

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Recreation Advisory Commission

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2024, AT 9:00 A.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Recreation Advisory Commission (RAC) meeting was called to order on Tuesday, October 24, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Upon roll call, all Commissioners were present except Commissioner Jamison.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Pressly led the pledge of allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Vice Chair Harris, seconded by Commissioner Watts, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF APRIL 16, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

A. April 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Vice Chair Harris, seconded by Commissioner Dayton, to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2024, Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

V. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE AND STAFF REPORT

A. Director's Update and Staff Report

Director Mark Bresnahan presented a recap video of all of the activities and projects that have occurred in the Recreation Department over the past fiscal year. He commended the work of the Recreation Department employees. He spoke regarding the remarkable growth in programs in revenue over the past five years.

Assistant Director Rance Gaede provided an update on the project at the Seaview Tennis Courts. He spoke regarding the repurposing of benches at the courts. He spoke regarding the improvements being made by the new Tennis Manager, Dan Stover. He stated that they are working on improving signage at the courts and spoke regarding robotic mowers that have greatly improved maintenance of the field at Seaview.

Mr. Gaede provided an update on the hitting wall. He spoke regarding the previously approved option not being favorable but stated that they are continuing to explore other options that will be brought to the Commission in January. Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding the effectiveness of the robotic mowers.

Tony Chateauvert provided an update on the year at Par 3 Golf Course. He spoke

regarding the Point-of-Sale system and the issue of golf carts rusting due to the proximity to the ocean. He spoke regarding upcoming events at Par 3. He provided an overview of the revenue for Par 3 for the fiscal year. Commissioner Missner inquired about the percentage of Town residents vs. non-residents, to which Mr. Chateuvert responded.

VI. COMMENTS FROM THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSIONERS

Chair Pressly welcomed Mr. Stover to the Town. He commended Mr. Bresnahan on the video that was presented and commended staff on the increase in revenue and the renovations of Seaview, increase of hours at Phipps and all of the activities that were completed this fiscal year. He recommended trying to encourage the Shiny Sheet to write an article on the improvements.

Commissioner Dayton commended staff on the improvements over the past year, especially in the tennis programs and facilities. She thanked the Town for responding to Commissioners' concerns that had been raised regarding tennis coaching staff. She spoke in support of Dan Stover, the new coaching staff, new clinics and new app that was implemented for booking courts. She feels that the outcome of the changes that have occurred have been in the best interest for the Town's residents.

Vice Chair Harris expressed appreciation for the video that had been presented. He asked about the demand for the hitting wall as well as whether the Town has a ball machine, to which Mr. Gaede responded. He spoke regarding shade for golfers at Par 3 driving range. He inquired about whether a project to improve Phipps is still being considered, to which Mr. Bresnahan responded. Bresnahan spoke regarding the ongoing discussions with Town Council and the Preservation Foundation on the large-scale project. He addressed Mr. Harris' inquiry about pickleball courts. Mr. Harris spoke regarding looking into offering opportunities for padel, which is becoming more popular than pickleball. He inquired about parking at Seaview, to which Mr. Bresnahan responded. Vice Chair Harris expressed concern that the Recreation Commission is not involved in the decision regarding parking for Seaview. Discussion ensued on the parking issue at Seaview.

Commissioner Missner expressed concern over how Dan Minic had been treated during the turnover of staff in the Tennis Program. Mr. Bresnahan expressed appreciation to the former tennis pro and spoke regarding an improvement in contract management in the department. He spoke regarding the positive comments that he has been receiving with the new coaching staff. Dan Stover spoke regarding the credentials of the new coaching staff and addressed challenges that he sees in the near future.

Commissioner Roush addressed feedback that she has received from residents, specifically regarding the improvements in the Tennis Programs, the need for shade at Par 3 driving range, and the need for lights on the soccer field.

Commissioner Watts inquired about any attrition in play at Par 3 due to the opening of

other facilities in the area, to which Mr. Chateauvert responded. She commended Mr. Chateauvert and staff for the success and beautiful condition of the Par 3. She spoke regarding the possibility of a hitting wall at Phipps Ocean Park and expressed appreciation for the new app being used for reservations.

Vice Chair Harris expressed concern that the Recreation Commission's membership and meetings have decreased over the past few years.

Mr. Bresnahan expressed appreciation for the online reservation system. He spoke regarding the requests for a shade structure for the driving range and stated that he has done research and there are challenges because the driving range faces south. He provided an update on renovations of the old clubhouse and restrooms and rebuilding of the maintenance building. He spoke regarding padel and the Commission's and the Recreation Department's commitment to having pickleball courts built. Chair Pressly inquired about whether vendors have been contacted about the challenge to the shade structures at Par 3, to which Mr. Bresnahan responded. Discussion ensued on the priority of projects.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT PLEASE

Ellen Howe, South Ocean Boulevard, spoke regarding pickleball courts that have been installed in other municipalities and stated that the Town will need to consider how to make the courts attractive to players who now go to the other facilities. She expressed concern over stray golf balls hitting cars on South Ocean. Mr. Bresnahan provided information on plantings that were done to mitigate that concern. Discussion ensued on the design of the plantings.

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA

A. OLD BUSINESS

1. Field lights at Seaview Park

Mr. Bresnahan stated that he continues to receive input from residents who are supportive of lights at Seaview Park. He stated that the Friends of Recreation will be discussing this issue at its November meeting. If there is support from them, then it will come back to the Recreation Commission in January. Chair Pressly inquired about the demand for field lights and what programs will use them. Discussion ensued on the demand for field lights from various groups.

Tara Vecellio, Resident, spoke in support of field lights being installed at Seaview Park.

Vice Chair Harris spoke in support of getting information on the demand. Commissioner Watts spoke in support of getting this type of information but expressed concern over maintenance impacts if lights are installed. Mr. Bresnahan provided additional concerns that would arise from lights, specifically overuse of the fields. He spoke regarding the effectiveness of the new rope drainage system that was installed last year.

2. Fitness Center summer memberships

Director Bresnahan provided an update on summer memberships.

3. FY2025 Proposed Fees

Director Bresnahan stated that the new fees started October 1 and stated that there was a slight adjustment to the happy hour for tennis. Commissioner Dayton stated that her tennis team has begun using Seaview Café for their refreshments and encouraged other teams to do the same.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed 2025 meeting dates

- ~~Thursday~~, January 24 Friday - Scrivener's error verbally corrected in meeting
- Thursday, April 17
- Thursday, October 23

Motion was made by Commissioner Watts, seconded by Vice Chair Harris, to approve the 2025 meeting dates. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

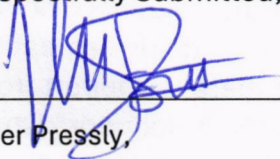
IX. ANY OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters discussed.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Vice Chair Harris, seconded by Commissioner Roush to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Grier Pressly,
Chairperson

Meeting audio is located at:

https://townofpalmbeach.granicus.com/player/clip/3068?view_id=5&redirect=true