TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Recreation Department

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

September 10, 2008 Minutes

I. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL -** A meeting of the Town of Palm Beach Recreation Advisory Commission was held on September 10, 2008, at the Recreation Center. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Milissa Agnello, Chairman, at 9:00 a.m. Commission members in attendance were Mrs. Milissa Agnello, Dr. Timothy Coffield, Mr. Joseph Della Giustina, Mrs. Danielle Hickox-Moore and Mr. Timothy O'Hara. Alternate members in attendance were Mr. Stephen Hall and Mr. Daniel McDonnell. Absent from the meeting were regular members Mr. Henry Jamison, Mr. Stuart Shulman, and alternate member Mrs. Rita Taca. Staff members in attendance were Director Mr. Jay Boodheshwar, Assistant Directors Mr. Alan Brown and Mr. Rod Gardiner and Office Manager Mrs. Lisa Walkowich. Alternate members who voted in place of absent regular members were Mr. Hall and Mr. McDonnell.

II. **COMMUNICATION FROM CITIZENS** – There were none.

III. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** – Mrs. Hickox-Moore made the motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Dr. Coffield, all were in favor.

IV. **APPROVAL OF THE MAY 14, 2008, MINUTES** – Mrs. Hickox Moore made the motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. O'Hara, all were in favor.

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Seaview Park Improvements**

1. **Multipurpose Field Project Update -** Mr. Gardiner stated that the project was essentially complete with a small punch list of minor corrections. He said that he was working with Mr. Jeff Sanon from the Public Works Department and the contractor to make these corrections. He said that the field was open and being used by the Recreation Center and both schools.

   Mr. Gardiner said that staff had already received positive comments regarding not only the field but the shade shelters that had been installed for spectator seating.

   Mr. Boodheshwar said that despite a few minor issues the field was in great shape. He said that the Day Academy had agreed to contribute towards half of the cost of the project and that the Town had already received a check for $50,000 with the remainder of the cost to be paid over the next two years. He also stated that in an effort to minimize wear of the field, staff was going to continue the prohibition of the rental of the field by organized groups as the commission had recommended earlier in the year.

2. **Seaview Tennis Center Renovation Update** – Mr. Brown stated that the project was progressing nicely and should be completed on time barring any weather issues. He said that the first five courts should be completed by the end of the month along with the back wall. This would allow us to re-open the playground. The remainder of the project was anticipated to be completed by the end of October.

   Mr. Boodheshwar complimented the contractor in charge of the project for doing such a good job in coordinating the multiple aspects of the project. Mrs. Hickox-Moore and Dr. Coffield complimented Mr. Boodheshwar and the staff for getting this project done.

   Mrs. Agnello commended Mr. Boodheshwar and the staff for their contributions to the project as well as successfully coordinating tennis activities at Phipps and all the other satellite locations while the construction of Seaview was taking place.

   Mr. Boodheshwar said that the department was planning a re-dedication event, tentatively scheduled for November 12, 2008. He said that the commissioners would be receiving an invitation after the date is finalized.

B. **Par 3 Restoration Project Update** – Mr. Raymond Floyd, in addition to donating his services as the project designer, is spearheading the fund raising efforts and has formed a committee, which also includes Mr. Hall and Mrs. Hickox-Moore from the commission. He said that Mr. Floyd is very confident in the committee's fundraising abilities and should easily achieve the goal of raising $4 million in private funds to match the Town's $2 million share.

Mr. Boodheshwar said that local architect, Jeffery Smith (Smith Architectural) has donated his services for the design of the clubhouse and that conceptual designs are nearing completion. He said that Mr. Scott Snyder has also donated his services to decorate the clubhouse.

The golf course restoration design work is almost complete and staff is in the process of submitting applications for the necessary state and regional permits. The project schedule remains on track, with a goal for breaking ground in February and completion date of November or December 2009.

Mr. Hall complimented Mr. Boodheshwar for his work on the project, stating that it was Mr. Boodheshwar's leadership and willingness to do what ever it takes that has inspired Mr. Floyd and the other members of the Par 3 committee.

Mrs. Hickox-Moore said that Mr. Floyd is extremely excited and focused about the project and that it was inspiring. Mr. Boodheshwar said that the project wasn't about one or two people but that a lot of individuals were behind this. He said that had it not been for Mr. Hall and Mr. Floyd Wideman's initial idea, we would not have been this far along in addressing the needs of the golf course.

Mr. Boodheshwar said that staff will be launching the "I Chipped In" program in the next few weeks. Staff is working on informational posters, with the hope to encourage residents to donate money, giving them a sense of ownership in the project, and also to build awareness and broad community support for the golf course. Mr. Boodheshwar also announced the implementation of the Hook a Kid on Golf program. Mr. Boodheshwar said that we are going to be implementing a beginner program in January at the recreation center with Start Smart Golf, getting our 5 – 7 year olds introduced to the game.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Head Tennis Pro – Management Model Review –** Mr. Boodheshwar said that this past Tuesday, Council approved an extension of the current Tennis Pro's contractual agreement through May of 2009 and then month to month there after if needed. The objective of this was to give staff time to look at our management model. He said that anytime we go through change we have a responsibility to evaluate if what we are doing is effective or not. He said that we are at a cross roads in tennis, and we would like to step back and look at our teaching services, evaluate our management model and see if there is a change that could be beneficial to the tennis community and to our enterprise fund.

The current agreement states that the pro receives 100% of the revenue from lessons and merchandise and pays the Town $12,000 per year for administrative costs as well as $7.00 per court/lesson hour for all lessons taught. The pro receives no salary or benefits and is responsible for hiring all the other pros as contractual instructors. Staff is considering not having a head pro, but hiring tennis instructors who would be contractual to the Town and work directly for staff. Mr. Boodheshwar said that we would look to hire pros that have specific disciplines such as juniors, adult group lessons, teams, etc.

Mr. Boodheshwar said that staff was interested in the Commission's opinion on what they felt the philosophy should be for the tennis division. He said we have a pretty comprehensive program in which the largest portion is open play. We have programs, mixers, tournaments, special events and teaching. The question to the commission was; do we want to focus more on teaching and less on other areas or more on open play and tournaments and less on teaching. How should our pie chart of services look?

Mr. Della Giustina asked what would be the purpose of going from having a head tennis pro, to employees running tennis, what were we trying to accomplish. Mr.

Boodheshwar said more control and flexibility of the program and facilities as well as the potential for financial gain. Mr. Della Giustina said that he felt that we should stick with the current model that we use and felt that we would be able to find a tennis professional who was willing to give up the merchandise and take a smaller percentage of lesson revenue, possibly even 50%.

Mrs. Agnello said that it has been her experience, having spoken with pros in the past, that being a head pro at a municipal facility was not advantageous. She said that they don't make enough money to go along with the headaches of managing the facility unless they have a salary or benefits, and that is not an option.

Dr. Coffield said that he could see both sides of the discussion. He said that tennis pros have a passion for the game and aren't necessarily business people, not focused on the business end of the job and many of them need to be managed. However, he also understood Mr. Della Giustina point in that you want to attract a strong pro, because if you can, tennis players throughout the community will gravitate to that pro.

Mr. Boodheshwar said that with the current programming structure and so much time taken by open play that it would be difficult to attract a very strong pro especially with restrictions as to the times and number of courts that could be booked for teaching and the limited compensation available. He said that the junior program needs to be rebuilt but the resources are there, as we have the court availability in the afternoons. The question is growth in our adult teaching; we would like to see a shift to more group lessons and clinics so we can maximize the use of each court.

Mr. Della Giustina said "I guess the question is do you want to have what you have now or a real tennis center a teaching tennis center." Mrs. Agnello said that we want to have some teaching but the problem is court availability; we have to find a balance between teaching and open play. Mr. Boodheshwar said that is why we need to hear from this commission; what they think the tennis program's focus/philosophy should be for this community?

Mr. O'Hara said that before a decision could be made he would like staff to come back with statistics on open play vs. lessons to see what percentage we were looking at. In addition, he wanted to know the break down of adult vs. junior play, residents vs. non-residents, and privates vs. group lessons. Mr. Boodheshwar said that he would get the statistical information for the Commission's November meeting. Mrs. Agnello asked Mr. Boodheshwar to include information regarding current commitments to the pro regarding court time for private lessons.

B. 2008/2009 Meeting Schedule – Mrs. Hickox-Moore made the motion to approve the 2008/2009 meeting schedule as presented. Seconded by Dr. Coffield, all were in favor.

VII. ANY OTHER MATTERS

A. **Staff Report –** *(The report is attached)* Mr. Boodheshwar asked the commission if they had any questions regarding the report. There were none.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT – Mrs. Hickox-Moore made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Della Giustina, all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m. by Mrs. Agnello.

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Record of Attendance 2008

Regular Members	**1/9/08**	**2/29/08**	**5/14/08**	**9/10/08**	**11/12/08**
Mrs. Agnello	P	P	P	P	
Dr. Coffield	P	P	P	P	
Mr. Della Giustina	P	P	P	P	
Mr. Jamison	P	P	P	U	
Ms. Hickox-Moore	P	P	U	P	
Mr. Timothy O'Hara			P	P	
Mr. Shulman	P	P	E	E	
Alternate Members					
Mr. Hall			P	P	
Mr. McDonnell			P	P	
Mrs. Taca	P	P	P	U	

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

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Conflict of Interest Record 2008

Regular Members	**1/9/08**	**02/29/08**	**5/14/08**	**9/10/08**	**11/12/08**
Mrs. Agnello					
Dr. Coffield					
Mr. Della Giustina					
Mr. Jamison					
Ms. Moore					
Mr. O'Hara					
Mr. Shulman					
Alternate Members					
Mr. Hall					
Mr. McDonnell					
Mrs. Taca					

LEGEND: X = Conflict of Interest