

TOWN OF PALM BEACH
Recreation Department

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING
November 10, 2004

- I. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** - A meeting of the Town of Palm Beach Recreation Advisory Commission was held on November 10, 2004, at the Recreation Center. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Coniglio, Chairman, at 9:00 a.m. Commission members in attendance were Mrs. Agnello, Mr. Bone, Dr. Coffield, Mr. Gross, Mr. Shulman and Mr. Spaziani. Alternate member in attendance were Mr. Andrews and Mrs. Taca. Mr. Henry Jamison, Alternate Commission member was absent from the meeting. Staff members in attendance were Mr. Bitzer and Mrs. Walkowich.
- II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Mrs. Coniglio asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Gross made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Spaziani seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- III. **APPROVAL OF MAY 12, 2004, MINUTES** - Mr. Spaziani made the motion to approve the May 12, 2004, minutes. Dr. Coffield seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- IV. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Update on FY-05 Budget** - Mr. Bitzer said that he wanted to update the Commission on the status of the capital improvement projects that had been proposed. He said that funding had been approved to go forward with a plan for the Seaview Tennis Facility Modernization. Mr. Bitzer said that the Council wanted a meeting to be held where residents could come and make comments and suggestions regarding the modernization. Mrs. Coniglio suggested that a survey be sent out to residents to get their input on the modernization of the tennis courts similar to the customer satisfaction survey that is distributed or that a paragraph could be added to the annual brochure explaining the modernization plan. Mr. Andrews said that he liked idea of incorporating a survey into the brochure. Mr. Bitzer said that he would look into the feasibility of still getting one in this year's brochure.

Mr. Bitzer said that as part of the tennis budget, staff had recommended the completion of the Phipps Ocean Park Tennis Facility, which included the construction of the final two courts and a maintenance building. He said that the maintenance building was put on hold, as the Town Council felt that the bids received were too high. The proposal to finish the two courts at Phipps were also postponed as the Town Council wanted statistics in order to help determine whether there was really a need for additional courts. Mr. Bitzer said that completion of the

project would also help solve other problems such as parking at Seaview Park, which is a major problem. He said that if we had six courts at Phipps, we could move some of the ladies teams there, where parking is not a problem. He said that participation in the women's leagues requires six courts.

Mr. Bone said "We have analyzed this and we've discussed it, we realize that unless we've got six courts over at Phipps it will never be an exciting place to play tennis because you can't do tournament play and if we are ever going to go ahead with the modernization of the Seaview facility we have to have the Phipps facility to fall back on. Mr. Bone made a motion that reminding the Town Council that the Recreation Advisory Commission has analyzed this thoroughly and that because we need six courts at Phipps we strongly encourage them to move forward immediately on the completion of the Phipps Tennis Park Facility, particularly in light of the upcoming modernization of the Seaview Tennis Facility. Seconded by Mr. Andrews. Mrs. Coniglio asked if there was any further discussion.

Mr. Spaziani asked Mr. Hay his opinion on the Phipps Facility. Mr. Hay said that staff has supported it and think it's a good idea. He said "It depends on how you look at it. If your looking at filling the facility all day long, I don't see that happening so you have to look at the people you are serving. During the season, we are turning people away at prime times and each year that number is building. We already have the staff there so we're looking at a minimal cost for upkeep once we put the courts in and it gives us the ability to do a lot of other things and take care of the residents, particularly those who live in the south end of Town. I think there's a lot of pluses to it. It may not be a great financial move, but none of the tennis is. We're looking at quality of life and serving the residents of the Town" Mrs. Agnello said "The bottom line is that if you don't have six courts at Phipps when your modernizing Seaview, I guarantee you the teams will fall apart, women will go elsewhere and then when you're ready to play again you won't have a ladies team program." Mrs. Coniglio called for a vote on the motion, all were in favor."

Mr. Bitzer said that the golf course had done better this year than last year but still had a loss of \$60,000. He said that \$20,000 of that loss was due to the hurricanes in September. He said that we're going in the right direction. We reduced expenses and increased revenues, despite the loss of revenue for the month of September. Mrs. Coniglio said that at the very least we needed to break even. Mr. Bitzer said that it was very difficult to run the golf course as an enterprise fund when we're having to use potable water to water grass. The cost to put in a different system just didn't pay for itself over a period of years. He said that we are currently spending \$100,000 on water. Mr. Bitzer said that the other major expense when compared to private golf courses is that their not paying their maintenance people benefits and decent salaries. Mr. Shulman said that the City of West Palm Beach Golf Course was taken over by an outside management firm. Mr. Bitzer said that they were losing money even though the management firm had taken over. Mrs. Taca asked if we could increase volume if we cut prices. Mr. Bitzer said that we tried that with

tennis and it did not increase revenues. Revenues actually decreased.

Mr. Bone asked, "If you took into account all the divisions of the Leisure Services Enterprise Fund wasn't the fund at least breaking even?" Mr. Bitzer said that the Leisure Services Enterprise Fund does pay for itself. He said that the docks subsidize three of the other four recreation programs. Mr. Bone said that it is unheard of in any community to expect recreational services to break even. He said that the Town Council needs to look at the fact that this a service they are providing and to look at it as a business is wrong. Mr. Bone said, "We're citizens, we deserve this, that's why we pay our tax dollars. We want parks and recreation to receive tax benefits. It should cost the town more than it does." Mrs. Coniglio said that we have presented this to the Town Council over and over. Mr. Bone said, "They don't look at the feedback, they just go straight to the bottom line. You lost money and you're supposed to break even." Mr. Bitzer said "There is no right or wrong, it is a philosophical question, how do you value parks and recreation and are there benefits to the community and of course there are." Mr. Bone said, "Benefits worth paying for." Mr. Bitzer said that the Council didn't seem to have a problem subsidizing the youth programs, the adult programs already pay for themselves and they didn't mind subsidizing tennis because a lot of children use the tennis facilities. He said that they would like to see the golf course, because it is highly utilized also by non-residents, pay for itself, or at least be as self sufficient as possible.

Mr. Spaziani asked why we use potable water to irrigate the course and not some other source. Mr. Bitzer said that it might be worthwhile to have one of the engineers come and explain the options that they had looked into. Mr. Bone said that if the engineers have already done the analysis and the capital expense is not justified over the long run, then we're stuck. Mr. Shulman asked, "How did we make so much money years ago. Are we really doing things so much differently now. Is it the outside expenses that are taking over, because we used to have a lot of money in the bank." Mr. Bitzer said that there were several reasons. We had to do a lot of infrastructure improvements, expenses for goods and services keep going up and we can only charge so much. He said that we have our niche and it is primarily senior citizens. Mr. Bitzer said that with being a short course, we are very limited in the clientele that we attract. He said that staff was doing a lot of promotions, coupons in the paper, working with the hotels and specials. Mr. Bitzer said that it was not all gloom and doom, that we were talking about a loss of \$60,000 which would have been \$40,000 if we had not had the hurricanes in September. He said "That's not a whole lot of money to have that wonderful facility in our community. However, we will continue to work at chiseling the loss down."

- B. Staff Response to Recreation Advisory Commission Inquiries from the May 12, 2004, Commission Meeting** - Mr. Bitzer asked the Commission if they had any questions regarding the memorandum he sent them. (this memorandum is attached) Dr. Coffield said that at the last meeting the Commission had requested that a

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representative from the Parks Division come and speak to the Commission and that a motion had been made that staff propose to the Town Council that the Parks Division and the Recreation Center both be advised by the Recreation Advisory Commission. He said that he was wondering if anything had been done. Mr. Bitzer said that the Town Council receives the minutes of the Commission's meetings and he felt that they were aware of their suggestion. Mrs. Coniglio said that if this idea had been presented to the Town Council and there had been no response from them then what was the next step. Mr. Bitzer said that if it was something that you all feel strongly about then you could make another motion. Dr. Coffield made a motion that the Commission formally approach the Town Council with the recommendation that the Recreation Advisory Commission advise both the Parks Division and the Recreation Department and that it be done in the form of a letter. Seconded by Mrs. Agnello, all were in favor.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. **2005 Meeting Schedule** - Mrs. Coniglio asked for a motion to approve the meeting schedule. (This schedule is attached.) Mr. Spaziani made the motion to approve the meeting schedule. Seconded by Mrs. Agnello, all were in favor.
2. Program Report - This report is attached
3. Junior Tennis Academy - Mr. Bone had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda, unfortunately he was called away from the meeting before this item could be discussed. This item was postponed and will be discussed at the January 2005 meeting.

- VI. ANY OTHER MATTERS** - Mr. Spaziani asked if the roof on the Recreation Center was going to be replaced soon because it really looked terrible. Mr. Bitzer said that the Town was looking at putting the money that was going to be used to repair the roof into replacing it. Mr. Spaziani made the motion that the Recreation Center roof be replaced, and that the project be subsidized by the money that the Town will receive from FEMA. Seconded by Mrs. Agnello. Mrs. Coniglio said that she felt that the expense for a new roof should not be charged against the Recreation capital improvement budget. Mrs. Coniglio called for a vote on the motion, all were in favor.
- Mr. Bitzer said that, the Commission may have noticed that a section of fence that separated the walkway (east of the tennis courts) and the parking garage had never been put back after the construction of the Day School Gymnasium, allowing access from both the park and the Day School properties to the parking garage. Mr. Bitzer said that he would be meeting with Mr. Thompson from the Day School to have them put back the fence.

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Mr. Bitzer said that there had been complaints from tennis players regarding noise from a compressor that was being used to wash cars in the parking garage next door. He said that he had been in contact with the Planning, Building and Zoning Department and that they were looking into the problem.

Dr. Coffield asked if the bike path was governed by the Parks Division. He said that on several blocks people were planting ficus hedges on the intracoastal side of the bike path and growing them so tall that you could no longer see the intracoastal. He said that he would like to know if there was any Town ordinance regulating this growth because he would hate to see the bike path ruined. Mr. Bitzer said that he would make some inquiries regarding hedges.

Mrs. Coniglio said, "It is a huge concern to me that you are all very careful about watching the school construction. As you know my term expires in March and you need to carry that baton, because I am very concerned about not being kept abreast prior to something being completed." She asked the Commissioners to please watch the continued construction at the school. Mrs. Coniglio said, "As we talked two years ago, it's only going to become more looming and more massive and at some point the residents are going to wonder why the Recreation Commission did not act."

Mr. Bitzer said that he wanted to thank Mrs. Coniglio for her hard work and her concern for Town employees after the hurricanes. He told the Commission that Mrs. Coniglio fed the Town employees (at Bradley's) breakfast, lunch and dinner while they were working during the hurricane recovery and that she even helped grill hamburgers and hot dogs herself at the Recreation Center.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Coniglio at 10:00 a.m.

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Record of Attendance 2004

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<u>Regular Members</u>	1/14	3/10	5/12	9/15 canceled	11/10
Milissa Agnello	P	P	E		P
Bill Bone	P	E (illness)	P		P
Timothy Coffield	P	P	P		P
Gail Coniglio	P	P	E		P
Arthur Gross	E (illness)	P	P		P
Stuart Shulman			P		P
Michael Spaziani	P	E (illness)	P		P
<u>Alternate Members</u>					
Michael Andrews	A	P	P		P
Henry Jamison			P		A
Rita Taca			P		P

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

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RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Conflict of Interest Record 2004

<u>Regular Members</u>	1/14	3/10	5/12	9/15	11/10
Milissa Agnello					
Bill Bone					
Timothy Coffield					
Gail Coniglio					
Arthur Gross					
Stuart Shulman					
Michael Spaziani					
<u>Alternate Members</u>					
Michael Andrews					
Henry Jamison					
Rita Taca					

LEGEND: X = Conflict of Interest

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August 25, 2004

FY-2005

Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting Schedule

(Meetings are held the Recreation Center at 9:00 a.m.)

Wednesday, January 12, 2005

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

Wednesday September 14, 2005

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

NOTE: Disabled persons who need an accommodation in order to participate in this meeting are requested to contact the Recreation Department at 838-5485 or through the Florida Relay Service by dialing 1-800-955-8770 for voice callers or 1-800-955-8771 for TDD callers, at least (5) working days before this meeting.

**Program Report
Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, November 10, 2004**

YOUTH & ADULT PROGRAMS

Youth:

- Summer Camp was again a great success! Camp ran for eight weeks with a total of 752 participants. There were three age groups offered: Dolphins (Ages K-7yrs), Stingrays (Ages 8-11) and Club Teen (Ages 12-15). We had one of our finest group of summer staff this year and everyone had a safe and fun filled summer!
- Fall Youth Programs have started. We have 20 classes scheduled for this 12-week fall session and enrollment has been steady.
- We are offering an After School Program this year. However, in light of the Public School construction, the program along with staffing has been scaled back.
- Winter Camp is scheduled for December 20th - 23rd and December 27th - 30th. Registration for camp begins November 1st for Residents and November 22nd for Non-Residents.

Adult:

Several Fall Adult Programs have started with most beginning in October and November. We will be offering 14 adult classes this session. We are pleased to announce the addition, by popular request, of French II with current French I instructor Patricia Ronze. French II is for advanced beginners. The class will be offered on Mondays from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

ATHLETICS

Our fall athletic schedule kicked off with Flag Football which began on September 8th for children in 1st - 7th grade. Our very popular Itty Bitty Sports program began on September 16th and we are at capacity for this program. The soccer program began on November 2nd. We currently have 152 participants enrolled in the program which caters to children in Kindergarten through 7th grade.

TENNIS

Seaview

- The summer junior clinics ran for 11 weeks with a total of 207 participants. This program is subsidized by a donation from the Palm Beach Tennis Association and was a great success again this year.
- The popular Tuesday Night Doubles Mixer was run throughout the summer. During the winter months, evening mixers are run on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The time is from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Our Women's League teams have started their 2003/2004 season. Matches began the last week of September. We have three ladies teams - A2, A3 & B3. Each team has 16 to 20 players.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Parent / Child Round Robin - October 2nd

Town Junior Singles Championships - November. 13th & 14th

Town Senior Singles Championships - December. 3rd - 4th

Holiday Doubles Mixer - December 10th, 9 a.m. - Noon

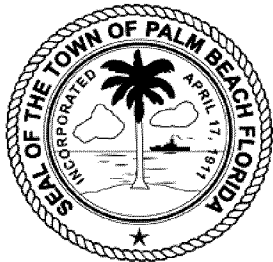
Phipps

- Phipps Tennis center will be offering the following senior leagues.
Men's 60 and up USTA League Team - start up in October
(2) Men's 55 and up Palm Beach County Senior League - start up in January
Women's 50 and up Palm Beach County Senior League - start up in January
- Morning Doubles mixers continue to be popular and are run year round.
- Once again the Halloween doubles mixer on October 28th was a great success. Twenty four people attended in costume, food was brought in from TooJays and everyone had a great time. The winner of the Second Annual Great Pumpkin Trophy this year was John Morris, a retired New York City police detective, who was dressed as an escaped convict.

GOLF

- End of fiscal year revenue was up 7% compared to last year. Revenues this year totaled \$794,624 compared to \$742,868 in FY-03. Due to the hurricanes, approximately \$20,000 in revenue was lost for the month of September. The loss for FY-04 was \$64,368 compared to \$81,784 in FY-03.

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- Due to Hurricane Frances, 30 palm trees were lost and approximately 100 sea grapes. There was some erosion of the dune but no structural damage to any of the buildings. Overall the course is in good shape as we get ready for the 2004-2005 season.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Our annual Halloween Happenings event which was held on Wednesday, October 27, 2004, at the Colony Hotel was once again a huge success. Approximately 250 residents, both young and old attended this family-oriented, fun event.

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

MEMORANDUM

TO: Recreation Advisory Commission
FROM: Russell Bitzer, Director of Recreation
SUBJECT: Staff Response to Recreation Advisory Commission Inquiries from the May 12, 2004, Commission meeting
DATE: August 5, 2004

At the May 12, 2004, Recreation Advisory Commission meeting staff was requested to follow up and report back to the commission on the following items:

- B. Mr. Bone asked staff to report back as to why the \$525,000 upgrade for the Phipps Park project does not include lights or stubbing for lights, and give us all the information on the decision not to have lights.

Staff Response:

Recreation staff did recommend that stub outs for light be included in the Phipps Park tennis plans. However, we were advised that it was decided not to include stub outs in order to keep project costs down. Also, Seaview had lights that were not being used to full capacity and that this facility was only 15 minutes from the south end. If demand increases in the future, and the Town Council were to approve lighting at Phipps, it could be added at a later date with or without stub outs. If the Seaview modernization is completed in FY-06 three (3) additional courts will be lit for a total of at least 7 courts. This should accommodate demand for evening play for the foreseeable future.

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2. Mr. Bone stated that at a previous meeting he asked staff if the Town could look at some other areas, like Bradley Park, to expand the Town's recreational programming.

Staff Response:

On January 14, 2004, the Recreation Advisory Commission recommended that the Town look for ways to increase the recreational use of other Town facilities to help alleviate overcrowding at Seaview Park. It was suggested that Bradley Park could be used for basketball courts, a sports field or a playground. Mr. Bitzer said staff would

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look into the Commissions suggestions and get back to them. Staff responded at the March 10, 2003, Commission meeting.

At the March 10, 2004, Recreation Advisory Commission meeting, Mr. Bitzer said that he had discussed the use of Bradley park with Alan Brown, Recreation Supervisor. He said that Alan indicated that we were not maxed out at this time although it is possible that in the future we would need to look at additional locations. He said that if in the future an additional facility were needed that Phipps Park might be more suitable than Bradley Park. Adequate parking is a problem at Bradley Park, the close proximity to the adjacent condominium and the passive nature of this entrance to Palm Beach and the requirements regarding open green space make it questionable as to its suitability. Note: please see March 10, 2004, minutes for detailed comments.

3. Commission requested information regarding the playground in the North End of Town

Staff Response:

It is our understanding that playground equipment at Palmo Way or Bradley Park is being reviewed by the Town's Public Works Department.

4. Mrs. Taca recommended that adult classes be held at the South Fire Station.

Staff Response:

Rod Gardiner, Recreation Supervisor, has advised me that Fire Rescue Department

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cannot guarantee room availability on a regularly scheduled basis.

5. Mr. Bone made the recommendation that staff propose to the Town Council that the Parks Division and the Recreation Department both be advised by the Recreation Advisory Commission

Staff Response:

Since the Recreation Advisory Commission is advisory to the Town Council, this type of recommendation should go directly to them. Since the Town Council receives the minutes of your meetings, they have been advised of your recommendation.

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6. Mr. Gross asked staff to report back with statistics regarding court usage at the Phipps Ocean Park Tennis Facility.

YTD (Oct-July)	2003	2004
Daily Adult Play	1,645	1,710
Daily Junior Play	181	207
Permit Play	3,387	4,293
Total	5,213	6,210

7. Mr. Bone made the motion that the Town be directed to come up with ways to expand recreation opportunities and present those to the commission in the form of a written report.

Staff Response:

Staff will discuss this item in greater detail at the September 15th, Recreation Advisory Commission meeting.

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