

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

September 12, 2001

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL - Mrs. Coniglio, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on September 12, 2001, at the Palm Beach Recreation Center. The Commission members in attendance were Mrs. Coniglio, Mr. Gavigan, Mr. Gross and Mr. Shulman. Alternate members in attendance were Mr. Fishman and Mr. Spaziani. Absent from the meeting was Mrs. Morris, Mr. Ochstein, Mr. Silken and Mr. Shore. Staff members in attendance were Mr. Bitzer, Mrs. Walkowich, Mr. Dytrych and Mr. Gardiner
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Mr. Spaziani made the motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mrs. Coniglio, all were in favor.
- III. APPROVAL MAY 9, 2001, MINUTES - Mr. Gavigan made the motion to approve the May 9, 2001, minutes. Seconded by Mr. Gross, all were in favor.
- IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Palm Beach Pro-Am Benefit Golf Tournament

Mr. Bitzer outlined the reasons why staff decided to discontinue the pro-am benefit golf tournament.

Mrs. Coniglio asked the commission for a motion to discuss this item further. Mr. Shulman made the motion to discuss this item, seconded by Mr. Spaziani, all were in favor.

Mr. Shulman said that he felt the \$14,000 in staff time should not be counted since the tournament was part of the staff's job and not extra work. He said that the reason he spoke at the Town Council meeting was not because of the money we get from the tournament but because the tournament was a tradition. He said that perhaps we can get other charities involved and since they would be the recipients of the proceeds then they would work at raising the money. He asked Mr. Dytrych if we could get the same pro's now that we got when the tournament was raising \$60,000 and \$70,000. Mr. Dytrych said that we were getting fewer big names and to get these pros we would
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have to spend more money. He said that last year we had to get teaching pro's from local

clubs and ask them to bring a team because we could not get enough players. He said that we had 7 or 8 of these teams and if you want to eliminate those teaching pros in favor of named pros, we would have to come up with at least 32 amateurs.

Mrs. Coniglio said that in the years where \$60,000 was raised, was that not due to having a major sponsor. Mr. Shulman said years ago there was a major sponsor but not in the past few years. He said that the money we raised the past few years was because of hole sponsors that Morton Shor got. Mrs. Walkowich said that with respect to Mr. Shulman's statement and the help that Mr. Shor had given us, a lot of those sponsors turned Mr. Shor down in 2000 and several of them who did contribute told us not to come to them in 2001. They felt that they had been giving to the tournament for 5 or 6 years in a row and felt that they now wanted to give to a different charity.

Mr. Gavigan said that with the current trend in the economy he felt that it was going to get even harder to get people to donate. He said we need to decide why we want the tournament, is it to make a profit or is it because we want to run something fun for the residents of the town. Mr. Bitzer said that he felt that Mr. Gavigan made a good point because if the tournament is being run for profit, then its questionable. He said that we will make more money from the improvement fee being raised from .50 to \$1.00 than we would make from the tournament. Mrs. Coniglio agreed. Mr. Bitzer said that this tournament takes a lot of time, 6 months of constant work and a lot of the work that Morton Shor did has now been passed on to the staff, soliciting donations with letters and follow up calls. He said that he questioned whether employees should be spending taxpayers dollars (in time) to raise money for other charities.

Mr. Gross said that most of these charities are limited to only two events per year and this may not be one that they want to do. Mr. Shulman said that it wouldn't be their event it would be our event. Mrs. Coniglio said, "Your asking us to bring in new people to generate the same amount of money. Kiwanis already has their tournament and if I recall correctly Larry Ochstein voted against this explaining to us that the Kiwanis already have a terrible time selling their own golf tournament." Mr. Shulman said, "Yes we do." Mrs. Coniglio then said that we are all well aware that it is very difficult to raise money and the only reason we raised what we did was the connection with the Rehabilitation Center. She felt that many of the donors felt that they were giving a personal kind of gift and the reason the Rehabilitation Center does not take an active part in the tournament is because they can only have two advertised functions per year in the Town. Mr. Shulman said that this is not their function they are recipients. Mrs. Coniglio said that people don't want to give to the Town of Palm Beach. Mr. Shulman said he agreed and that's why we should come up with other charities. Mrs. Coniglio said that based on the information they had been given and

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our conversation, she did not see anybody raising their hand to be a part of a golf tournament for the Town of Palm Beach. She said that if the Kiwanis are telling us they have enough trouble with their own tournament why would they give money to us. Mr. Shulman said that he disagreed as far as Kiwanis was concerned, he was a Kiwanian and

knew the board and most of the people were favorable when he told them about this idea.

Mrs. Coniglio said that she would appreciate it if Mr. Shulman would go to them and see if they would be willing to sponsor an event where we would split the proceeds. Mr. Shulman said that they will not sponsor the event, we're doing the event and they would be the recipients.

Mr. Dytrych said that we have confusing issues, first we're not going to raise money from people to give to the Town of Palm Beach so that eliminates that, the next idea is that we host a charity tournament and give the money to someone else. He said that we can be in the business of hosting tournaments, we do that 30 times a year. Mr. Dytrych said that organizations come to us and look for our help with the logistics of the tournament and we charge them for that, just like the Breakers would do. He said that's the business to be in, when a charity wants to come to us we'll do those tournaments but they are the ones doing the fund-raising part of it.

Mr. Shulman said I'm trying to go back to the old concept where we ran the event, got the money and gave it to the hospitals. Mrs. Walkowich said that the hospitals didn't help raise the money the commissioners did. Mr. Shulman said that the commissioner do not or cannot not go out and raise money so that's why I want to bring in one of these other charities to go out and raise the money. Mr. Spaziani said that what we need to do is tell these different entities that we have these facilities that are available and then if they are interested in doing that tournament they contact Mr. Dytrych and he gives them the information. He said the whole idea is to be more financially efficient by eliminating all this work and time from staff who could be doing other things. Mr. Fishman said that the time staff puts in on the tournament just isn't commensurate with the rewards. He said that many of these other tournaments that are being run the efficient way Mr. Dytrych describes can become traditional too and the people can participate in the same way. You're just eliminating one and maybe adding many.

Mr. Bitzer said that this concept is more in line with our financial action plan objective to get more groups on the course which will in turn make more revenue.

Mr. Gavigan said that there is no denying that some people were upset and there is a sadness that it is gone, it was a nice tournament that the Town has run for a long time and if

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you separate tradition from profit then you can run a different type of tournament for the residents and not have to worry about raising money. Mr. Bitzer said that he agreed and felt that we should offer some other type of event that is fun for the community.

Mr. Gavigan made the motion to end the Palm Beach Pro-Am Tournament and have staff pursue a Town non-profit type of tournament. Seconded by Mr. Fishman. Motion passed

in a 5 to 1 vote.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2002 Meeting Schedule - Mr. Fishman made the motion to approve the 2002 meeting schedule. This schedule is attached.

B. Recreation Program Report - This report is attached

VI. ANY OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Bitzer said that at the September 11, 2001, Town Council Meeting, the council members approved a plan for the Phipps Ocean Park Tennis facility and showed the commission the plan for the new courts. He said that the tennis courts should be completed around the middle of February and that the control building would be completed after the courts were built.

VII. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. by Gail Coniglio.

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Record of Attendance 2001

<u>Regular Members</u>	1/10					
		3/14	4/4	5/9	9/12	11/14
Gail Coniglio	P	P	P	P	P	

James Gavigan	P	P	P	P	P	
Arthur Gross	P	E (illness)	P	P	P	
Eileen Morris	P	P	E (illness)	P	E (illness)	
Larry Ochstein	P	P	P	E (illness)	E (illness)	
Stanley Silken	P	P	P	P	A	
Stuart Shulman	P	P	P	E (illness)	P	
<u>Alternate Members</u>						
Richard Raffo	P	P	P	P		
Michael Spaziani	P	P	P	P	P	
Allen E. Shore	P	P	P	P	E (illness)	
Ken Fishman					P	

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

**RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Conflict of Interest Record 2001**

<u>Regular Members</u>	1/10	3/14	4/4	5/9	9/12	11/14
Gail Coniglio						

James Gavigan						
Arthur Gross						
Eileen Morris						
Larry Ochstein						
Stanley Silken						
Stuart Shulman						
<u>Alternate Members</u>						
Richard Raffo						
Allen E. Shore						
Michael Spaziani						
Ken Fishman						

LEGEND: X = Conflict of Interest