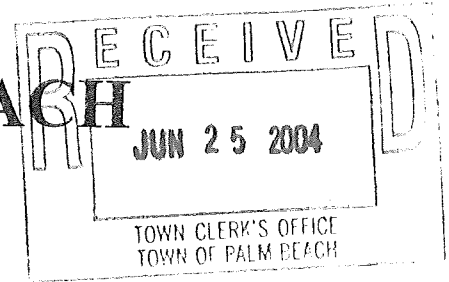


TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Recreation Department



RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

May 12, 2004

- I. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** - A meeting of the Town of Palm Beach Recreation Advisory Commission was held on May 12, 2004, at the Recreation Center. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gross, Vice-Chairman, at 9:00 a.m. Commission members in attendance were Mr. Bone, Dr. Coffield, Mr. Gross, Mr. Shulman and Mr. Spaziani. Alternate member in attendance were Mr. Andrews, Mr. Jamison and Mrs. Taca. Commission members absent from the meeting were Mrs. Coniglio and Mrs. Agnello. Staff members in attendance were Mr. Brown and Mrs. Walkowich.
- II. **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS** - Mr. Gross welcomed the new commission members, Mr. Shulman, Mr. Jamison and Mrs. Taca.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Mr. Gross asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Spaziani made the motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Andrews, all were in favor.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MARCH 10, 2004, MINUTES** - Mr. Spaziani made the motion to approve the March 10, 2004, minutes. Mrs. Taca seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Update on Palm Beach Public School Renovation** - Mr. Brown said that on April 14, 2004 representatives from the Town of Palm Beach had an opportunity to meet with representatives from the school board regarding the renovation project. He said that at this meeting staff had the opportunity to view the final plan and give comments and suggestions regarding the plan. Mr. Brown said that after a review, staff had only a few items that needed to be addressed. They are as follows:
 1. Mr. Brown stated that construction is scheduled to begin in June and completed in time for the '05-'06 school year. He said that the baseball field was going to be shifted slightly to the east to accommodate dugouts and that the basket ball court was going to be relocated slightly to the south and should be ready to use by the beginning of the school year in September. Mr. Brown said that the existing goals were going to be replaced with adjustable outdoor goals which would accommodate the younger children in our

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programs. He said that during the construction project, the recreation department would have use of the basketball court and the athletic field.

2. Mr. Brown stated that during the construction project all the staging will be done off of Cocoanut row and that there will be no construction traffic on Seaview Avenue. He said that the contractor was working on where their workers were going to park and it seemed that they were going to be bussing them to the site.
3. Mr. Brown said that Jim Bowser, Town Engineer was concerned with the new drainage plan. He said that currently rainwater from the school drains on to Cocoanut Row, Royal Palm Way and the baseball field. He said that the new plan calls for exfiltration trenches underneath the baseball field and all the water draining on to the field. Mr. Brown said that the Town Engineer requested that the field be re-graded so that in addition to the exfiltration trenches the surface water will sheet off towards Royal Palm Way, the way our athletic field drains, otherwise there will be puddling. We will be meeting again with the school regarding the drainage solution.
4. The other issue concerned the Recreation Center's main entrance on Seaview avenue. He handed out a proposed landscaping plan from the school board which called for a variation of high and low palms along and around the perimeter of the building. This plan was subject to approval of the financing from the school board.

Mr. Jamison said that he had recently attended a couple of meetings at the Day School, as a parent, regrading security. He said that he was concerned with construction workers on one end of the property and 8th and 9th grade girls on the other side of the property. He asked if we had a policy of some type with respect to construction workers leering at kids, how do we separate the two. Mr. Brown said that a fence is going to be erected completely around the construction site. Mr. Spaziani said that typically the fence has a screening on it so that you can't really see through it and it also helps keep dust contained. Mrs. Walkowich said that if any child ever feels uncomfortable, they need to just go to a teacher or recreation staff member and let them know so that it can be handled. Mr. Jamison said that he was satisfied with that.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Proposed FY-05 Budget** - Mr. Brown gave the commission a brief overview of the FY-05 budget. He said that there were some modest increases in the budget so that the current level of service could be maintained.

Mr. Shulman asked if the golf course was making any money. Mr. Brown said that right now profitability based on last year was up 40% year to date. He said the Mr. Dytrych is estimating the golf course to break even however the worst we could possibly expect would be a \$30,000 deficit. Mrs. Taca asked what caused the increase. Mr. Brown said that rates were increased, there was more daily play and more group outings.

Mr. Andrews felt that the commission should encourage group outings amongst the people they knew as well as within their own business. Mr. Bone suggested that we contact area agencies through an e-mail advertising the golf course. Mr. Brown said that the golf course has its own website golfontheocean.com and there is a link from the Town's web site to the golf course's web page.

Mr. Shulman suggested that someone should talk to the new manager at the Four Seasons. He felt that they would be interested in making some sort of deal. Mr. Bone asked if they would want to get a cut rate because he felt that we should charge them more. Mr. Shulman said, "I don't think he cares about that. I feel he wants to be able to make some kind of an arrangement, like we have a golf facility and put that in their advertisement." Mr. Brown said that Mr. Dytrych has been in contact with the area hotel's concierges and believed he recently had an outing for them.

Mr. Brown said that the last item on the budget was the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan. The two major items on the plan are: the completion of the final two courts at the Phipps Ocean Park Tennis Center and the renovation of the Seaview Tennis Courts to make them a more modern facility. He said that we were hoping to have the Phipps project done in 2005 and the Seaview project in 2006. Mr. Brown said that the Phipps project needed to be completed first so as not to disrupt leagues and lessons. He explained that the projects had been submitted and that the completion dates of the projects were subject to the overall capital improvement plan for the whole town. Mr. Bone asked if the \$525,000 was for just two more courts. Mr. Brown said that it was for the two courts, the new bathrooms and any utility work that would need to be done. Mr. Bone said, "So there is no facility that is managed or open to the public there's just the bathrooms and the six courts?" Mr. Brown said that there is a pro-shop that is open when the courts are open.

Mr. Gross asked if the courts were going to be lighted like the courts at Seaview. Mr. Brown said that the project did not include lighting. Mr. Bone asked if the reason there is no night play is because we simply don't have the money to buy the lights or is there a prohibition because of the residents. Mr. Gross said that the Town was concerned about the residents in the nearby condominiums. Mr. Shulman said that the residents in the Reef would be directly impacted. Mr. Bone asked if there was a need for night play and if we had lights on the courts would they be used. Mrs. Taca said that she felt that residents who use the facility were a little elderly to be

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playing at night. Mr. Bone said that he remembered this subject being addressed when the courts were first built and that maybe it was time to revisit it. He felt that at the very least we should have the ground work laid for lights in the future. Mr. Shulman said the he felt people would rather play at night especially at this time of year and the summer. Mr. Bone said "We are an advisory committee and it just seems to me that we should think about things like this. Somebody somewhere along the line made the decision that there was going to be a lot of complaints about lights, so lets not put lights there." Mr. Spaziani suggested that we survey the residents in the area to see how they feel about lighted tennis courts. Mr. Brown said that there was one more item to consider and that was that the park, by ordinance, closes at sundown, so it would also require an exception to a variance to the ordinance.

Doctor Coffield said "When you are talking about shifting play from the Seaview courts to the Phipps courts while Seaview is under construction, how much activity is there in the evening that will be shut down because there are no lights there?" Mr. Brown said that any construction would be done in the summer months so there would be plenty of light. Mr. Bone asked "Do we have a consensus or decision about what we're going to do with regard to making any recommendation about lighting in that park?" Mr. Gross said "I don't think the Town wanted lights in the first place." Mr. Bone said I feel we are an advisory committee and should make a decision right now. It's like Mr. Spaziani said, at the very least we have to consider it in an intelligent way, besides just somebody somewhere saying we think we're going to have objections so lets not do that. Mr. Brown said that he thought a survey had been done and that there were more reasons for not putting in the lights than just because there might be some complaints. Mr. Bone said that maybe at the next meeting staff could report back to the commission and tell them the Town's position on putting lights down at the Phipps Tennis Center. Mr. Brown said that we can find that information and report back to the commission. Doctor Coffield said that we should also look at the utilization of those courts in the evening to see if there are people playing right up until sundown. Mr. Brown said that 90% of the play is in the morning and there is very little play in the afternoon and currently there is not a need for lighted play but that doesn't mean that there couldn't be a demand in the future.

Mr. Bone said that at the very least I want to know an answer to this question. "When this \$525,000 dollar project is done, will it at least include the stubbing for future lights. Mr. Brown said "I can address that right now. That is not currently in the plan. Mr. Bone said that it seems like that would be a smart thing to do. Mr. Jamison asked why all the courts at Seaview are not lit. Mr. Brown said that if the

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renovation plan is approved all the courts would be lit at that time. Mr. Gross asked if staff had any numbers on the amount of people who played at Phipps in January and February this year compared to last year? Mr. Brown said that he didn't have those figures but that he could get them for the next meeting.

Mr. Bone made the motion that the commission approve the budget as recommended by the staff with the following addition: 1. That the staff report back to us as to why the \$525,000 upgrade for the Phipps Park project does not include lights or stubbing for lights, and give us all the information on the decision not to have lights. Seconded by Mr. Jamison, all were in favor.

VII. ANY OTHER MATTERS - Mr. Gross asked if there were any other matters that needed to be discussed. Mr. Bone said that as an Advisory Commission we should find a way to expand the recreation opportunities in the town. He stated that at a previous meeting he had asked staff if the Town could look at some other area, like Bradley Park, which could be utilized to expand the Town's programming. Mr. Bone said that he had suggested a piece of property in West Palm Beach that is now being used by St. Ann's school. Mr. Spaziani that he had gotten the lease for St. Ann's through the Town, because they are building a new gymnasium and had no place for athletics. Mr. Bone said, "Well that's wonderful and to me it's just proof that it's possible to use that for some sort of an expanded recreation facility." He said, "I'm not going to take away from St. Ann's, I just dream that as a Recreation Advisor to the Council that we, through the efforts of our staff, come up with ways to expand recreation opportunities"

Mr. Spaziani asked, "Wasn't there talk about a playground in the north end?" Mr. Brown said that the Palmo Way property in the north end is going to become a playground but that it is not part of the Recreation Department. It is part of the Parks Department, which is a division of the Public Works Department. Mr. Bone asked who advises the Parks Department. Mr. Brown said that to the best of his knowledge they did not have an advisory board. Mr. Bone said, "I think they should be put under our purview, we should be advising them. We're the Recreation Department for the Town why is it that the Parks Department has no advisory committee. Mr. Brown said that it may be because there are not many actual recreation parks within the town, that mainly what the parks division is in charge of is open green space in town. Mr. Bone said, "Sounds to me like that's going to change very quickly if they're putting in a play ground. I believe that is a flaw in the procedure or the way our system is designed. We have an Advisory Commission that advises the Council and yet we have nothing to say about the Parks Department." Mr. Gross said, "But it's a different division." Mr. Brown said that they are actually part of a different department so it may be difficult for a Recreation Advisory Commission to make recommendations regarding a different department. Mr. Bone said that maybe, a representative from parks can sit at this

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very table and give us updates, especially if one of the parks is going to have a playground. Mr. Bone made the motion that the staff propose to the Council that the Parks Division and the Recreation Department both be advised by the Recreation Advisory Commission. Mr. Andrews asked Mr. Brown if he would invite one of the parks people to attend one of the Commission's meetings. Mr. Brown said that he would. He said that Mr. Ugi, Facilities Maintenance Division Manager, in Public Works did come to us and asked us to put him in touch with the same company that put in the Seaview Park playground. He asked us for our recommendations on the best type of playground equipment. Mr. Bone said, "Mr. Chairman I'm hearing from staff that they are in fact doing things as we would like them to do but I still stand by my motion and ask if there is a second and have the minutes reflect that we made this motion." Dr. Coffield seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Mr. Bone said that he was more than willing to listen to Mr. Brown talk about that park and any other opportunities, but what he was looking for was some sort of a written proposal to the Commission listing the possibilities so the commissioners can all think about it intelligently. He said that he wanted a report that lists areas to expand, with pro's and con's and any upcoming projects. He said that things don't ever get done unless as a Commission, we recommend to the

Council, that we need to expand recreation opportunities in our Town and it maybe something as incredibly far fetched as buy another piece of property. Mr. Bone said, "If we don't dare to dream big it never happens." Mr. Gross said "Especially since there's quite a bit of money coming in from the marina income, which we never had before. Maybe the Town will change their attitude about spending the money."

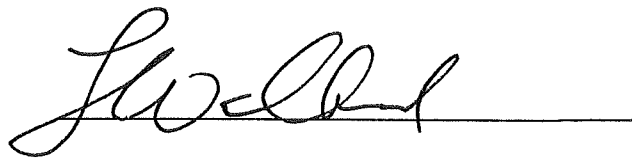
Mr. Bone said, "I just believe that change happens from the grass roots otherwise it's too comfortable and we have been comfortable along time with the facilities we have. But everyone here would have to admit they're inadequate. The master plan for the Town is to do anything we can to increase the Town's appeal to families, people who live here year round with children, but yet as a Commission we are not doing our duty when we don't actively sit around, through the efforts of staff thinking of ways to expand recreation opportunities. That's the number one appeal to families." Mrs. Taca said that she had spoken with Mr. Bitzer about this subject and had suggested that some of the adult classes could be expanded and held at the south fire station. Mr. Bone made the motion that the Town be directed to come up with ways to expand recreation opportunities and present those opportunities to the Commission so that they can consider the possibilities and make recommendation to the Town. Seconded by Mr. Shulman

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Mr. Andrews asked is there anyway we could use Bradley Park. Mr. Brown said staff did look at Bradley Park and verbally reported back at the March meeting, but what Mr. Bone is requesting is a written report on these types of items. A vote was called for, all were in favor.

Dr. Coffield said that each year the daddy daughter date night is held on the same night as one of the three major fund raisers in the Town. He said that it happens every year and you see fathers in tuxes having to bolt out of there and the daughters aren't happy to have to leave. He said, "We've got to do something about that because there's got to be better long range planning here, we know when these three events are going to be every year well ahead of time and lets not plan the Daddy Daughter Date Night on the same night as a major fund raiser." Mr. Brown said that staff would look into his request and asked Dr. Coffield if he could provide staff with those dates since we also have to plan our event at least a year in advance and the original idea of the event was to have it coincide with Valentine's Day. Mr. Spaziani said, "I used to take my daughter Brittany but she's gotten too old. I miss it, it's a great night."

VIII. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting was adjourned by Mr. Gross.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to Mr. Gross, is written over a horizontal line.

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Record of Attendance 2004

<u>Regular Members</u>	1/14	3/10	5/12	9/15	11/10
Milissa Agnello	P	P	E		
Bill Bone	P	E (illness)	P		
Timothy Coffield	P	E (illness)	P		
Gail Coniglio	P	P	E		
James Gavigan	E	P			
Arthur Gross	E (illness)	P	P		
Eileen Morris	E	A			
Stuart Shulman			P		
Michael Spaziani	P	E (illness)	P		
<u>Alternate Members</u>					
Michael Andrews	A	P	P		
Henry Jamison			P		
Rita Taca			P		
Thomas Turchan	A	A			

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

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Conflict of Interest Record 2004

<u>Regular Members</u>	1/14	3/10	5/12	9/15	11/10
Milissa Agnello					
Bill Bone					
Timothy Coffield					
Gail Coniglio					
Arthur Gross					
Stuart Shulman					
Michael Spaziani					
<u>Alternate Members</u>					
Michael Andrews					
Henry Jamison					
Rita Taca					

LEGEND: X = Conflict of Interest