



TOWN OF PALM BEACH
Recreation Department

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING
September 14, 2005

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** - A meeting of the Town of Palm Beach Recreation Advisory Commission was held on September 14, 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. Andrews and Mrs. Hickox. Alternate members in attendance were Mr. Jamison, Mr. Della Guistina and Mrs. Taca. Absent from the meeting were regular members Mrs. Agnello, Mr. Bone, Dr. Coffield and Mr. Shulman. Staff members in attendance were Mr. Bitzer, Mrs. Walkowich and Mr. Brown.
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Mr. Spaziani asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Jamison made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Della-Guistina seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- III. APPROVAL OF MAY 11, 2005, MINUTES** - Mr. Della-Guistina made the motion to approve the May 11, 2005, minutes. Mr. Andrews seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- IV. OLD BUSINESS -**
 - A. Commission Requested Information on Town Owned Properties** - Mr. Spaziani said that the Commission needed to address which sites they felt would be best suited for additional recreation facilities. Mrs. Hickox felt that the best site was the Tangier/Mira Flores site. She felt that this site was centrally located in the north end of Town and that the Palmo Way site was too far north and not a lot of residents would use it. Mr. Andrews also liked the Palmo Way site stating that it was near a bike path and people would already be passing by the location. Mr. Spaziani felt that the site at Mira Flores was too obvious and felt that since the Palmo Way site was more hidden that there would be less objection. He said that he did not envision a huge playground but rather a small park with a few swings, a slide and maybe a small jungle gym.

Mr. Bitzer said that the Commission didn't need to get into great detail designing the park that there were equipment companies that would come out free of charge and do the designing for them, while making sure that consumer safety and ADA standards were adhered to. Mr. Bitzer suggested that the commissioners concentrate on deciding on a location and then formally proposing the conceptual idea of these neighborhood pocket parks to the Town Council. The commissioners agreed and requested that this item be placed on the agenda for their November meeting.

B. Recreation Department Projects Update

- 1. Recreation Center Roof and Generator** - Mr. Bitzer stated that the roof tiles should be delivered towards the end of September beginning of October and hopefully the project would be completed shortly after that. The new generator has been installed and should be operational in two or three weeks. Mrs. Taca asked how big the generator was. Mr. Brown said that the generator was 200 kilowatts and that it ran on diesel fuel. Mr. Jamison said that it was his understanding that money for the generator had been donated. Mr. Brown said that Mr. Borislow donated \$50,000 towards the purchase of the generator. Mr. Bitzer said that now with the generator in place, the Recreation Center will become a comfort center for residents as needed after a hurricane.
- 2. Phipps Tennis Center** - Mr. Bitzer said that the anticipated completion date for the project was around Thanksgiving.
- 3. Seaview Tennis Center Improvements** - Mr. Bitzer said that preliminary plans have been drawn up for the project and that after the plans have been reviewed by staff they will be brought to a public meeting for residents to view and make recommendations. Mr. Andrews asked if there was any time frame yet as to when these meetings were going to be held. Mr. Bitzer said that he was unsure of the exact time frame but anticipated the public meeting would take place within the next few months.

Mr. Spaziani asked when the Advisory Commission would be allowed to look at the plans and construction costs of the project. Mr. Bitzer said that it would probably be at the public meeting. Mr. Spaziani said that he felt the commission should have the opportunity to review the plans prior to the public meeting. Mrs. Hickox agreed, stating that the commission should have a meeting and the opportunity to review the plans before they were made public. Mr. Andrews said, "Unless we see the plans in advance we don't really have any input." Mr. Bitzer said that Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works was heading up the project and that he would inform him of the commission's request.

Mr. Della-Guistina made the motion to hold a special Recreation Advisory Commission meeting to review the plans for the renovation of the Seaview Tennis courts. He said that the meeting should be scheduled prior to the public meeting. After all comments and suggestions had been reviewed then the commission would make it's recommendations to the Town Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Andrews. Mr. Spaziani asked to include in the motion that at this special meeting the architect and the director of public works, or his designee also attend and provide the commission with a presentation. The motion as revised was seconded by Mr. Della-Guistina, all were in favor.

Mr. Spaziani asked if the plans included any ideas about a parking solution. He said that he had spoken with the architect, Sheldon Westervelt, and had asked him to come up with some idea of what to do with the parking. He said that they had discussed an idea to put in underground or at level parking with the courts on top. He felt that this would alleviate most of our issues with parking. Mr. Spaziani said that with this type of plan we wouldn't lose any tennis courts because the tennis facility would extend into an "L" shape and could continue over the existing parking lot off of Royal Palm Way. He said that he new this was a big and possibly costly project, but felt strongly that this would alleviate this parking issue that everyone is so concerned about.

Mr. Spaziani said, "I've talked to Sheldon, he loves the idea, at least he did when I spoke to him on the phone, and he's done tennis courts on top of parking garages, this guy has a lot of experience doing this so I think we really should step back and look at this whole issue with the parking, with the Town and everyone up and down this street and I think this would be one way to alleviate that problem." Mr. Andrews, said "That's another reason why we should have our meeting before hand." Mr. Andrews asked, "Who ultimately would make the decision on how the courts would look." Mr. Bitzer said the Town Council.

Mr. Bitzer said "We do have severe parking problems at certain times of the day and maybe this type of tennis facility could be considered. The biggest challenge we have here at this Recreation Center is that the residents can't get to the classes they have registered for because they can't find a place to park. We have people circling the block who's kids are playing in a sporting event and they can't even come and watch because they can't get here. We hear continuous complaints and it's nothing new to us, we've tried for years to solve this problem. We've had employees parking off site at the Four Art Library, we even tried to get parking at the parking garage next door and were unsuccessful because they need the parking for their people." He said that

staff has worked with the Day School trying to use their field for parking especially on game days. Mr. Bitzer said, "On game days we've got cars double, and triple parked in the middle of the Royal Palm lot and then people from our classes can't get in or out of the parking lot."

Mr. Bitzer said that he has requested that parking for the Recreation Center be included in any study that the Town has planned. He said that he brought the subject up again at the last business plan meeting, explaining how important this parking problem is and really needs to be addressed. Mr. Spaziani said, "There's no doubt about the parking problems we have and I see no other way out of it. We don't have any green space, we have no where to go." Mr. Andrews said "We have to go up." Mr. Spaziani said "This is the only spot that we can put in additional parking that would help relieve this problem and if we have to spend the money so be it."

Mr. Spaziani, made a motion that it is imperative that the Town study the possibility of building an underground or first level parking garage at which time the Seaview Tennis Center could be built on top of the parking structure to help alleviate parking problems at the Town's recreation facility. The motion was seconded by Mr. Della-Guistina, all were in favor.

4. **Golf Course Drainage/Bicycle Path** - Mr. Bitzer said that the project should be completed in approximately six weeks. There has been a problem with replacement sod that was contaminated and that they were awaiting a new shipment.

Mr. Spaziani asked how much money the town was spending on water. Mr. Brown said that it was close to \$100,000. Mr. Spaziani said that he had recently been doing some appraisal work for a company in the Stuart area called Ultra Strip. He said that they have told him that they have designed a piece of equipment that would cost less than \$200,000 that could take well water and treat it, even if it has salt in it and turn that water so that it's potable water which could be used to water the golf course. He said we could probably recoup the cost of the equipment in about two years and this is a portable machine that could be used in other areas in the town if necessary. He said that their representatives would love to give the Town a presentation.

Mr. Spaziani made a motion that Ultra Strip, provide information for review by the Town and if the Town feels that this project is worthwhile pursuing then Ultra Strip could give a presentation. seconded by Mr. Andrews, all were in favor.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Fall Program Report** - This report is attached
- B. 2006 Meeting Schedule** - Mr. Spaziani made a motion to approve the 2006 meeting schedule. Seconded by Mrs. Hickox, all were in favor. The 2006 meeting schedule is attached.

VII. ANY OTHER MATTERS

A. Director of Recreation - Comments

Mr. Spaziani said, "This is Russ' last meeting and it is going to be almost impossible to find someone to fill his shoes. He has been a wonderful asset to this Town and there are not enough words that I can say, but thank you so very much for a wonderful opportunity to be on this commission with you and we all are going to miss you very much."

Mr. Bitzer thanked Mr. Spaziani and the commission. Mr. Bitzer said, "It's been a wonderful career and the saying that the secret to a successful career is to surround yourself with good people is true. I want to thank the whole staff for making me look good. It's been very rewarding and I'm very proud of what we've accomplished over the past 30 years. I always wanted to have a career where I felt that I was liked and appreciated. To leave feeling good, like I had really accomplished something, and I do."

Mr. Bitzer said it had been a great pleasure working with the commission over the years and felt that they were a great asset to the department. He stated that over the years the commission has helped provide accurate information to the residents of the community acting as the department's ambassadors. He said that their ideas, support of projects, the annual budget and at times delicate situations were invaluable, citing most recently their help with the public school renovation. He said that he hoped they would continue on the same path with the new director.

Mrs. Taca asked if a successor had been picked. Mr. Bitzer said that the Town had done a national search for his job and they had narrowed the field to five candidates. He was delighted to say that one of the final five was Alan Brown. The other four candidates consisted of a local person and three individuals from out of state. He said that they should name someone within the next three or four weeks.

Mr. Bitzer said that he was sure Mr. Elwell, Town Manager, would get a good person. He said that Mr. Elwell would probably be the most outstanding manager we've ever had.

He said that the thought the new director would do a great job as this person will have a great staff. Mr. Bitzer said "I hope for that because I'd like to come back some day, perhaps bringing my grand kids to a special event. I want to be proud of this department and hope that it excels in the future."

Mr. Brown said, "When I started here 21 years ago, this building was a hole in the ground, they were just building the foundation. Russ started eight years prior to that when it was a tennis court and two small buildings. To hear Russ tell his stories of when he first started, on the basketball court running a game and during breaks people were handing him registrations and he's putting money in his pocket and handing people receipts. Developing this department from those beginnings, as the first director, and building it to what we have now, a vibrant professional department was an incredible job."

Mr. Bitzer thanked everyone.

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

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

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

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Conflict of Interest Record 2005

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

LEGEND: X = Conflict of Interest