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| Directory | Recreation | Type | Minutes | Category | Recreation |


RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 14, 2003

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL - A meeting of the Town of Palm Beach Recreation Advisory Commission was held on May 14, 2003, at the Recreation Center. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Gail Coniglio, Chairperson at 9:00 a.m. Commission members in attendance were Mrs. Agnello, Mr. Bone, Mrs. Coniglio, Mr. Gavigan, Mr. Gross, Mrs. Morris and Mr. Spaziani. Alternate member in attendance was Mr. Andrews and Mr. Coffield. Staff members in attendance were Mr. Bitzer, Mr. Brown and Mrs. Walkowich

II. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS - Mrs. Coniglio welcomed and congratulated Mr. Timothy Coffield and Mr. Michael Andrews on their appointment to the Commission.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Mrs. Coniglio stated that she wanted to make a change to the agenda and add under New Business item B - Boundless Playground. Mrs. Coniglio asked for a motion to approve the agenda with this change. Mr. Spaziani made the motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Gross, all were in favor.

IV. APPROVAL OF MARCH 12, 2003, MINUTES - Mrs. Coniglio asked for a motion to approve the March 12, 2003, minutes. Mrs. Agnello made the motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mrs .Morris, all were in favor.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Update on Palm Beach Public School Renovation** - Mrs. Coniglio stated that the decision by the Council at their special meeting included the following: 1. Just the east campus would be used, 2. the historic 1925 building would be preserved, 3. the ball field would remain intact and 4. the existing media center would be demolished. She stated that at that meeting the following concerns were brought to the Council's attention: 1. How the school would be fenced in, 2. How the classrooms, that will abut the basketball court, will effect the use of this area, 3. The location of the covered play area behind the fence and the recreation department's ability to use it, 4. The deliveries to the cafeteria on Seaview Avenue and 5. The School Boards request that parking on Coconut Row be designated for the public school only.

Mrs. Coniglio said that she has been assured by the Town and particularly by Building and Zoning that those deliveries to the cafeteria will be made very early in the morning prior to either school opening. Mrs. Coniglio said that she asked the members from the school board



to please meet with the Commission prior to fencing in the school, since there were some concerns. She said the school board assured her that the covered play area would be accessible for use during the day and in the afternoon to allow use by the school and recreation center.

Mr. Bitzer said that despite the massive building planned, the baseball field had been saved. He congratulated the Commission for all their hard work and for saving the ball field and preserving that open green space.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Proposed FY-04 Budget** - Mr. Bitzer reviewed the FY-04 Recreation Department Proposed Budget explaining to the Commission that the Recreation Department may become an enterprise fund and that it would be linked with the marina under the new Leisure Services Department. He stated that as an enterprise fund the department would no longer be supported by tax dollars but would have to pay for itself through the fees collected.

Mr. Bitzer then reviewed the capital improvement projects:

Recreation Center: Mr. Bitzer explained that this year the improvement to the irrigation system at the recreation center was scheduled to be completed. He stated that the plan is to install a second water line, divide the irrigation of the property in two so that we can have two zones going at one time which will allow us to water the whole facility and comply with water restrictions.

Seaview Tennis Center: Mr. Bitzer said the only proposed project slated for the Seaview Tennis Center is the lighting of courts 5 and 6.

Phipps Ocean Tennis Center: Mr. Bitzer stated that a storage building was proposed for Phipps Ocean Tennis Center to provide indoor storage for our equipment and materials for the tennis courts.

Mr. Bitzer stated that the Citizens Association had written a letter to the Mayor and Town Council strongly requesting that a fourth court be added at Phipps Ocean Tennis Center.

He said that they have quite a number of people who have signed interest lists that want to participate in senior league play and in order to do that the league requires 4 courts. He said that a fourth court would also help alleviate the large number of residents who cannot get a court in the mornings during the season.

Mr. Bone said that he felt the extra, fourth court was critical. Mr. Spaziani agreed. After a lengthy discussion Mr. Bone revised his motion to read as follows: The Commission urges the Town Council to spend the capital to add a maintenance shed and a fourth tennis court to make the Phipps Ocean Tennis Center more operational and more functional in every way for the residents of the Town. Seconded by Mr. Spaziani, all were in favor.



Mr. Bone stated that he felt it was unfair to expect any recreation department to be totally self supported from users fees. Mr. Bone said that he would hate to see the Recreation Department fall into the trap that we can't do anything or improve anything if it doesn't pay for itself. Mr. Bone felt that since the Recreation Center and the docks were going to be linked through the budget, that the docks should fall under the auspices the Commission. He felt that this was the only way to protect the surplus of money from being used for some other purpose other than leisure services. Mr. Gavigan said that he was concerned that if the commission appeared to be greedy and wanted to grab too much for power, someone would take the docks away.

Mr. Andrews suggested that the Commission empower their chairman to present the Commission's thoughts to the powers that be. Mr. Bitzer suggested that the Commission wait until the staff had the opportunity to work with this enterprise fund and really see what kind of revenues vs. expenses there will be over the next year. Mrs. Coniglio agreed.

B. **Boundless Playground** - Mr. Bitzer said that the department had received a call from an agency that promotes playgrounds that can be used by all children regardless of physical limitations. He said that they were interested in doing a playground in the Town of Palm Beach and particularly liked the Phipps Ocean Park site. He said that he told them the only problem with Phipps was that the resident children weren't really there, and that the north end of the island may be a better location. He said that there had been some interest from residents about putting a playground at the old Palmo Way property.

Mrs. Coniglio said that there was an anonymous donor who is now unsure if they still want to do the project in Palm Beach. She said that in order to put the playground at Palmo, there had to be a voter referendum because it is already designated as open green space. Mrs. Coniglio said that she was concerned about the Palmo location because there is no parking and it's a one way street.

Mr. Bitzer said that the Town indicated they were interested in this project and the primary location was Palmo Way, but they would considered doing the project at Phipps. Mrs. Coniglio asked if there was any more discussion regarding the playground. There was none.

VI. ANY OTHER MATTERS - none

VII. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 10:30

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RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Record of Attendance 2003

| *Regular Members* | 1/15 | 3/12 | 5/14 | 9/10 | 11/12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Milissa Agnello | E | E | P | | |
| Bill Bone | E | E | P | | |
| Gail Coniglio | P | P | P | | |
| James Gavigan | P | P | P | | |
| Arthur Gross | P | P | P | | |
| Eileen Morris | E | P | P | | |
| Larry Ochstein | P | A | | | |
| Michael Spaziani | P | P | P | | |
| Stuart Shulman | E | P | | | |

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| *Alternate Members* | | | | | |
| Michael Andrews | | | P | | |
| Timothy Coffield | | | P | | |
| Ken Fishman | P | P | | | |

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

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Conflict of Interest Record 2002

| *Regular Members* | 1/15 | 3/12 | 5/14 | 9/10 | 11/12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Milissa Agnello | | | | | |
| Bill Bone | | | | | |
| Gail Coniglio | | | | | |
| James Gavigan | | | | | |
| Arthur Gross | | | | | |
| Eileen Morris | | | | | |
| Larry Ochstein | | | | | |

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| Michael Spaziani | | | | | |
| Stuart Shulman | | | | | |
| *Alternate Members* | | | | | |
| Michael Andrews | | | | | |
| Timothy Coffield | | | | | |
| Ken Fishman | | | | | |

LEGEND: X = Conflict of Interest