



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Recreation Department

MINUTES OF THE SEAVIEW PARK COMMISSION MEETING HELD

APRIL 11, 1991

I. CALL TO ORDER: A meeting of the Seaview Park Commission was held on April 11, 1991 in the Recreation Center. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Broberg, Chairman. Commission members in attendance were Mr. Broberg, Mrs. Coniglio, Mrs. Clarke-Royal, Mr. Myers, Mr. Ochstein and new member Mrs. Joyce McIntyre. Staff members in attendance were Mr. Bitzer, Mr. Hay and Mrs. Walkowich. Residents in attendance were Mr. Prosperi, Mrs. Wells, Mrs. Paull, Mrs. Kassatly and Mrs. Hardy.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES Motion was made by Mr. Broberg to approve the minutes of the March 13, 1991 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Myers, motion carried.

III. APPROVAL TO AGENDA Mr. Bitzer had one deletion to the agenda, item 5-B, Capital Projects - Tennis Court Lighting and Walkway Lighting Upgrade. He said he would like to defer this item to the next meeting because there were some additional bid specification review that had to be made prior to discussing this project. Mr. Broberg asked if there were any other addition or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS Mr. Broberg asked Mr. Bitzer if he had any more information on the Tennis Lighting. Mr. Bitzer explained that there was a complaint from a resident Mr. Paul Prosperi, regarding the time that the lights would shut off. The original complaint was initiated at a council meeting and referred to the Seaview Park Commission Meeting. Mr. Prosperi indicated that he was of the understanding that the time was going to be set back from 10:00 to 9:00 pm. The recommendation of the commission was to correct the timer so that it would go off on time at 10:00 and to adjust the aiming of the lights, both which were done. If Mr. Prosperi still found a problem with the lights, it was requested that he get back in touch with us. We did not hear from him again until a year later when there was a power outage which disrupted the time clock causing the lights to shut off at 11:00 p.m. This problem has since been corrected.

Mr. Prosperi asked Mr. Bitzer when the new tennis court lights would be installed. Mr. Bitzer explained that this proposed project was tentatively scheduled to be done during the Summer months. The courts that were to be lit were the ones on the far west end.

Mr. Prosperi complained that it was an unpleasant light that shines into his house and garden and between the sounds from tennis games and the light at 10:30 to 11:00 at night is very unpleasant and he didn't see why there was a problem with a 9:00 p.m. cut off. All he asked for was some consideration regarding this matter.

Mr. Bitzer suggested that for the time being, because there was not as much night play during the off season that play be stopped at 9:00 p.m. but if play were to increase we would need to review this temporary change. He further went on to explain that the people who do court maintenance in the evenings had complained that they could not see and requested that a light be turned on during this time which takes approximately 1 hour. One light, the one furthest from Mr. Prosperi's home would be utilized for evening maintenance between 9:00 and 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Prosperi was concerned that now every evening at 10:00 he would have to contend with these lights.

Mr. Hay pointed out that come July or August, with the new anti-glare lighting installed, that the two far west end courts could be lit for court maintenance and this would alleviate Mr. Prosperi's problem and by stopping play for the time being at 9:00 p.m. would also help the situation. Mr. Broberg asked what was going to happen in the winter time when there would be play from 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Myers felt that the ultimate plan for putting up new lights would impact on this and there was talk of putting lights on four courts which would enable us not to have to use the lights on the last two courts which might alleviate the problem entirely.

Mr. Broberg said that the new lights would be the low impact lights that would not shine into his house. He said that this was in the budget for this year and was going to be discussed but it had been deferred to a later meeting as the bids needed further staff review.

Mr. Bitzer explained that it is his understanding that the intention of the Town Council was that when the new courts are lit, whether that be four or two courts, whatever the Council decides, the lights on courts 5 and 6 would no longer be utilized. He said,

that it would require further discussion, once we know what the council will actually approve, because if we light two courts and turn two off than we haven't gained anything and we have a major problem with an over crowded facility particularly during the season with the working adult who cannot get a court. If only two courts are approved, possibly we could get approved using the lights on courts 5 and 6 if we were to turn them off at around 8:00 p.m. and if this were acceptable to Mr. Prosperi.

Mr. Broberg asked Mr. Prosperi if he had any solution or a compromise to the problem. Mr. Prosperi asked that the court closest to his house have restricted play. Mrs. Royal suggested that Mr. Prosperi could possibly make a donation to help replace the offending lights. Mr. Prosperi asked Mrs. Royal to match him dollar for dollar. Mr. Bitzer pointed out that in a spirit of cooperation, Mr. Prosperi had offered at a Town Council Meeting to participate in a fund raising effort toward the lighting problem.

Mr. Broberg said that Mr. Prosperi had made a decent compromise that the eastern most of the two courts be shut off at 9:00. Mr. Hay said that there was only one power clock for both courts so that you could not regulate turning power off to one light or the other. Mr. Broberg suggested that this problem be revisited after August when the new lights are in. Mr. Hay commented that there was a plan in the future to staff the tennis pro shop until the facility closes thus allowing for monitoring of the courts and lighting. This additional staff would also be maintaining the courts in the evening and depending on demand, play would end at around 9:00 p.m. and from 9:00 till 10:00 p.m. would be court maintenance using the two most western courts for light.

Mr. Broberg suggested that the commission wait until July or August when the new lighting was in and then revisit this problem. Mr. Prosperi agreed, thanked the commission and left the meeting.

Mr. Broberg stated that he had a couple of questions he would like to ask Mr. Bitzer. 1. How long have those present lights been in existence? Mr. Bitzer said he has been employed by the Town for fifteen years and the lights were here before he came. 2. How long has the 10:00 p.m. ending time been a policy? Mr. Bitzer said at least 15 years. 3. How many complaints have you had in the fifteen years? Mr. Bitzer said, one complaint from Mr. Prosperi. With his original complaint one year ago we re-aimed the lights and reset the timer. We did not here from him again until recently when there was a power outage and the timer needed to be reset. Mr. Broberg said that he would like the Commission to note that with those extenuating circumstances that Mr. Prosperi is the only one that has ever complained.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ladies Tennis Teams - Mr. Bitzer

1. Program Schedule

Mr. Bitzer stated that this had been resolved at the last meeting but he included it on the agenda because there was one thing that he wanted on the record. It was agreed with all concerned that there would be a half hour warm up on two courts prior to matches. He said the Staff reserves the right in the future to go back and revisit this for the next season, because these are not the only two groups that use the facility and there is also member play and daily play and if circumstances change, we may have to go back and change the warmup format. This might include giving six courts at the 10:00 hour and extending play past the 12:00 hour. This would give all the ladies time to warmup at the same time and it would alleviate the problem for us with our scheduling on the half hour. Right now, however, there is not a problem for the rest of this season. Mrs. Wells asked if changes would take place next season. Mr. Bitzer said that staff would review this court scheduling for next season.

2. Program Participation

Mr. Bitzer explained that at the last meeting there were two other tennis team related items that the commission did not have an opportunity to discuss, one of which was program participation. It was the staff's concern that residents be aware of all programs using Town facilities and that we plan to list the ladies team program in our program brochure. One of the other groups that aren't listed in our brochure is the Palm Beach Racketeers, because they are a relatively new group. This program will also be listed in our brochure. Both these programs must be open to all residents who wish to participate or try out for teams. He said, an opportunity not necessarily to automatically be on the teams, but at least a fair opportunity to tryout to participate on these teams. He said he saw no other way to accomplish this except to 1. In the future advertise tryouts and 2. That the tryouts be objective and as fair as possible. He said he would ask Jim Hay to work out the details of the tryout with the captains of the ladies teams.

Mr. Broberg brought out the point that rosters for these teams needed to be turned in months before play actually begins. Mrs. Hardy said the rosters have to be turned in June for September.

Mr. Bitzer said if there was no objection the ladies team captains could work with Jim so that we could advertise the tryout, set a deadline for those who are interested in the program and conduct a tryout for the league prior to the June deadline. Mrs. Coniglio asked when the next summer update came out and couldn't the update be used to advertise the tryouts. Mr. Bitzer said he would check with staff regarding this question.

Mr. Ochstein asked if the ladies teams have written rules, bi-laws like some of the other teams have, for example the Wellington team. Mrs. Wells said no, that they used the county's rules but if a team felt it necessary they could call on the assistance of the President and Vice President of the league and the Pro to help qualify an individual who was interested in joining the team. Mr. Broberg pointed out that it was not a requirement of the league for individual teams to have their own rules.

Mr. Ochstein asked if the teams have formal tryouts. Mrs. Hardy stated that this has never been a problem. Mr. Broberg said yes, but no written procedure. Mrs. Paull said that even if you have a procedure you have to have an opening for someone to tryout. Mr. Ochstein said that since this was a public facility that there should be a formal written procedure. He said he couldn't understand how the ladies teams could claim they never have any openings so therefore no one new can be on the team. He said there has got to be some system for people who are qualified talent wise to be on the team. Mr. Broberg stated that Russ just mentioned that tryouts were going to be implemented. Mrs. Wells said that in the past it has been the captains and co-captains who have helped with the new players who came on to a team. She said that this was a new opportunity that Seaview was putting forth and that is to perhaps work with Jim and have him assist the gals from the different teams in any sort of a tryout, but sometimes what the gals find is that they honestly have all positions filled and are carrying, by the league rules all the people that they can carry. She said, now what we are trying to do is to open up and offer the opportunity for individuals to tryout and as she said the Palm Beach County tennis group itself has a committee that can aid the B team in doing that.

Mrs. Royal asked how would current members be grandfathered in. Mr. Bitzer said that the league has a 50 percent returning player rule.

Mrs. Wells stated that every individual in our town has always had an opportunity to become a member of the team, that has never not been the case. Mr. Bitzer stated that all the Town was going to do then was to formalize what the teams are already doing. Mr. Ochstein said he had just the opposite impression as to what Mrs.

Wells stated, that he had been told by several ladies that there is no way anybody can get on the A1 team. Mrs. Wells asked if he could give her their names. Mrs. Hardy said that they would love to have some new people on the team that they really needed people on the A1 team. Mrs. Wells asked Mr. Ochstein to tell those individuals to please contact the captains of the appropriate teams. She further stated that she only knows of one team that has a full roster and there are certain rules that each captain has to abide by, if these ladies are year round residents then there is a great opportunity for them to become a member of the team, but if there's a full roster there's nothing you can do.

Mr. Ochstein stated that it was his understanding that other teams have a challenge procedure. Mrs. Paull said that there are challenges in ladders for positions. Mr. Ochstein was speaking of moving from a B team to an A team. Mrs. Paull said if there's an opening. Mr. Ochstein said no, even if there isn't an opening. If the lower players on the A team have won less than 50% of their matches than they're eligible to be challenged by someone whose won more than 50% of the matches on the B team. He was using an example from the Wellington teams rules.

Mrs. Kassatly asked, where do the members who have lost their position on the A team go, do they go down and tryout for the B team. Mr. Ochstein said yes. Mrs. Paull asked then where do the B team members go. Mrs. Coniglio said that because the B team member moved to the A team than that spot on the B team would be open and the A team member would have a chance to tryout for that position just like everybody else. Mr. Myers said that the roster positions have to be based on tennis merit, that if somebody got bumped down to the B team it might cost somebody who's been on the B team roster to get bumped off that team. Mrs. Wells stated that you can't bump someone off the team, those are set rosters. Mr. Broberg said they're set for a year. Mrs. Wells corrected him in that they are set for half years from September to December and from January to April that there's a break and if a team member needs to drop off the roster for a period of time you can bring in a new individual.

Mr. Myers stated that there is a perception that if for example a new person moved into town and wanted to get on the A1 team roster and that roster was filled that person wouldn't have the opportunity even if they were better than some of the people on the team. Mrs. Hardy said that wasn't correct and that the A1 team was dying for people they can't find enough people to play on the team. Mr. Myers stated, that could be true of any of the teams and the fact that a roster is filled shouldn't prevent that person from getting on a team if they're better than somebody who's on it. Mrs. Hardy agreed, but every half year. Mr. Hay corrected them, that it was annually.

Mrs. Wells said tryouts were difficult because how do you have them challenge by playing singles or doubles. That's why the league has a set up where we can go to our President or Vice President who would assist in the tryout procedure and would in turn bring in the others. Mr. Bitzer said that these were the operational details that could be worked out between the ladies captains, the league and our pro-manager. What ever we do come up with must be formalized in writing.

Mr. Ochstein stated that this was a public facility and any perception that there's any discrimination would not be tolerated so there had to be some set of formalized rules so that there's no misconception. Mrs. Wells stated that we needed a clarification of what kind of situation the individuals Mr. Ochstein was speaking for specifically what problem they came up against. She asked if those people would speak to a team captain. Mr. Ochstein said he wasn't going to tell any examples or anybody's name. Mrs. Wells stated that he should because that is what was causing all of the problems. Mr. Ochstein disagreed. Mrs. wells said she disagreed with him that he couldn't tell her who was having a problem because maybe there was a communication problem. Mr. Ochstein stated he could but he would not. Mrs. Wells said that it would be helpful to the team because, that would help them try to remedy the problem and it wasn't right to say I'm not going to give you who it was, we just need to rewrite all the rules. Mr. Ochstein said there was nothing to rewrite that the teams didn't have any rules and there should be some, that there should be a fair equitable way for people to get on the team. Mrs. Wells stated that the teams have the Palm Beach County rules and there has always been a fair way for people to get on the team.

Mr. Ochstein stated that at the last meeting the commission was told that there never were any vacancies and when there are there is no formal procedure to announce that there is a vacancy and that you have to be of the right personality.

Mrs. Paull stated that she said there were a lot of qualifications for the tennis because a lot is involved. She said ability is number one, your whole personality and if your a team player because it was a joint effort. She stated that you don't play for yourself you play for the whole team and that it also involves being here from September until June. She said, that an individual has to challenge in and there are many instances where people get in and they just don't like team playing. She stated that it was a mental thing, that you play for everyone you just don't play for you because you think your a good player. She said that there is a lot involved in team tennis you have to get along

with not one but 24 girls, you have to be able to travel to different communities and it's not just I want to play, that it's not discrimination it's a whole package and it was never said that there are never any openings. She stated that she had said challenging comes when there are openings and when there are openings the word gets out and there are tryouts.

Mr. Broberg stated that as Mr. Bitzer had said, this is an Administrative thing and that we have recognized the fact that there needs to be a challenge for all the A,B and C teams, it needs to be done once a year and how it's done is something that Jim, the League, the Captains and Russ would work out and if need be something to be written down whether it's read in the minutes or formalized in a booklet.

Mr. Bitzer said that there would be a mailing in May for the summer camps but it might not be soon enough to advertise for the tryouts but that an article in the local newspaper and a notice posted in the tennis shop would suffice. Mr. Broberg said since the mailing is going out in May and the teams have to be picked by June we might as well include the information in our mailing. Mr. Hay felt so as to complete this project on a timely basis that we should start to formalize the procedure the first week in May so as to be ready for tryouts in late May early June.

Mrs. McIntyre requested that once a procedure had been formalized that it be presented to the commission for final approval. Mr. Bitzer stated that he would forward a copy of the tryout procedures to the Commission for their review and comments. Mr. Hay stated that he would like to see the ladies team govern themselves and have them come up with procedures to standardize the procedure for tryouts and have the ladies write those rules. Mr. Bitzer said that any rules or procedures would have to be reviewed by himself and his staff to ensure that they were acceptable to the Town.

Mr. Myers asked if all the teams had full rosters. Mrs. Wells answered that the A's had a roster of 16 and the B's had a roster of 20, so yes all the rosters were full. Mrs. Paull stated that at the last meeting it was suggested that a ladies team member be appointed to the commission instead there are two people from the racketeers. She stated there was an opening and why wasn't a person from the ladies tennis team appointed. Mr. Bitzer stated that the Seaview Park Commission is an advisory board to the Mayor and Town Council and the Town Council appoints people to the commission. He could not explain why the Town Council selects one person over another, however, the Town Council tries to select the person who they feel is most qualified and that any one interested in serving on the commission should write a letter expressing their

interest. Mrs. Coniglio stated to Mrs. Paull that she could nominate herself if she chose to, that appointments were out of our hands and strictly up to the Town Council, however, the ladies had the option of bringing a whole tennis team to every commission meeting. She said that it is an open meeting and you don't have to be invited or a member, you just come. She said, you can't vote but you are entitled to sit in on every meeting.

Mr. Myers asked if there would be demand for another team, a lower C team. Mr. Bitzer stated that he had discussed this with Mr. Hay, tennis pro-manager, and that Mr. Hay felt that there was a need for a lower entry level team and that this would be reviewed for next season.

Mr. Hay asked the commission what the recommendation of the Commission was. Mr. Broberg stated that the consensus is that sometime before June there has to be a notice with plenty of time for those to respond to come and make it known that they want to play on any of the three teams that Seaview offers in the league. If there is interest and there is an opening then there would be no need for a challenge. If there are no openings, then there has to be some procedure for a challenge, as well as a procedure for challenging up to a higher team. Mr. Bitzer stated that just for the record the staff concurs with Mr. Broberg's statement.

3. Program Fees

Mr. Bitzer stated that there had been discussion with some of the ladies teams and that it was fine to continue with a team fee with two possible ways of paying the fee. Either pay each time they have a match, residents pay a resident fee, non residents pay a non resident fee, we ask only that if they are going to pay at each match that they pay with one check. The second way is to pay for half of or the whole season, the formula being an average of the number of annual permit holders versus the number of non permit holders, resident and non resident. Mrs. Wells asked what each fee would be? Mr. Bitzer explained \$5.00 for each resident and \$10.00 for each non resident.

Mr. Ochstein asked if there was any way we could encourage the ladies on the teams to become annual members. Mrs. Wells asked why and stated that most of these women are members of other clubs. Mr. Ochstein stated that the facility needed the revenue and that we were losing revenue by allowing non members to take up court time. Mrs. Kassatly stated that if you added up what it cost for the team fee which was \$130 less an annual membership of \$160 there was only a difference of \$30 and the ladies teams only play 16 times a year.

Mr. Bitzer stated that we were in the process of starting budgeting for next year, reviewing revenues, expenditures and fees. He said, fees can't be finalized as that is ultimately the Town Council's decision. Mr. Broberg stated that part of the problem with the loss of membership is that fees are too high. The Commission has in the past recommended not to raise fees, the Town Council decided otherwise.

VI. ANY OTHER MATTERS

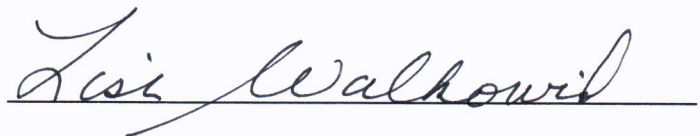
Mr. Broberg asked if the playing field was being maintained properly and if it was being overseen by the grounds superintendent at the Par 3 Golf Course. Mr. Bitzer said yes, that Mrs. Tannone has been here and had set up a schedule for maintenance that the Public Works Department was following. He further stated that there had been a problem with the west end of the field with drainage and that we were attempting to solve the problem with additional fill.

Mr. Broberg asked if there were any other matters to be discussed. Mrs. Royal asked if Mr. Halimi was going to sponsor a ladder tournament again this year. Mr. Hay stated that Mr. Halimi had indicated an interest but that he would prefer to run an on going ladder through the Town and once in a while Mr. Halimi could sponsor a small tournament for the top 10 players. Mrs. Coniglio asked if the possible tennis tournament that was tentatively scheduled for June was ever finalized. Mr. Bitzer said that Mr. Halimi had been invited to several Commission meetings regarding this tournament, however, he never showed up.

Mrs. McIntyre asked Mr. Broberg for a copy of the budget and a list of Seaveiw Park Commission Meetings. Mr. Broberg told her that she could obtain that information from Mr. Bitzer and his staff.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business motion was made by Mr. Broberg to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Congilio, motion carried.

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