

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of the Town Clerk

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TOWN OF PALM BEACH
RECREATION DEPT.

MINUTES OF THE SEAVIEW PARK COMMISSION MEETING HELD

JULY 24, 1991

I. CALL TO ORDER: A meeting of the Seaview Park Commission was called to order by Chairman Broberg at 1:20 PM on July 24, 1991 in the Seaview Park Recreation Center. On roll call the following Commission members were found to be present; Chairman Broberg, Mrs. McIntyre, Mr. Myers and Mr. Ochstein. Staff members present were; Mr. Bitzer, Miss Rockwell, Mr. Hay and Ms. Reedy. Commission members not attending the meeting were; Mrs. Coniglio, Mrs. Newman and Mrs. Clarke Royal.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made by Mrs. McIntyre to approve the minutes of the May 23rd and May 29, 1991 Seaview Park Commission meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Myers, motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was made by Mr. Ochstein to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mrs. McIntyre, motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS: None.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tennis Shop Fundraising - Status Report - Mr. Broberg.

Mr. Broberg said the original loan to construct the Tennis Pro Shop was for \$42,531.00. Total monies received to date from pledges and donations is \$15,338.83 and uncollected pledges total \$22,051.00 which leaves an amount due of \$5,141.17. Mr. Broberg urged commission members to remind individuals who have made pledges of their commitment.

2. FY-92 Proposed Budget - Status Report - Mr. Bitzer.

Mr. Broberg said the proposed budget had gone to the Finance and Taxation Committee where the Seaview Park's recommendations were taken into consideration and then presented to the Town Council. The recommendation to light tennis courts #3 and #4 in FY-92 has been deferred back to the Finance and Taxation Committee which will meet again in early August. Mr. Broberg asked Mr. Bitzer to bring the Commission up to date on the FY-92 proposed budget.

Mr. Bitzer said that on May 22nd he presented the capital improvement program, and on May 29th he presented their operating budget to the Finance and Taxation Committee. On May 31st the Committee reviewed the operating budget and basically there were no major changes in the Recreation Department's recommendations.

Mr. Bitzer said the Finance and Taxation Committee recommended no increase in the tennis fees for family memberships and approximately a 5% increase in individual memberships. In the capital improvement budget the Finance and Taxation Committee recommended that the tennis courts regrading which was scheduled for FY-93 be moved to FY-92, and the maintenance building which was scheduled for FY-92 be postponed to FY-93. The Committee recommended resurfacing of the 2 hard surface tennis courts and the basketball court.

Mr. Bitzer said the Town Council had approved the lighting of tennis courts #1 and #2 at their June meeting, and that bid has been awarded. He said the Seaview Park Commission had recommended that they light courts #3 and #4 at the same time as #1 and #2, but since the bid had already been awarded for courts #1 and #2 and the contractor would not honor his original bid, the Town Council deferred the lighting of courts #3 and #4 back to the Finance and Taxation Committee. The bid for lighting the two additional courts was \$19,210.

Mr. Broberg said it would be an additional \$30,000 if the lighting of courts #3 and #4 is postponed until FY-93. He said if all four courts are lighted this year they will realize approximately a \$10,000 savings.

Mr. Bitzer said the next Finance and Taxation Committee meetings are tentatively scheduled for August 7th, 8th or 9th and he would inform the members of the Commission of the date when the Recreation Department items will appear on the agenda as requested by the Commission.

Mrs. McIntyre asked if there would be damage to the newly resurfaced courts if the lighting of courts #3 and #4 is delayed until next year? Mr. Broberg answered affirmatively.

Mr. Myers said he would like to make a motion that courts #3 and #4 be lighted at the same time as courts #1 and #2 at the additional cost of \$19,000, but with a possible savings of \$10,000. Seconded by Mr. Ochstein, motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. McIntyre made a motion that if the recommendation to light two additional tennis courts this year is denied that they be allowed to continue using the lights on courts #5 and #6 and those lights on courts #5 and #6 would be turned off at 9:00 PM rather than 10:00 PM. Seconded by Mr. Myers, motion carried.

3. Summer Youth Programs - Status Report - Mr. Bitzer.

Mr. Bitzer said that since they are in the middle of the summer programs and the Commission will not meet again until September,

he wished to up-date the Commission on the progress of the summer programs. He asked Miss Rockwell to report on the summer camps.

Miss Rockwell said they had three age groups in the summer camps. They are the First Mates which are 4 and 5 years old, the Skippers which are 6 to 8 years old and the Commodore's which are 9 to 12 years old. She said they have an average of 18 to 25 children participating in the First Mates group, 30 to 35 in the Skippers group, and 28 to 35 in the Commodore's group each week. She said they offer an extended camp in the summer from 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM and there are approximately 15 to 20 children in that program.

Miss Rockwell said that Miss Gibson has done an excellent job in organizing summer programs and they have received more positive responses from parents this year than in past years.

Mr. Ochstein said he had received many positive responses concerning the 4th of July activities, and especially about the way Miss Rockwell had handled the children. Mr. Myers said he had a son in the middle age group and he was having a great time.

Tennis Pro, Jim Hay said he was also getting positive responses with the summer tennis programs. He said they have an average of 25 to 30 children in the programs right now and the advanced classes are growing steadily. Mr. Hay said he felt they were in a very good position going into the fall. He said he was offering match play for the children at no charge between the hours of 3:30 and 5:00 PM, four days a week. He said they will be hosting a match on Friday with another summer camp. They have also started a singles ladder for the juniors and they intend to extend that to a year round program.

Mr. Hay said they had started some adult programs which consist of singles ladders for both men and women. He said they will be sponsoring a shoot out in November for the top 8 singles players on the ladies and men's ladders, and there will be a round robin tie breaker event. Mr. Hay said they have started an adult doubles night program with the ladies playing on Thursday and the men on Tuesdays from 6:30 till 8:00 PM. Mr. Hay said he had started to put together a ladies D team which will begin in November. He said if there is enough interest in the program then by next April they should be organized enough to apply to the County League for membership and those matches are played on Fridays. Mr. Hay said he would be planning the annual events within the next two weeks so members of the Seaview Park Recreation Center would be aware of coming events.

Mr. Broberg asked about the Town Tournaments. Mr. Hay said they had the adult men's and women's singles tennis championships, but did not have the youth tournaments because so many people were going to be out of Town during the summer months.

Mr. Broberg asked what were the ages of the children in the advanced group? Mr. Hay said they range from about 9 years of age up to 13 or 14. Mr. Broberg asked how he keeps them challenged? He said that a 13 year old would obviously be a stronger player than a 9 year old?

Mr. Hay said they try very hard to match ability with ages. Mr. Broberg asked what was the ratio of teachers to students? Mr. Hay said it was 4 to 1 and he felt almost everyone was happy with that arrangement.

Mr. Broberg asked if anything had been done about the Day School tennis practice? Mr. Bitzer said they will be meeting with representatives of the Day School prior to the start of the school year and try to come to some agreement regarding practice time.

Mr. Ochstein asked if the Recreation Department needed authorization from the Commission to organize the ladies D team? Mr. Bitzer said that could be handled administratively.

Mr. Ochstein made a motion that Mr. Hay have the authority to proceed with the organization of a ladies entry level tennis team. Seconded by Mr. Myers, motion carried.

Miss Rockwell said she would like to report on the 4th of July celebration held at the Recreation Center. She said there were over 650 people and the Preservation Foundation has expressed a desire to sponsor an event next year with a few changes. One change would be a tent for the band, a dance floor and two food lines. Mr. Ochstein asked if any thought had been given to providing more shade for the people attending the event? Miss Rockwell said there is a possibility that tents will be donated for the event next year.

Miss Rockwell said she wanted to make one more comment on the summer programs. She said they have a leader in training program which is for kids 13 years of age up to about 16. Miss Rockwell said they had 8 leaders which amounts to approximately 37 hours per week, and amounts to about \$227.00 per week or about \$1,800 a year savings to the Town in employee salaries.

Mr. Broberg asked if the kids who are leaders in training must pay to participate in the summer programs? Miss Rockwell said they didn't have to pay for the programs but they do have to assist in the programs.

Mr. Bitzer said that the overall savings in salaries to the Town from volunteer programs is somewhere between \$8,000 and \$10,000 dollars per year.

VI. ANY OTHER MATTERS:

1. Mr. Bitzer said he had one item under any other matters which concerned the tennis teams.

He said at a previous meeting the Seaview Park Commission had made recommendations regarding try out procedures. He said those procedures had been advertised, implemented and try outs conducted. He said the item today was the discussion of the results of the try outs. He said Mrs. Thibadeau who is captain of the ladies B-1 tennis team was present today and she has some concerns about the results of the try outs.

Mrs. Thibadeau said since Mr. Hay is organizing a new team she could drop a couple of the women down who had participated in the try outs but, she felt that some of the women would not be happy next year because they wouldn't be playing on their team. Mrs. Thibadeau said as captain of the team she felt she should put the best players on the courts. She said it was her impression that the people who were trying out were going to be qualified, but they weren't and she felt that was unfair.

Mrs. Thibadeau said she thought they should sit down and rethink the tennis teams selection procedure.

Mr. Bitzer said he thought the problem would resolve itself because as the ladies "challenge in" they would have to beat an existing player to make the team. Mr. Bitzer said one of the ladies complaints was poor communication between the teams and staff. He said they wanted to improve communications not only with the team captains and co-captains but with the entire team. Mr. Bitzer suggested that the interested parties should meet and form a captain's committee which would be comprised of the captain's and co-captains of all three teams. He said the purpose of the committee would be to meet and work out any policies and procedures which are not outlined in the league rules.

Mrs. Thibadeau asked if the committee spoke with the tennis pro and they still did not agree, would there be an alternative for the committee? Mr. Bitzer said if there was a problem which could not be worked out with Mr. Hay, then they could bring that problem to him.

Mrs. Thibadeau said she felt the current procedure would need a lot of discussion because it rearranged the entire concept of Seaview Park team tennis. She said they were not a closed unit and they never have been. They do not compete within the team unit so the "challenging in" is totally foreign to them. Also, she said people were reading their own interpretation into the league rules.

Mr. Bitzer said anything could be reevaluated if need be. He said that would be one of the functions of the captain's committee. Mr. Bitzer said they could use the league rules as a guide but basically they wanted to have all the rules down in writing so there would be no misunderstanding about the rules and procedures which apply to all tennis team players. He said he hoped these procedures would resolve the try out situation.

Mr. Bitzer said that he and Mrs. Thibadeau had met with the Town Manager regarding the early warm up time and the try outs. He said the Recreation Department fees have been set by the Town Council and is not a point of discussion. He said, however, they could discuss the early warm up time but he felt it would be better if this was discussed with the team captain's. Mr. Bitzer said the staff's suggestion is that the tennis teams take all 6 courts at 10:00 AM and warm up for 10 or 15 minutes. He said the league rule specifies 10 minutes. He said another alternative would be for them to have 2 courts as they are available.

Mr. Bitzer said there would be further review of these matters at the September Seaview Park Commission meeting. He said one of the problems which will be discussed is whether or not a permit holder would be allowed to book tennis courts on match days. He said he was more than willing to discuss the early warm up times with all the teams, but he suggested that they first try the suggestion which is to use six courts for warm-up starting at 10:00 AM.

Mrs. Thibadeau said she did not feel that 15 minutes is enough time for proper warm-up. Mr. Bitzer said this could be the first item to be discussed by the captain's committee.

Mr. Ochstein said he felt they had discussed this at great length and a decision has been reached, and he wondered why they were discussing this now. Mrs. Thibadeau said they weren't asking for this court time every day, it was only 13 times a year. Mr. Ochstein said that whatever day it is, they are tying up all the courts for two to three hours. He said the ladies reserve the courts for three hours, but are charged for two.

Mr. Bitzer said the Seaview Park Commission has reviewed the court time situation and has made their recommendations. Mrs. Thibadeau said if they did form a committee, who is to have the last word in any dispute that may arise? Mr. Bitzer said any final decisions regarding program procedures is the responsibility of the department head. Any approval or disapproval would be the department heads responsibility. Mr. Bitzer said that most of the teams agreed with the 15 minute warm up time. He said the staff was trying to look at the entire picture and that they wanted to work with the tennis teams to improve the program.

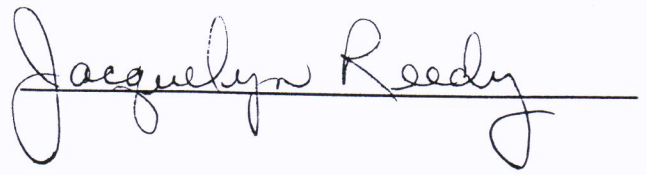
2. Mr. Broberg asked Mr. Bitzer about the permanent scoreboard which had been discussed at a previous Seaview Park Commission meeting? Mr. Bitzer said the scoreboard had been ordered and will probably be installed at the eastern end of the playing field and will be approximately 10 feet off the ground. Mr. Broberg asked what they were going to do with the portable scoreboard? Mr. Bitzer said it would be used for other sports.

Mr. Broberg said he noticed that they had plugged the playing field and were fertilizing it today. He asked if all the equipment which is necessary to maintain the playing field properly had been received? Mr. Bitzer said all the equipment has been received. He said the field is now 100% better than it was in the past and the Public Works Department has been working very hard on the field.

Mr. Broberg asked if Mrs. Tannone was making regular inspections of the field? Mr. Bitzer said she did not have a specific schedule for inspecting the playing field. He explained she was very busy at the golf course but they had designated another person who has a lot of training in the parks division and Mrs. Tannone will continue to make periodic inspections and work with this individual as necessary. Mr. Bitzer said he would try to arrange to have Mrs. Tannone inspect the field on a bimonthly basis.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:
moved for adjournment.

There being no further business, Mr. Ochstein
Seconded, motion carried unanimously.

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