrative costs by saving time. Mr. Hay said that the tennis staff felt that there would not be any time savings in issuing play tickets because people would still have to check into the pro shop so their card could be stamped and that it might increase the work load and add complexity.

Mr. Bitzer said that according to his calculations, the increase in the daily fee would be approximately 38% and the increase in revenues from introducing a daily play ticket would be 1 ½ %. He said that with the additional record keeping that would be necessary, it may not be worth it. He said that if we wanted to look to increase revenue in the immediate future, we probably should be looking at increasing the price of permits rather than daily fees.

Mr. Ochstein said that he would like to table the discussion on fees and daily play tickets until later in the year when the commission and staff get ready to do the FY-97 budget. Mr. Bitzer said that he would include this item to be reviewed as part of the FY-97 budget presentation

VII. ANY OTHER MATTERS - none

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shor made the motion that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mr. Gavigan. All were in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned the at 2:25 p.m.
