

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of The Town Clerk

THE REPORT OF THE MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION HELD ON MAY 8, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Dr. Dennis commented that he was not certain how to categorize today's meeting. He noted, that based upon the Mayor McDonald's calendar, the Medical Care Commission expired the end of March, with the last meeting held on March 20, 2008. He stated that the meeting would be called a "spiritual reunion."

The Medical Care Commission was called to order on Thursday, May 8, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Those found to be present: Chairman Michael Dennis, Vice Chairman Robert Friedman, Commission Members Richard Furlaud, Norman Goldblum, Michael Stein, and Norman Traverse.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Dennis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

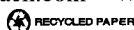
The Agenda was approved as printed.

IV. APPROVAL OF FINAL REPORT OF MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION

Commission Member Stein moved to approve the Final Report of the Medical Care Commission as submitted, seconded by Vice Chair Friedman, and passed unanimously.

5-8-08 MCC

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Chairman Dennis requested that since the report had been approved as submitted, Deputy Town Clerk Kassover make it available to the public.

In response to Commission Member Furlaud, Chairman Dennis commented as follows:

- The two exhibits - Exhibit A: the survey; and Exhibit B: the Medical Care Guide - had already been made available to the public.
- The preliminary accounting of the funds of the Medical Care Commission, as mentioned in the report, presently was in the hands of the accountant and would be made available as soon as the accountant had cleared same, which he believed would be the first part of next week.
- The funds, as directed by the Town Council, would be transferred at that point.

Commission Member Stein advised that he had two comments:

1. It had been a rare honor and privilege to have the opportunity to serve with his five colleagues over the past two plus years, particularly under the leadership of Chairman Dennis. He thanked them all.
2. The Medical Care Commission, for the record, he believed could have accomplished a great deal more to benefit the community were it not for the inhibiting factor of the Sunshine Law.

The Sunshine Law, many times, had forced Chairman Dennis to operate alone, taking on significant burdens, because of his inability to communicate with Commission Members.

The Commission Members suffered from an inability to share their cumulative experience and intelligence for the benefit of the community.

This was a subject that had been discussed many times, in many forums, and he requested that his comments be made part of the closing record of this Commission, as he hoped that, in the future, other commissions that were appointed to conduct a public service, would not be so inhibited.

Vice Chair Robert Friedman, Commission Members Furlaud, Traverse, and Goldbum endorsed the comments of Commission Member Stein and added additional comments as follows:

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Commission Member Furlaud:

- The Commission had no judicial authority, no authority to make decisions, and no authority to settle disputes. It was simply a commission to study problems. The Sunshine Law might have been more applicable to a commission that had an actual judicial function, but in the case of the Medical Care Commission, it was somewhat anomalous to preventing members from going to a meeting in the same car for example.

Vice Chair Friedman:

- The leadership of the Commission, in the hands of Chairman Dennis, made it more than just a commission. Chairman Dennis led them into areas that had done so much to improve the health care in the community.
- If the members of the Commission could be of service to the community, they would, in their own way, adapt to any other programs and try to proceed in the same manner and shape as they had in the past.

Commission Member Traverse:

- The Commission should look forward to using the vast body of information, along with the time and effort spent to continue to improve the health care of the people of Palm Beach, surrounding areas, and to help the various medical facilities.
- He expressed his thanks to the officials of the Town, and the support staff who had been marvelous, having gone on trips with the Commission, tolerating members as a group or individually, and had done a great deal of work.

Commission Member Goldblum:

- The Commission could not have accomplished as much as it had without Chairman Michael Dennis in the forefront. Due to the Sunshine Law, Chairman Dennis went out on his own, to observe and speak to people, bringing back a great deal of needed information.
- He thanked Chairman Dennis for all that he had done and all the members of the Commission for working as hard as they did.

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Chairman Dennis:

- The Commission Members were gracious but slightly misplaced, noting that no chairman could have had a better group to work with than these five members of the Commission.
- The Commission had been collegial, cohesive, and as it was said earlier, the Commission had no agenda other than to try to improve the health care of the citizens of Palm Beach and the Town's neighbors to the west.
- It had been an interesting two and half years, and the Commission had so many different groups in the Town Council Chambers to speak to them, that it was almost overwhelming. In September 2006, the Commission had every single CEO as well as the staff of every major medical center in the eastern part of the County sitting here and talking about collaborative efforts for medical education. It was incredibly unique.
- The Medical Care Commission was very thankful to Mayor McDonald for developing and appointing this Commission; to the Town Council for their unwavering support; to the loyalty of Susan Eichhorn and Diane Kassover; to the staff, Cheryl Kleen, Patricia Gayle-Gordon, and Anne Boyles who had been comparatively helpful; and to Town Manager Peter Elwell. He wanted to thank them all.
- He commented that he was not sure how one ended spiritual reunions except to say that it had been an incredible pleasure.

V. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

VI. ANY OTHER MATTERS

There were none.

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VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Medical Care Commission, meeting of May 8, 2008, was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

APPROVED:

Michael Dennis, M.D.
Chairman