



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Recreation Department

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

November 9, 2005

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** - A meeting of the Town of Palm Beach Recreation Advisory Commission was held on November 9, 2005, at the Recreation Center. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Spaziani, Chairman, at 9:00 a.m. Commission members in attendance were Mr. Spaziani, Mrs. Agnello, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Coffield, and Mrs. Hickox. Alternate members in attendance were Mr. Della Guistina and Mrs. Taca. Absent from the meeting were members Mr. Bone, Mr. Jamison and Mr. Shulman. Staff members in attendance were Mr. Brown and Mrs. Walkowich from the Recreation Department and Mr. Langley and Mr. Bowser from the Public Works Department.
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Mr. Spaziani asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Taca made the motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Agnello seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- III. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2005, MINUTES** - Mrs. Hickox made the motion to approve the September 14, 2005, minutes. Mr. Della-Guistina seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- IV. OLD BUSINESS -**
 - A. Seaview Tennis Center Improvements - Presentation**

Mr. Brown introduced Mr. Langley, Public Works Assistant Director and Mr. Bowser, Town Engineer. Mr. Bowser apologized to the commission on behalf of Mr. Westervelt, designer from Global Sports who was unable to attend the meeting due to poor health.

Mr. Bowser presented three plans for the Commission's review. He reviewed all three plans, the following is a summary

 1. Two of the schematics show 7 courts instead of 8 this is due to the addition of covered seating areas between most of the courts. The width of the courts needed to be increased resulting in the loss of one court.

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2. The length of the courts will increase slightly giving more room between the fence and playing area. There will also be access to each individual court. In all three plans the existing backwall has been eliminated to accommodate the new width and shade shelters. However, a backwall can be placed on one of the courts.

The third plan shows no loss of courts, however it would require the courts to be moved west almost to the property line. This would place the courts directly in front of the existing entrance to the Recreation Center and would result in the loss of significant open green space.

Mr. Spaziani asked if the existing pro shop was to be saved or rebuilt. Mr. Bowser said he was unsure. He stated that the existing pro shop was not that old and cost the Town \$125,000 to build. Due to new building codes for flood zones he was unsure what it would cost to replace that building.

Mr. Spaziani said that he thought the plans were great. His only suggestion was to keep as many courts possible and that the tennis courts should be raised one level with a parking area underneath. Mr. Spaziani said, "I know it's expensive, but as you drove in today it was probably very hard for you to find a parking space and this is what we have to deal with on a daily basis. As a commission, this is what we've been hearing forever from the residents who use this facility. We have a major problem here, and this is the time that we can address the issue of the parking, build a state of the art tennis facility and address both issues at the same time."

Mr. Bowser said that Mr. Spaziani's suggestion could be a recommendation from the Commission to the Town Council. He said, "Staff tries to take the ideas and make them realities, so if you have an idea and council says yes staff see what you can do, how much it would cost and how you would do it, we can do that."

Mr. Spaziani said "I am making a suggestion to the Council that this idea actually be looked into, because I don't want this to come back and haunt us later. Residents saying that you didn't do anything about the parking when you had the chance. This is the only remedy that we've talked about for the last three or four meetings to solve the issue of parking. I know that this is above and beyond the ideas of typical people, putting tennis courts above parking areas, but at this point in time this is our best shot, our only shot at resolving this problem. We have nowhere else to go. We have no parking, there is no other greenspace that we can use and this is the only solution we can come up with. All that I'm requesting is that the Town Council take some time to look at this idea and then decide how to best handle the parking."

Mr. Brown suggested that Mr. Spaziani put his request in writing that the Town Council consider his parking solution at one of their future meetings. He said that staff cannot simply take the recommendation of the Commission and spend time and money with a consultant to produce these plans, it needs to come as direction from the Council through the Town Manager. Mr. Spaziani said that he would write a letter on behalf of the commission.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Hurricane Wilma Update

Mr. Brown gave an accounting of damage that was sustained during Hurricane Wilma.

Recreation Center & Tennis Facilities - There was minor damage to the fence on the baseball field. A drinking fountain compressor was damaged and extensive repair work had to be performed on the Seaview and Phipps tennis courts.

Golf Course - We received significant damage at the golf course. A lot of trees were lost and there was sand and salt water intrusion on the greens all exacerbated by the fact that we had no power so there was no way to run the irrigation pumps. Golf course staff in three and four man crews were on each green hosing and shoveling sand. Eventually we were able to get the situation resolved with generators from the Police and Public Works Departments.

Mr. Brown said that the good news was that the course was up and running. No grass was lost and people are back playing.

Mrs. Taca asked how the new generator worked? Mr. Brown said that it worked great, the center never lost power. He said that staff was able to get the comfort station up and running almost immediately which was a great thing for a lot of the residents who were without power, water and telephones. Mr. Brown said that Spencer Wilson, IS Director set up internet access and power strips were plugged in for people to charge their cell phones. He said that the internet access was so popular that one of the meeting rooms is going to be hard wired with outlets. Dr. Coffield suggested a wireless router also be installed. Dr. Coffield also suggested that we find a way for people to make long distance phone calls to contact relatives. He said, "I think it would be a nice attribute for a comfort station to let people know that if their phones are not working that they can come here to contact a relative to let them know that they are ok."

Mrs. Taca asked if there was a generator for the golf pro shop. Mr. Brown said "They do

not. We probably won't be considering one for the pro shop right away, however during the budgeting process I am going to be requesting generator back up for the maintenance facility because not only did we lose the irrigation pumps but we also lost the fuel pump." Mrs. Taca said, "Then the south end has no comfort station what so ever?" Mr. Brown said not at this time, but the golf pro-shop is not big enough to operate as a comfort center. Mrs. Taca said, "What about the fire house, that could be a comfort center." Mrs. Taca made a motion that the Town investigate providing a comfort station at the south end of the island, possibly at the fire house. Seconded by Mrs. Hickox, all were in favor.

Mr. Spaziani said "I thought the response by the Recreation Department was phenomenal. I didn't miss a beat at all with my work, I was able to bring my lap top here, charge it, forward my calls to my mobile phone. I had an existing office right here at this table. I found the staff to be more than congenial, they were just wonderful and made everyone feel at home and this facility was perfect. I want to thank you all very much, the recreation staff were incredible during that time of need for the citizens and I think you all did a fabulous job."

VII. ANY OTHER MATTERS - Mr. Spaziani asked Mr. Bowser if he had received any information regarding Ultrastrip. Mr. Bowser said that he had received some literature but had not had the opportunity to review it yet.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting was adjourned by Mr. Spaziani at 10:00 a.m.

<u><i>Regular Members</i></u>	1/12	3/9	5/11	9/14	11/9
Milissa Agnello	P	P	P	E (illness)	P
Michael Andrews	P	P	P	P	P
Bill Bone	E (legal)	P	P	U	E (illness)
Timothy Coffield	P	P	P	U	P
Gail Coniglio	E (illness)	P			
Arthur Gross	E (illness)	P			
Danielle Hickox				P	P
Stuart Shulman	E (illness)	P	P	E (illness)	E (illness)
Michael Spaziani	P	P	P	P	P
<u><i>Alternate Members</i></u>					
Joseph Della Guistina			P	P	P
Henry Jamison	P	E (illness)	P	P	U
Rita Taca	P	P	E (illness)	P	P

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

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Conflict of Interest Record 2005

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Michael Andrews					
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<u>Alternate Members</u>					
Joseph Della Guistina					
Henry Jamison					
Rita Taca					

LEGEND: X = Conflict of Interest