

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Recreation Department

MINUTES OF THE GOLF COMMISSION MEETING HELD

APRIL 24, 1998

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL A meeting of the Golf Commission was called to order by the Chairwoman, Ann Herman, at 10:05 a.m. at the Recreation Center. The Commission members in attendance were, Mrs. Herman, Mr. Gross, Mr. Max Schorr and Mr. Shulman. Alternate members in attendance were Mrs. Thurm, Mr. Raffo and Mr. Ochstein. Absent from the meeting was Mr. Rossbach and Mr. Alan Shore due to illness and Mr. Maddock due to a legal matter. Staff members in attendance were Mr. Bitzer, Mrs. Walkowich and Mr. Dytrych.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Herman made the following changes to the agenda. Under new business she added: A. Contribution in Memory of Tom Keresey, B. Golf Commission Definition and C. Changing the Golf Course from an Enterprise Fund to part of the Town's General Fund. Mr. Shulman asked that under old business, discussion of the traffic light at the golf course be added. Mr. Shulman made the motion to approve the agenda with changes. Seconded by Mr. M. Schorr, motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 27, 1998, MINUTES

Mrs. Herman said that she had one change to the minutes. On page four the last paragraph should read: "Mr. Bitzer suggested that if we can't get one title sponsor for \$25,000 to underwrite the tournament we may want to consider several \$5,000 sponsors." The commission agreed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. ***Traffic Light at Par 3 Golf Course*** - Mr. Shulman said that the Citizen's Association of Palm Beach's newsletter stated that they wanted credit for putting the traffic lights at the golf course. He said that if they wanted credit for it then they should be asked to contribute money toward the project. He also felt that we should do away with the light because it was more of a hazard than ever, no one stops to let golf carts cross the street. Mr. M. Schorr said that there is a bunch of imbeciles working at the D.O.T. and that if we want this light changed from yellow to red then we should go to the Governor and insist that it be changed. Mrs. Herman said, "Let's write a letter to the Governor." Mr. Bitzer said that it would not be appropriate as the Commission

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was advisory and that it would be up to the Mayor and Town Council to determine if they wanted to take action on a Commission recommendation. Mr. Shulman made the motion that we either redo the whole light system or take it out all together. Motion died for lack of a second. Mr. M. Schorr made the motion that we petition the Town to take whatever actions necessary with the D.O.T. or the Governor, if necessary, to make the lights at the golf course flashing red lights, so that there will be no danger involved with our players crossing the road. Seconded by Mrs. Herman, all were in favor.

- B. *Use of 1998 Pro-Am Golf Tournament Proceeds* - Mr. Bitzer said that we were planning to purchase a new sprayer and a carry-all utility vehicle to replace our existing worn out equipment. Mrs. Herman said, "What gives you the authority to go ahead and do this, isn't this up to the Golf Commission to decide what to do with it." Mr. Bitzer said that the golf course superintendent and the golf course manager had recommended these items as our existing equipment was worn out and overdue for replacement according to our rolling stock equipment replacement program. I concur with their recommendation as we would have to purchase these items out of our expenditure budget next year. He said that this way we are able to reduce our expenditure budget next year and our equipment maintenance expenses this year. However, Mr. Bitzer said that the equipment hadn't been purchased yet and if the Commission felt strongly about this then they could make a recommendation.

Mr. Schorr asked that if staff knows what is needed, do they have to come to the Commission for our approval. Mr. Bitzer said that the Commission was advisory and that staff did not need the Commission's approval to make recommendations or decisions. Mrs. Thurm said, "If someone really objected to it I suppose there could be a lot of discussion on it, but are you going to object when they say they need this machinery, that it's really a necessity for the upkeep of the golf course." Mr. Schorr said "We wouldn't know if they do or they don't." Mrs. Thurm said "This is what I'm saying, you have experts and you've got to put your faith in them."

Mr. Ochstein said that about 6 or 8 years ago the Seaview Park Commission Chairman at that time raised this same issue. He said that after a lot of discussion they were told that the ordinance is the explanation, that the Commission has no authority over anybody, that we do not make recommendations to staff and that we only recommend to the Town Council. Mrs. Herman said "Every commission is the same in the Town yet Arcom and Landmarks and Code Enforcement all act and they do things and you tell us we can't do anything."

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Mr. Bitzer said that he never told the Commission what they could or could not do, only what the ordinance said. He said that staff has written Town procedures that they must follow. Mrs. Herman said, "I would like a definition from the Town Council on how come Arcom, and Landmarks and so forth can act on things and we can't, so would you please write a letter to the Town Council." Mr. Ochstein said "The definition you are asking for has already been given." Mrs. Herman said "Then I want an explanation on how Code Enforcement goes and does stuff without it going to the Council." Mr. Bitzer said that he does listen to the Commission's recommendations when making decisions. Mr. Bitzer said that the Town Council does receive the Commission's recommendations via the minutes from their meetings. Mrs. Herman asked if the minutes could be done sooner so that they could get to the Town Council before their meeting. Mrs. Walkowich said that she would be sure to complete them in time for council meetings.

- C. ***Golf Course Maintenance*** - Mr. Dytrych said that since the last meeting an expert Ms. Monica L. Elliott from the University of Florida, visited the golf course and diagnosed the problem as a disease that is a form of Bermuda decline. (Her letter is attached). He said that the good news is that the disease has run its course and that there are roots and turf growing so the greens will come back.

Mr. Shulman asked if this problem could have been avoided if extra staff had been added on when Mrs. Tannone was on maternity leave. Mr. Dytrych, said that according to the expert we were going to get this disease. He said that it most probably came in with the new sprigs that were planted during the renovation of the golf course. He said that staff was doing everything they could. Mr. Dytrych said that this was not a good year for growing grass and if you didn't over-seed, then the greens looked bad. Mr. Shulman said that it seemed money was the object and if we had the money to over-seed this may not have happened. Mr. Bitzer said that, the problem would have still existed but the over-seeding would have masked the problem. Mr. Bitzer said that staff would be discussing this item during our budget preparation meetings and would revisit this item at the Commission's May meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. ***Contribution in Memory of Tom Keresey*** - Mrs. Herman said, "I request the Town Council make a contribution to the Cancer Fund at Good Sam Hospital in memory of Tom Keresey from the Golf Commission." Mr. Schorr said, "Your asking the Town to use government funds to make a contribution on our behalf?" He said that the Town Council wouldn't do that. Mrs. Herman asked Mr. Bitzer, "Would the Council do this. Mr. Bitzer said that he couldn't speak for the Council but that he did not think so.

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B. *Change the Golf Course Enterprise Fund to the Town's General Fund*

Mrs. Herman said that she felt it would be good idea to change the golf course from an enterprise fund to the general fund. She said that there are a number of things that we get charged for and we look very bad every year. Mrs. Herman said, "If we were part of the general fund we wouldn't get charged for things like \$25,000 for finance charges for the wonderful book keeping we get or a light to be put in." She said that if we need things it would get done. Mr. Shulman asked if the Commission could get information on what the advantages or disadvantages are of being an enterprise fund. Mrs. Herman suggested that the item be discussed at a Town Council Meeting. Mr. Bitzer said that it might be better to discuss the information that Mr. Shulman requested first before your recommending that the Town Council revisit this item since they had previously discussed this suggestion and decided not to take action. It was decided to discuss this item further at the Commission's next meeting.

VI. ANY OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Gross said that in Fiscal year 1997 the figure for other operating expenses was \$19,091 which is 100% higher than it was in 1996. He wanted to know what expenses this figure encompassed and why there was such a big jump. Mr. Bitzer said that he would have an answer for him at the next meeting. He said that he needed to go back their budget documents and see what was itemized under that account number.

Mr. M. Schorr said that the document also showed that there was a loss for 1997 of \$88,000. Mr. Bitzer said that the previous year there was a deficit of \$175,000 and our goal for 1997 was to decrease that loss to \$75,000, we were able to decrease it to \$88,000. Mr. Bitzer said that this year the goal was to break even and we were well on our way to meeting that goal. He said that in January we were up 18% in revenues compared to the previous year. However, because of the unexpected bad weather in February and March, we anticipate having approximately the same loss this year as last year.

Mr. M. Schorr said that at the last meeting he had brought up the question about stimulating business. Mr. Dytrych said that the South Florida Water Management League started last Monday which brings in 75 players once a week for 16 weeks. He said that there were also 4 more events scheduled for the summer. Mr. M. Schorr said that he felt that we might be able to generate some business by holding tournaments for the private clubs during the summer since all tournament play has ended at the private clubs. Mr. Dytrych said that he did not consider it professional or an act of good will to try to recruit players from private clubs to play in a tournament at our course. He said that it was not something that was done.

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Mr. Gross said that he could get a list of players from High Ridge and we could send out a mailer. Mr. M. Schorr said that these private courses are usually closed on Monday's during the summer and maybe we could hold something on a Monday. Mr. Dytrych said that we already get these players at the Par 3 and he said that he wasn't sure who he would approach to get these players signed up in the most diplomatic way. Mrs. Thurm said that running a tournament is going to require a lot of organization and maybe more trouble than it was worth.

Mrs. Herman asked if the local sports casters were ever invited to play the Par 3 Golf Course. She said that it wouldn't hurt to have these people come and play as our guests. Mr. Bitzer asked what the advantage would be to have these people come out and play the course gratis. Mrs. Herman said that they might mention the course on their radio and tv shows. Mr. Dytrych said that he really didn't think that sports casters were going to go on tv and tell the public to play the Par 3. He said that businesses pay for that kind of advertising. He said that it would be better to spend our time with a group like the Special Olympics, where these special people come and play and we get written up in their magazine.

Mr. Bitzer said that only the Town Council has that authority to waive fees. Mrs. Herman made the motion that we ask the Mayor and Town Council to invite all the sports people in the area to play the golf course. Mr. Bitzer said that he could bring this item up at the upcoming Finance and Taxation Committee meetings but that he would need additional time to look at the pro's and con's of such a recommendation. Mrs. Thurm said that if we are going to invite them to play it should be around tournament time. Mrs. Thurm made a motion that we invite all the local sports casters to play at the Par 3 as a guest to take place some time before the tournament. Seconded by Mr. Shulman. Motion passes with a vote of 6 to 1.

1999 Pro-Am Benefit Tournament - This item from old business was discussed at the end of the meeting.

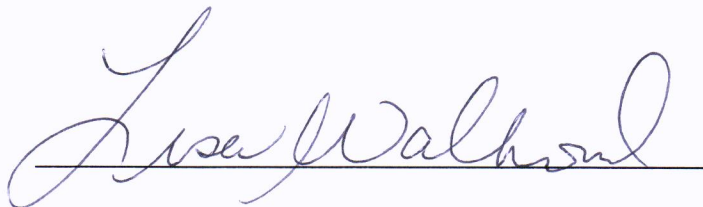
Mr. Raffo said that he read the minutes of the last meeting and he was unsure about the committee that had been formed. Mrs. Shulman said that because of the Sunshine Laws the Commission can't form a committee. Mr. Shulman said that if he wanted to go with Mr. Raffo to contact a sponsor for the tournament they couldn't because it has to go through the Recreation Center office. Mr. Bitzer said that what he would suggest is that the Commissioners let Mrs. Stone, Recreation Supervisor, know whom they are contacting, that way everyone won't be contacting the same people over and over. Mrs. Herman said, "That's why we formed a committee to handle all of that."

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Mr. Bitzer said that Alan Shore had asked him to mention a conversation that he, Mr. Shore had with Mr. Leslie Shaw. He said that Mr. Shaw was questioning why the Golf Commission was forming committees and making policy and running the tournament. Mr. Bitzer explained to Mr. Shore that the Golf Commission was not running the tournament, that they were making recommendations regarding the tournament and volunteering their time with fund-raising. He said that this perception is what Mr. Randolph was talking about when he met with the commission. Mr. Bitzer said that Mr. Randolph made it very clear that there shouldn't be a committee made up of commissioners meeting outside of a public meeting. Mrs. Herman said, "Well then next year why don't you just do it without all of us." Mr. Bitzer said that we want the commissioners to help as they have in past years, as volunteers and we welcome their help. He told the commission members that the tournament depended on their contacts to bring in sponsors and money. Mrs. Thurm said that we have to have a group that can meet to decide how to go out and raise the money. Mr. Bitzer said that it would then have to be discussed at a Golf Commission meeting. Mrs. Herman said, "You can't do that, come on Russ you know you can't do that we'd be here all day! That was the purpose of the committee." Mr. Bitzer said, "Why do you need a committee to do that." Mrs. Herman said that there were several people they wanted to go after, Mr. Shulman has somebody and I have somebody. Mr. Bitzer said that they could still do that without forming a committee. He said that the commission didn't have to have Mrs. Stone's permission to go out and meet with someone, just let her know whom they were contacting so that everyone is not contacting the same person. Mr. Bitzer said that if the Commissioners were not going to meet at an open public meeting, then the best way to accomplish this was to coordinate it through Mrs. Stone, my assigned fundraising coordinator. Mrs. Herman said that the whole thing is nonsense." Mr. Raffo said, "I think your missing the purpose of what the committee was for, it was to eliminate the duplication. Carolyn can help us with this, help us keep track of who's seeing who."

Mrs. Thurm asked that if there were four commissioners, who were working on getting a sponsor, couldn't they sit down with Carolyn and work out some kind of plan? Mr. Bitzer said that Mr. Randolph would probably say the best way to do that is just address it at a meeting, but he would check into that. Mrs. Herman said, "If you address it at a meeting we're going to be here until midnight, nobody will stay. Look half the people have left today's meeting already. It's silly." Mr. Bitzer said then these fund-raising meetings should not be a function of the Golf Commission, it's something your coordinating as volunteers with Mrs. Stone, and you don't bring it back to the commission for discussion. Mr. Raffo said that he had the same problem with the Shore Protection Board.

VII. ADJOURNMENT - Mrs. Herman adjourned the meeting at 11:25.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Walch", is written over a horizontal line.



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

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APR 30 1998

TOWN OF PALM BEACH
RECREATION DEPT

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21 April 1998

Stephanie Tannone
Palm Beach Par 3
620 Juniper Place
West Palm Beach, FL 33414

Dear Stephanie:

This letter is in regards to my visit to your course yesterday. From the photographs you had taken, the initial symptoms you described and the remaining symptoms we saw yesterday, I feel confident that the problem was *Rhizoctonia zea*. This fungus causes a leaf blight. The bright reddish-orange leaves are typical of this disease. Many times the disease will appear as necrotic (dead) rings (big and small), but your greens had just patches. This is not a common disease and normally it occurs later in the year, especially late summer and early fall.

It appeared that the high rate of Daconil fungicide had the disease under control. There even appeared to be signs that the turf was starting to recover. However, be sure to monitor for this disease so additional fungicide applications can be made as necessary.

You are not the only course that has this disease. I just spoke with Craig Kirker at Card Sound Golf Club in North Key Largo (Ocean Reef). They had this disease appear suddenly also. First symptoms appeared about April 12-13, same time as at your course. I am still inclined to believe that short period of hot weather (high 80s, low 90s) was one of the triggers. He also noted that their recent leaf tissue analysis indicated a high level of sodium in the plant. This could be an additional stress that makes the bermudagrass more susceptible.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Monica L. Elliott
Assoc. Professor

TOWN OF PALM BEACH GOLF COMMISSION

ATTENDANCE RECORD 1998

NAME	1/16	2/27	3/27	4/24	5/22	6/26	7/24	8/28	9/25	10/23	11/20	12/18
1. ANN K. HERMAN	P	P	P	P								
2. JAY ROSSBACH JR.	U	P	P	E (illness)								
3. ARTHUR GROSS	P	P	P	P								
4. JAMES MADDOCK	P	P	P	E (legal)								
5. MAX SCHORR	P	P	P	P								
6. ALLEN E. SHORE	P	P	P	E (illness)								
7. STUART SHULMAN	P	P	P	P								

ALTERNATES:

1. ARLENE THURM	P	P	P	P								
2. RICHARD RAFFO	P	P	E (illness)	P								
3. LARRY OCHSTEIN	E (illness)	P	P	P								

LEGEND:

P = Present
 E = Excused
 U = Unexcused
 A = Absent Pending Classification as "Excused" or "Unexcused"

TOWN OF PALM BEACH GOLF COMMISSION

CONFLICT OF INTEREST RECORD 1998

NAME	1/16	2/27	3/27	4/24	5/22	6/26	7/24	8/28	9/25	10/23	11/20	12/18
1. ANN K. HERMAN												
2. JAY ROSSBACH JR.												
3. ARTHUR GROSS												
4. JAMES MADDOCK												
5. MAX SCHORR												
6. ALLEN E. SHORE												
7. STUART SHULMAN												
ALTERNATES:												
1. ARLENE THURM												
2. RICHARD RAFFO												
3. LARRY OCHSTEIN												

LEGEND: X = Conflict