

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of the Town Clerk

MINUTES OF THE SEAVIEW PARK COMMISSION MEETING HELD

JULY 30, 1990

I. CALL TO ORDER: A meeting of the Seaview Park Commission was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Daniel Hanley at 1:10 PM in the Recreation Center on July 30, 1990. Commission members in attendance were; Mr. Hanley, Mrs. Newman, Mr. Myers, Mr. Kemble and Mr. Broberg. Absent from the meeting were Mrs. Coniglio and Mr. Russell. Staff members in attendance were; Mr. Bitzer, Miss Rockwell and Ms. Reedy.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Mr. Myers to approve the minutes of May 9, and May 23, 1990 meetings. Seconded by Mr. Kemble, motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Mr. Kemble to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Myers, motion carried unanimously.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. FY-91 Proposed Recreation Department User Fees.

Mr. Hanley said at the last meeting there was a discussion of proposed Recreation Department user fees and, the Commission recommended against an increase in the Tennis fees. Mr. Hanley asked Mr. Bitzer to bring the Commission up to date on the recommendations which have been presented to the Finance and Taxation Committee.

Mr. Bitzer said they had sent the Commission members additional budget information as requested at the May 23rd Commission meeting. Mr. Bitzer said that the staff recommendations were presented at the Finance Taxation Committee meeting on June 4th. Mr. Bitzer said the Finance & Taxation Committee would be recommending to the Town Council that the fee increases be approved as recommended

by the staff. Mr. Bitzer said that since the Commission did not take a vote at the May 23rd meeting, he had requested that the fee increase discussion be postponed until the August Town Council meeting so the Commission would have a opportunity to review the budget information which was sent to them and make their recommendations to the Council.

Mr. Bitzer said that the direction to him from the Town Council was to try to recover the same percentage of funds as in past years. He said that in FY-90 he anticipated an 81% recovery, but that was due to the vacancy which was created by the late opening of the Tennis Pro-shop. Mr. Bitzer said that without the vacant position, the recovery rate would be approximately 73%. He said the FY-91 budget includes approximately a 6% increase which would maintain the same 73% recovery figure as FY-89 and FY-90.

Mr. Bitzer said that in previous years they had increases in the Tennis fees of 50%, 33%, 30% and most recently, 15% this year. He said the proposed 6% increase for FY-91 indicates progressively lower yearly increases. He said that the reason for the larger increases in past years was because that for a period of about 6 years there were no increases in Tennis Membership fees.

Mr. Kemble asked Mr. Bitzer if he had conveyed the Commission's wishes to the Finance & Tax Committee that they did not want any increase in fees next year? Mr. Bitzer said he did indicate to the Finance & Taxation Committee that the Commission was unanimous in their feeling about no increases in fees next year.

Mr. Broberg asked why there was a difference in the figures in the booklet which they received earlier and the newest figures they just received? Mr. Bitzer said the Finance & Taxation Committee had merely rounded off the figures.

Mr. Myers said the fees which the Recreation Department were charging seemed to be quite a bit larger than any of the surrounding communities. He said he was concerned that they would be getting fewer memberships because of the high fees, and would ultimately wind up losing money because they would be getting fewer memberships. Mr. Myers said it was his understanding that there were fewer memberships in 1990 than in 1989, and felt the large fees may be the reason. Mr. Bitzer said there

were several factors involved, such as people who were unable to get on the tennis courts as often as they would like due to the lack of lighted courts, however, the Adult Memberships were down by 22 members from 234 in FY-89 to 212 in FY-90 year to date as of the month of May. He said that the youth memberships were actually up 80% from 36 in FY-89 to 65 in FY-90 year to date as of the month of May. Mr. Bitzer said the total members were actually up by 2%.

Mr. Hanley said that on a comparative basis, North Palm Beach has a \$240.00 fee per family, as compared to Palm Beach at \$375.00 per family. Mr. Hanley said he felt a gradual increase in fees would be much better, and he wondered if the Town Council was aware of the Commission's views concerning fee increases.

Mr. Bitzer said that any recommendations by the Commission would be presented to the Town Council at the August Council meeting.

Mr. Kemble said he was strongly opposed to any raise in the fees this year. He said the people who would have to pay the fee increase are the same people who also pay taxes in the Town. Mr. Kemble suggested that a Resolution should be drawn up opposing any fee increases at this time.

Mr. Myers said he was looking at the situation from a business standpoint. He said that if you have people complaining about not being able to use a facility, the last thing you want to do is raise prices. Mr. Myers said he felt a lot of people would be using the facilities on a daily basis rather than on an annual basis.

Mr. Bitzer said the people using the facilities on a daily basis would not have as much of a chance of getting on the courts because they can't reserve court time in advance.

Mr. Hanley said it appeared that the Commission had not changed its position, and is opposed to any fee increase this year. He said the Commission was not opposed to the other proposed Recreation fees, only with the annual and semi-annual for resident and nonresident Tennis members. Mr. Hanley asked if anyone wished to make a motion regarding fee increases.

Mr. Kemble made a motion that the fee increases be rolled back. Mr. Bitzer suggested that Mr. Kemble be more specific in his motion, and he recommended the Commission draw up 2 separate Resolutions, one on Exhibit A, and one on Exhibit B. Mr. Hanley suggested that part of the motion should be to approve Exhibit A, with an objection to any increases in Tennis Membership fees. Mr. Kemble so moved. Seconded by Mr. Myers, motion carried.

Mr. Myers made a motion to approve Exhibit B of the fee schedule. Seconded by Mr. Broberg, motion carried.

Mr. Broberg said he was concerned that the Council would only read the motion to oppose the fee increases, and wondered if they should put something in writing to the Council explaining their opposition to any rate increases. Mr. Hanley asked if they could incorporate some language in the motion that they wished to increase Membership participation before they recommend a fee increase. Mr. Hanley said that other communities provide recreation facilities for its residents without having to recover 72% or 73%.

B. Tennis Court Drainage (Court #1)

Mr. Bitzer said they had a Contractor who is a Tennis Court expert look at the drainage problem. He said the temporary drainage system is not working and it would be expensive to maintain in the future. Mr. Bitzer said the Contractor recommended a low maintenance system called a Verta-drain, and he is waiting for a proposal to install this system. Mr. Kemble asked about the cost of the Verta-drain system. Mr. Bitzer said it was estimated at \$2,000 or \$3,000 dollars, and he hoped there would be funds in this year's budget to cover this repair work.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Status Report Tennis Pro-shop Fundraising.

Mr. Bitzer said that the current Fundraising journal sheet was attached to their meeting agenda and that they had just received a \$1,000 dollar pledge from Dr. Lewis, and with pledges and actual cash received, the remaining balance to be raised is \$7,441.

B. Tennis Court Lighting (FY-91 Proposed Capital Project) Cost Sharing Proposal.

Mr. Bitzer said he was asked at the June 5th Finance & Tax Committee meeting to investigate some type of a loan proposal to be developed for a cost sharing program for the installation of Tennis court lighting with the Palm Beach Tennis Association through the Seaview Park Commission. He said at this time, the staff recommendation is for new lighting of 4 courts at approximately \$17,000 dollars per court. Mr. Bitzer said there had been talk of lighting only 2 courts, but he said he doubted that replacing lights on only 2 courts would solve the problem of adults wishing to utilize the Tennis courts after dark. Mr. Bitzer said that after work was the only time many of the adult resident members were able to play Tennis, and a good part of the time, that would be after dark.

Mr. Hanley said there were two problems here. One was that they weren't finished raising funds for the Tennis Pro-shop yet, and two, is that some members of the Seaview Park Commissions' term will be expiring soon and they would prefer to complete the projects which they have started before starting on something new.

Mr. Kemble said he did not feel that this was a responsibility of the Palm Beach Tennis Association, and he was against the plan. Mr. Myers said that he was not opposed to considering such a proposal once the Tennis Pro-Shop Fundraising is completed. Mr. Hanley said the Town was replacing lights on two of the courts and he felt this was part of the normal repairs and maintenance program. He said he felt that they should replace the lighting on at least 4 of the courts.

Mr. Kemble made a motion that new lighting be installed on a minimum of 4 courts, and should be considered as a Capital Expenditure for FY-91. Seconded by Mr. Broberg, motion carried.

C. Recreation Center Walkway Lighting Renovation. (FY-91 Proposed Capital Project)

Mr. Bitzer said the existing walkway lighting was five years old and the maintenance was extremely high. He said the design wasn't very good to begin with and its very expensive to maintain and has become a safety hazard. He said the Staff is recommending that they install new lighting of a greater height which would be out of the reach of children. Mr. Bitzer said the estimated cost of new walkway lighting is approximately \$20,000.

Mr. Myers made a motion to recommend installing new walkway lighting at the Recreation Center. Seconded by Mrs. Newman, the motion carried.

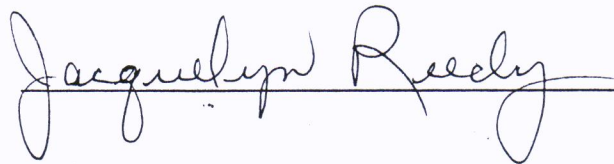
VI. ANY OTHER MATTERS:

Mr. Bitzer said the Commission should make a decision on the fencing in front of the bathrooms at the Tennis Pro-shop. He suggested a lattice/shadow box wood fence and displayed a picture of a sample fence. The Commission agreed with Mr. Bitzer's recommendation.

Mr. Bitzer said that the Finance & Taxation Committee was concerned that if more of the Tennis courts were lighted, it might result in the need for additional personnel, and would end up costing more money. He said he was asked to explore the possibility of putting up a fence so the people would have to use a card system to enable them to get on the Tennis courts. Mr. Bitzer said he was waiting for an estimate for the card system, but it appeared that it would be very expensive. He said that the preliminary estimate for the locking system alone was about \$5,000 and that didn't include the fence. Mr. Bitzer said it was his recommendation that they staff the Tennis Shop in the evenings when the Recreation Center is closed, provided it paid for itself, and he said it was his feeling that it would pay for itself.

Mr. Kemble said he was in favor of staffing, and didn't feel there would be a big problem, but if it should become a policing problem, then they could police the courts. He said he was against the construction of any more fences.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jacquelyn Reedy", written over a horizontal line.