



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Recreation Department

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

May 9, 2007 Minutes

- I CALL TO ORDER – I CALL TO ORDER** – A meeting of the Town of Palm Beach Recreation Advisory Commission was held on May 9, 2007, at the Recreation Center. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Michael Spaziani, Chairman at 9:00 a.m. Commission members in attendance were Mr. Spaziani, Mrs. Milissa Agnello, Mr. Michael Andrews, Dr. Timothy Coffield, Ms. Danielle Hickox, Mr. Kenneth Schechet and Mr. Stuart Shulman. Alternate members in attendance were Mr. Joseph Della Giustina and Mrs. Rita Taca. Absent from the meeting was Mr. Henry Jamison. Staff members in attendance were Director Mr. Jay Boodheshwarheshwar, Assistant Directors Mr. Alan Brown and Mr. Rod Gardiner, and Office Manager Mrs. Lisa Walkowich.
- II APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** – Mr. Spaziani said that under Any Other Matters he had a letter from the Palm Beach Day Academy that he would like read into the minutes. Mr. asked for a motion to approve the agenda with changes. Mrs. Agnello made the motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Della Giustina, all were in favor
- III APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
 - A. March 14, 2007 – Regular Meeting** - Mr. Spaziani asked for a motion to approve the March 14, 2007 minutes. Mr. Della Giustina made the motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mrs. Agnello, all were in favor.
 - B. April 26, 2007 – Special Meeting** - Mr. Spaziani asked for a motion to approve the April 26, 2007 minutes. Mr. Della Guistina made the motion to approve the minutes with one change. Seconded by Dr. Coffield, all were in favor.
- IV OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Seaview Tennis Center Renovation Update** - Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said that earlier in the year the Council put on hold the “at grade” renovation project for the Seaview Tennis Courts in order to give further consideration and additional research for an elevated facility. Since the January meeting, staff has visited some similar facilities in the area, talked to operators at these facilities to determine what kind of challenges they have in regards to maintenance and playability. He said that at Council’s direction staff met with the Day Academy and Public School to determine their interest in financial participation. Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said that the Day Academy is willing to work with us financially but the public school was not. Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar then gave a Power Point presentation showing the revised plans for the raised tennis facility. After a lengthy discussion the

following comments and recommendations were made by the Commission members.

Mrs. Agnello said that it was deplorable to turn our recreation facility into a concrete monster. She said the bottom line is that parking all over the island is a problem, but that was the nature of the beast, living on this kind of island. Mrs. Agnello said, “This is the entrance to your Town’s Recreation facility and it’s going to be surrounded by the dumpster at the Public School and a parking garage.”

Mr. Schechet said that he felt that the Commission needed to comment on how this structure would effect recreation in the Town, and not solve the parking problem. He felt that this project would have a devastating effect on recreation and that’s what we ought to be telling the Council. Mr. Schechet said, if in fact they find no other way of alleviating the parking problem then it needs to be their decision. He said that we have never seen the consultant’s report, we are not schooled in what the other options are and he wanted to know where we were on using any of the other space on the north side of Seaview.

Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said that at the January commission meeting, the different options were discussed but that the area of the Town’s focus is on our property since all the other options required the use of private property. Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said that another alternative would be to elevate only a couple of courts and just extend the parking lot that we have now and capture another 20 or 30 spaces which will also lower the cost of the project.

Mr. Spaziani said that he felt the Commission would like to see the original renovation take place, however we have a parking issue that needs to be addressed. He stated that he has been this commission for 10 years and all he ever heard about is parking. He said that we need additional parking and if you don’t do the elevated plan you’re going to take away green space. Mr. Spaziani said, “Gail Coniglio and I spent endless meetings with the Public School to save 20 feet of green space. We can’t go around putting parking spaces where ever we want and take up green space. This is probably the only answer to the parking issue.”

Mr. Schechet asked how high the light would be if we elevated to tennis courts. Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said that staff anticipates the playing surface of the facility would be eleven to twelve feet above grade and another 22 feet for the lights which would make it approximately 33 feet. Mr. Schechet asked if there was any way to measure the wind 10 feet above the courts right now, because I mentioned once before that we have a wind problem now and it’s a fairly serious one. Mr. Spaziani said I thought that would be addressed with the angled fencing which would cut down the wind. Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said, “It’s going to be windier, how much more I don’t know, we could probably find some sort of wind measuring device, elevate it and test it but our winds here are so inconsistent that it depends on the day that your doing it because some days you have no breeze.” Wind is going to be an issue, more of an issue for some people and really not an

issue at all for others, it really depends on skill level. Mrs. Agnello asked if the courts would have the awnings between them. Boodheshwar, yes. Mr. Schechet said that this project would also knock out afternoon and evening play at the height of the season while construction was taking place. The only alternative we have if we close this facility down is Phipps. If this goes forward, or maybe part of what we tell the council is in order to maintain any kind of play in town what so ever that putting lights into Phipps, should they decide what they are going to do ought to be considered part of this project.

Mr. Boodheshwar said that it is certainly an option, it is a short term seasonal option, but that is something that you need to debate and decide if it is worth the cost. Mr. Schechet said what we are not talking about here is the effect on the tennis program and the pros. Mr. Spaziani said we discussed this back in January or February. Mr. Schechet said but we are not addressing this now and it's serious, so if there is anything that can be done to alleviate the negative effects of his project they should be aggressively pursued. Dr. Coffield said but that would be an issue regardless of what plan is chosen, so are we discussing the elevated courts or original project. Mr. Schechet said with the elevated courts it is a particular problem because you've got at least one seasonal closure and we all know this project could easily go two years. Dr. Coffield said one thought that he had was we are looking at this plan, elevating the courts, internally we're talking about whether it's a good idea or a bad idea, I think part of our world, if we were to go along with this plan how would it be most favorable to the Town and we need to tweak this thing so that if it was to go forward we need to look at all the aspect of it so that we would alleviate as many concerns as we could up to a point. I think the point at which it is decided whether it's in the best interest of the Town is really, I don't know how much of that falls on us. I mean we present that as the best favorable possible plan that we could give the town but at the council meeting you're going to people saying who's interest is it serving, is it good for the town and I just don't know how far ahead we can anticipate that kind of reaction is going to be amongst our selves. He said I think our job is to just give them the best possible scenario if they decide to do that but then step aside in terms of whether its something whose interest the parking serves and whether we think its in the best interest in of the Town to raise the courts.

Mr. Shulman said, I think the whole town is changing you've got a bunch of younger people in town and I think there's going to be more use. We can't just stay the way we are and go no where.

Mr. Andrews said, "I believe that the Recreation Commission's job is to provide more opportunities, better opportunities for the residents of the Town. I feel that this project goes in that direction. I agree with what Mr. Spaziani said, this has been addressed over and over and we've been changing the band-aid on this for awhile and at some point in time we are going to have to address it and I think the Town will understand." Mr. Shulman agreed.

Mr. Shulman asked if we needed to have a motion on the subject. Mr. Spazini said now that we had already presented this to the Council on previous occasions. Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said that Council wants us to keep talking about this subject, your opinions will be conveyed in the minutes and council will get them. The plan is for council to have more discussion on this particular issue in the coming months, possibly June or July. Luckily we have a design done for the at grade renovation but if we are to elevate that is going to require months of design and council is going to have to make a decision this summer when a lot of our seasonal residents are not here to achieve an April '08 start date. I would expect that if council does go in the direction of an elevated facility the decision needs to be made at some point by the end of the summer to give us the proper time to do the design work. Mr. Shulman how will this project be affected with the new tax law coming in from Tallahassee. Mr. Boodheshwar said absolutely, we don't have an extra 4 million dollars in the enterprise fund to pay the difference, and it wouldn't be appropriate to use all the recreation dollars for a facility, public parking infrastructure. So how do you pay for it, you borrow money and those of you have been at the council meetings the last couple of days councils spent quite a bit of time talking and urging caution and slow movement that requires borrowing or expending large amounts of money and the reason is the tax reform legislature that's going through Tallahassee right now, worst case scenario could mean millions of dollars lost. It's going to be deep and significant it effects the town, it effects the Town's bond rating, it effects actual dollars and not only is it going to require holding off on some projects it's going to require cutting expenses and services as we know it. We expect something will happen to effect us but we don't know to what degree. Mr. Spaziani said that he did get a call from Brooks in regards to cost of this whole project and he seems to think that they have some realestate in west palm beach that they could possibly sell and use for funding this project. Mr. Boodheshwar said that he doubted that we could get this facility paid for just by leasing spots.

- B. Par 3 Master Plan Update** – Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said that the process is moving along, staff finished last week the definition of the scope of work, it's in the hands of our purchasing department and we expect the RFP process and Council's final approval to take us into late August early September. The actual master planning we expect to be completed by sometime in early November. He reviewed the scope of work which includes the following: The consultants will meet on site with the master plan committee to get feed back for use and their analysis of the golf course, to complete a field inventory and analysis and provide recommendations for the following items including but not limited to tees, greens, fairways, rough and bunkers, our overall landscaping plan, ponds, cart paths, practice range, irrigation system and pro shop facility. We are next going to want them to prepare a draft master plan describing the areas of concern and propose improvements so we can get feed back and then present the final draft master plan to the Town's committee and then provide a final master plan with cost estimates and then their final task will be to present the final master plan to the Town Council.

Mr. Spaziani said that someone brought up at a recent town council meeting the issue of people donating money towards a public/private venture and in this master plan for the golf course there was some talk of this type of venture and I think we need to talk about this. Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said, as I understand it, the biggest concern that I sensed from council was the issue of conditions applied to a donation. I know that this is going to be a subject of debate at the June council meeting and I think council is heading in the direction of creating some policy to guide how the town accepts donations. Up to date there hasn't been any monetary commitment just the commitment that they are going to try to raise the funds for this project, but there has not been any request that there will be conditions.

- C. **FY 2008 Budget Development/Action Planning** – Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said that the approach to the budget process for the upcoming fiscal year has been very different because we knew that tax reform was coming so the approach that was used this year is that the departments were given target numbers that they could not exceed. If you look at the summary you will see that the recreation enterprise fund is made up of five different program areas and you will see that our total target number of 4,870,000 we came in at approximately \$36,000 less. We have submitted a budget that is .6 percent above and beyond the current fiscal year that we are in, this is a very conservative, lean budget. We don't think it is going to effect our services, especially in our programs and events areas, we continue to improve and add new things. But those new things paid for themselves so in a nut shell we are looking at a .6% increase in our budget. With regard to revenues overall there are different percentages depending on the program, but we are looking at a 4.33% increase in revenue above and beyond what was projected for this current year.

Mr. Schechet said that after reviewing the information he noticed that revenues in all areas went up except tennis which went down were there extraordinary expenses in 2007. Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said that the decrease that you see in tennis is due to the elimination of Jim Hay's position. That was something that we planned on last fiscal year, Jim will be retiring the end of the season and we will be retaining a contractual pro that will not be an employee of the town. Mr. Shulman asked if Mr. Dytrych had the same kind of contract as Mr. Hay. Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said that Mr. Dytrych has a pro-manager contract so he is an employee of the Town with a supplemental pro contract. And as I mentioned when we did our department assessment a year ago that through attrition we are going to split those positions, I think it provides for a better management and controls so the idea long term is when Rick retires we will change the position. Mrs. Taca said that staff needed to be applauded for a job well done.

Dr. Coffield said, "I think that it/s part of our role as the Advisory Commission that we are looking at a significant number of major areas involving recreation totally development and as we do that we should keep in mind opportunities in mind to add additional revenue sources and I think that is a key factor in any of our

planning there will be escalating costs things that we have no control over and for a time things will get tighter and tighter if we don't look at opportunities for the town to bring in additional revenue through additional services, like retail opportunities as we look at expansion of our major facilities. Mr. Boodheshwar said that with that said I would be remiss if we didn't point out that for the tennis program we are looking at some small increases you all know that the rates that we charge for annual permits is way below market value. Dr. Coffield said that I would also like to comment and that is I would like and I think the Town would like to see differences in a Town resident rate and a non resident rate and I visited the par3 a while back and there is no difference at all. Mr. Boodheshwar said that is the only facility where we don't have a rate difference. Ms. Hickox said there used to be a difference, why was it changed. Mr. Boodheshwar said we have annual passes for residents and non residents with a rate difference. And as a resident you can play golf very cheap if you buy an annual pass. We figured it out that some of the long time members that play there are playing for as little as \$5.00 a round, they are paying less than \$1,000 a year. So I think the idea was yes we have something special for the resident at a very cheap rate the no one else can get but for the business, we already have multiple rates, seasonal, twilight etc. and to now double that made it very complicated. Mr. Shulman said but if you already have all those rates you might as well add a few more. Mr. Boodheshwar and then what do you do, we are at the market threshold for our facility and we did not propose any fee increases because quite frankly during the season to play the par 3 is as expensive if not more then some of the big courses so if wanted to go to a dual rate system do we reduce the charge for a resident if we do that that's revenue lost and to increase the cost of the non resident will drive away business. Dr. Coffield said the reason I made my comment was because we were talking about tennis and I didn't know if we were going to continue with dual rates. Mr. Boodheshwar said that the golf business is struggling, its flat, its bumpy because of tourism the ritz being down did not help us at all. Our numbers our down, Tennis on the other hand is booming we continue to increase in participation and majority of our play are residents, it's a totally different situation and I guess you make those decisions based on what's going, but once we get this facility fixed we are going to propose probably a significant increase. Mr. Shulman asked what percentage of non residents use the par 3. Mr. Brown said approximately 75% of the play at the par 3 is non-resident.

D. Lake Drive Park Master Plan – Mr. Boodheshwar said that the process was very successful where we go from here is very questionable. Those of you that were at the Monday Town Council meeting, council spent quite a bit of time talking about what to do next. Two things that happened, staff was directed to move forward with bidding for the police dock the other item that needs to happen for the June meeting is a list of action items, a punch list of items and what it is going to cost and what it means and a time table to prioritize what is more important. As I see it there are some very easy things that there is great concensus that is going to happen in the next few months and that is cleaning up of the clutter in the park consolidating some things that is not going to cost a lot of money. The marina getting going now and designs for improving these facilities. So that is going to move forward in the next 3-

5 months in a very strategic prioritized way. Anything outside of the marina technically hasn't been the responsibility of the enterprise fund there was some discussion at the meeting if council does approve the expansion of one or more of the docks for additional revenue that revenue could be used to do some of the park improvements. A lot of discussion centered around the PW water resources building and the concerns from the neighbors and staff of moving that building. And the tax reform issue is playing a role in going forward with the project.

V NEW BUSINESS

- A. Organized Field Usage/Rental** - Mr. Boodheshwar said that historically for many years our field here is an open park and any one from anywhere in town can use it and what we have seen in recent years is an increase in adult league practice type use. Last year in the budget process we implemented a fee system where we would rent the field to these groups. Most of this play happens during daylight savings time. We went through a period of 2-3 weeks notifying these leagues that if they are going to play here they have to pay. We started enforcing this about a week ago. We had one group come in and got a permit but the other two groups disappeared. But separate from that but because of the phase III Water restrictions this field is getting watered once a week so its' our opinion and we have acted on this we are not allowing any kind of rental of the field. This bought us some time and staff had some discussion and what I am concerned about is that anything that we amend or change our policies as they exist today for rental of any recreational space, whatever we do to try to react to a group or situation can affect another group or situation. For example there have been suggestions from the community to get the list of all the people who are here instead of taking people at their word that 51% are residents or work in the town that we get the list and verify employment. That takes a lot of staff time and we don't have the resources to do that and then if we do that for the field do we do that for the kids birthday parties when we rent out these rooms. Do we do that so there is a consistency issue if we do something for one group and not the other group are we walking a fine line there of discrimination. So we've got a couple of ideas that we want to throw out to you and we are interested in hearing your opinions are in regards to organized play and how we define organized play. We define organized play as a routine use of the field with large groups of people, ie. A Tuesday or Thursday night 6:00p.m. every week soccer club coming fully dressed in cleats, that is an organized use. Six kids on xmas break from school playing pickup lacrosse we don't classify that as organized play.

A couple of ideas that we batted around is we can create a separate permitting policy vs. the building different procedures that you have go through different scrutiny that you have to go through to rent the field vs. the building but the question is, is that legal. Another idea is not allowing any kind of organized play, if it is kids team we will rent the field for that purpose. Another idea is no field rentals are allowed and no organized play is permitted with the exception of our

programs and the schools programs. The last idea is that we don't rent the field or the building and we do away with facility rentals which reduces liability, and reduces impact on facilities.

Ms. Hickox asked how often is the building rented on a yearly basis. Mrs. Walkowich said maybe 12 times a year. Mr. Shulman asked how much revenue do we get from these rentals. Mr. Bood said it is very minimal and after you back out all the costs it's maybe a \$1,000 - \$1,500 dollars a year. Mrs. Taca asked how much is a permit for the field. Mr. Bood said \$65/hr. Dr. Coffield asked what else is required to get a permit. Mr. Bood said that there is an application that you fill out and sign an affidavit stating that everything is true we have a list of conditions, it has to be town serving 50% or more and they pay their fee and a damage deposit. Ms. Hickox asked if you turn around and say we are only going to rent to children will adults say they are being discriminated against. Mr. Bood said whatever we decide to do differently is going to require some legal review. Dr. Coffield said once you do that then people are going to need insurance, once you charge the field then you assume responsibility for people playing on that field. Mr. Gard said this applies to the building too. If someone rents the auditorium we have a staff member here but it is a group of adults supervising children not to the standards that we would supervise them so there's liability for rentals in the building.

Dr. Coffield said that there are other towns that have rental policies and maybe we need to find out what other places do and look at what our options are. Mr. Shulman for \$1,000 dollars a year it's not even worth talking about, I say do nothing no facility rentals. Dr. Coffield said I think it boils down to not so much making money but oversight and regulation of the field because teams will come and play and monopolize the field and how do you deal with that, it's kind of all combined in the same issue do you let them just come and use the field and are they taking the field away from others. Mr. Bood said we wouldn't allow that we would have signage and an existing policy that does not allow for organized play without a permit so if we say there are no rentals and no organized play allowed you can't have a team come in and monopolize the field.

Mr. Spaziani asked if we were covered with some type of insurance in case something were to happen. Mr. Bood said we are covered as a municipality as a sovereign community there is an inherent risk dropping in and using the field and part of the facility rental application is a hold harmless agreement.

Mrs. Agnello said that it is not used that much and I would hate to take away that opportunity for a town resident to have a party or use the facility. Mr. Andrews asked if the system we are using is broken I don't see any problem. Mr. Bood said that some residents have claimed that it's not broken but not as tight as it should be the suggestions that we received is that we need to verify that it is town serving that we need to check their employment of all of these individuals and that takes a lot of time. I'll give you a comparison someone bringing in a new business on the island they are required to have a CPA sign off that this is town serving so the idea of applying a stricter process to rent the facility seems Dr. Coffield said that there are going to be more and more instances where we are questioned as to what the policy is and I think what's going on now is the policy is undefined and I think what people are saying is what is the policy.

Mr. Bood said the policy is find the question is should we continue to take people at their word when they sign off on that rental that it is town serving and that is where the process ends. Mr. Spaziani asked how many rentals do we anticipate having in a year. Mr. Bood said about 20. Mr. Spas said and how much time would it take for staff to verify that information. Mr. Bood said that we don't if we have someone renting the field we can maybe spend a couple of hours trying to verify employment. Ms. Hickox said can't you ask them where they work. Mr. Bood said yes but then the question is do we ask all the kids coming to the birthday party the same question. Do we have separate procedures for the field vs. the building and then the other concern from certain residents is say you do verify it now you need to have a staff person out there on Sunday mornings to check off the names and id's do they are not giving you a list of people that are residents or employed in town and then people actually using the field are a totally different group. This is a suggestion that we have gotten that is impractical.

Dr. Coffield asked if the field rentals were seasonal. Mr. Bood said no that we can't rent the field for a season but only for a few weeks at a time. Mrs. Agnello said there is only so much checking that you can do for a \$65 hour fee you can't have a staff person spending 3 hours checking residency or employment. At some time you have to take people at their word.

Mr. Bood said that what I'm hearing from you all is that the policy that we have is reasonable. Dr. Coffield said then what is the issue that the policy wasn't being enforced because we heard this weeks ago.

Mrs. Agnello said that one of the residents at the April meeting felt that the field rentals were not town serving and that the department should request a list of individuals who were going to playing on the field and check everyone and where they work.

Mr. Spaziani said "I think if we just do some due diligence, just checking on that list that they give us, that's the best we can do.

Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said, "Here's the thing, the most recent rental that we had this year was two Sunday's in row, we have no other rentals scheduled on the field for the rest of the year, we are not going to take any because of the drought situation. We asked for a list when that person came in and applied to use the field which is very different, we have never asked that from anyone else. So we need to pick a position, do we ask everyone for a list or we don't, we can't treat groups differently. Mrs. Agnello said if your not going to follow up on this list then what's the purpose of the list. Mr. Spaziani said then that way we can say we got a list and we did check on it and here's our findings and at least we've done due diligence. Mrs. Hickox said you could take three people on the list and check. Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said, I don't know if we can do that legally, for a select group, we would have to do that for everyone. Mrs. Walkowich said if I have a resident mother who rents the auditorium, kid goes to the day school, well it's the 5th grade class. Well that whole 5th grade class might be 49% residents and 51% non-residents so now I have a parent who comes here with her 5 kids for

the past umpteenth years and I have to tell her I'm sorry, you can't rent the facility and bring that 5th grade class over here, that's my concern. I'm asking this group for a list, why am I not asking the parent who wants to have a birthday party for a list.

Mr. Gardiner said were talking about a classic cost/benefit. We're talking about a \$1,000, impact on the facility, liability issues and now add staff time for verification. Mr. Andrews said your liability issue is some what addressed when in the contract it says that 51% of the people need to be residents, you can't go any deeper then that, without some administrative costs. Mr. Boodheshwar said someone could still sue us and say that we didn't mop the floor totally and were negligent because it didn't dry. If their not in the building at all the liability goes away. If there in the building regardless if their signing off and an accident happens we're going to get sued because we're the town. Like any other Town if some one gets injured in a municipal facility they are going to sue. Mr. Coffield said the point is, I would hope that this commission would not bow to that and restrict ourselves in every possible way of being sued, because we wouldn't serve much in terms of recreation if we did that, but in the same time if we act prudently and just come up with our best effort in terms of maintaining the policy with out going overboard. Mr. Spaziani said but if you sit here and consider the costs and the staff time to go through all this stuff, it's just not worth it for \$1,000 a year. Mr. Coffield said, but is that serving the residents of the town. Mr. Shulman said, are we going to upset the apple cart because of a few people who want to rent the facility once a year, I don't think it's worth it.

Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said that one of the options I suggested was that we don't rent the field, we can rent the building but we don't rent the field to anybody. The field is just for drop in recreational play and programs only and we eliminate the rental of the field, no organized play allowed that's already in place and we're not going to rent to anyone that's an option too. That does effect the Town to some degree because we've had some soccer birthday parties. We can classify if you rent the building and they are playing around on the field that's ok, but we are not going to reserve the field. Mr. Coffield said, I would like to review this some more and not set policy today, I think we need to look at how other municipalities deal with these issues, I think they would be happy to fax us their policies and share information. Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said, it's going to one of the things we talked about, just drawing from my experiences in other places and what we did to control field uses. The unique situation in palm beach is that we have only one field and other towns have acres and acres of options. So it's a little different. Mr. Gardiner said I agree with Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar, I have worked at other places and my experience with field use is unique here because it's just the one building. Mr. Coffield said what about the building and renting the rooms, is that unique? Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said no, here it's really a service in a lot of communities it's a profit center, it's a revenue strain. They market their rooms for wedding receptions and bridal showers. They are using their community centers as a profit center and they also have staff earmarked just

for rentals. We have to struggle sometimes getting staff to work the rental and it means a full time person having to adjust their schedule. Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said we make due with the demand that is currently in place if that demand increases we are going to have a hard time meeting that demand, but as it exists to day we get it done. It can be a pain but we get it done as a service to the community. Mr. Coffield said I just think that if a mom called and wanted to have a party here and we say no party. I like to look at things from all different angles before we make a blanket decision. I'm not saying that we ultimately may decide to restrict it but I just want to make sure that we give every angle consideration before making a decision. Mrs. Agnello said, I think Mr. Boodheshwar has a good suggestion that we should just rent the building and not the field. Even on a good year the field takes an unbelievable amount wear and tear.

Mr. Andrews said that at the town council meeting Mr. Paul Leone was fairly emphatic of saying that he believed that we weren't taking very good care of this field and if we were it would be much better and there wouldn't be a usage problem. I think it's at least worth talking to him to see what his ideas might be. Mr. Boodheshwar said he's right, we acknowledge the fact that the field could be in a better more consistent shape throughout the year, it just cost more. Mrs. Agnello said that he did recognize that it might be due to budget constraints. Mr. Boodheshwar said that he personally spoke with Mr. Leone and he understands that we are aware that the field could be improved if we had more money and that's probably the direction we're heading with the Day Academy. They are open to helping us more with finance to do more to keep the field in shape. But in moving forward we are going to try to implement a system that improves the maintenance of the field, the details have not been worked out yet. Mrs. Agnello said and they should contribute more because if you calculate the time spent on that field the majority of the time is day academy activities. Mr. Brown said that they have traditionally paid half or more of any repairs, re-sod, aerification but they have not been contributing to the routine maintenance of the field such as mowing, fertilization and insecticides. Mr. Boodheshwar said as we move forward and in preparation of the new school year, quite frankly, beyond the field we have a punch list of things that we need to talk to the day school about, some areas of concern and partnership issues that we need to talk and have some understanding and maybe bring to light some concerns that the head master may not be aware of and there is a transition in leadership and we want to use this opportunity to meet with the new headmaster. We see this summer as a good opportunity to maybe build on the relationship we have had with the day school.

Mr. Spazi asked when we were going to resurface this whole area. Mr. Boodheshwar said that we did not include in our capital proposal for next year anything for the field because when the budget was due back in April we did not know what was going to happen with the field. However we fully expected that if nothing happened with the field that we need to do something. We are going to do something minor this summer to improve the playability and address some of

the areas on the field. We are going to be talking about some sort of improvement with the field, new drainage, grass, bleachers, shade shelters and we are going to talk to the day school as part of our discussion this summer and their financial participation and not a quid pro quo because they are using the field they need to help us out.

Mr. Spaz said to get back to the issue at hand, the question is whether to continue renting the field vs. the building. Mr. Shulman said I make a motion to listen to Jay about just renting the building and not renting the field. Seconded by Mrs. Agnello. Mr. Andrew said you can't make a motion to listen don't you have to make a motion to recommend. Mrs. Agnello said continue to rent the building but discontinue to rent the field. Dr. Coffield said now is that for the time being? Mr. Shulman said until we change it. Mr. Andrews said You've changed it yourself I don't understand the need for a motion, Mr. Boodheshwar already stated that the field was not going to be rented because of the draught, so it's under control at this particular point in time.

Mr. Spaziani asked for a vote, all were in favor.

VI ANY OTHER MATTERS

Staff Report – This Report is attached

Mr. Spaziani stated the he had received a copy of a letter sent to the Mayor and Town Council from John Thompson, Headmaster of the Palm Beach Day Academy. He read the letter into the minutes. (A copy of this letter is attached).

Mr. Spaziani said that Mr. Thompson was proposing a master plan that would encompass Recreation Department facilities, Day Academy facilities and possibly the Public School and Hebrew Academy's facilities. He felt that with all the projects going on in Town and within the Recreation Department it was not prudent to spend any money on a master plan. In addition Mr. Spaziani stated that a tremendous amount of money has been spent on repairing and renovating the Recreation Center. He estimated that over the years, between hurricane damage repairs and improvements, close to half a million dollars has been spent on a brand new roof, a new viewing room and additional office space. He felt that to knock down this building and move it somewhere else, was not a viable plan. Mr. Spaziani said that instead of spending 25,000 to bring in a consultant, he felt that the Commission was capable of giving input and deciding if this facility needed to be redeveloped.

Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said that being involved in some of the meetings regarding with the parking and traffic, the Day Academy's idea was that before we put up an elevated tennis facility with parking, it might be prudent to have a master plan. He said that the Day Academy wants to look at Seaview Park and the surrounding schools as one campus. Mrs. Agnello said that she couldn't see

the need for a master plan. Mr. Andrews said that if we do what Mr. Thompson was suggesting in his letter then we would have Hebrew academy, the Day Academy and the Public School telling us what they think we should do with our property. He said,

“There’s nothing wrong with getting their input, being a good neighbor, but I don’t want them telling us what to do and where to locate buildings to their advantage.”

Mrs. Agnello said that if we are going to do a master plan, it should be for our residents and not for the schools or anybody else. Mr. Schechet asked, “Does the term master plan imply blowing up the whole facility or is it just a thought.” Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said that last year one of the things that came out of our assessment was the need for a master plan. He said that he defined a master plan that was more of an operation plan and not physical improvements. Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said that he envisioned more of a strategic plan for the Recreation, where we see ourselves in five years from now, what areas we should be focusing on programmatically and with facilities.

Mr. Schechet said that he felt that the Town had enough major expenditures on the horizon, that we did not need to take a functioning facility and look for ways to spend more money. He felt that a strategic plan as Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar defined it is extremely important. That we needed to look at the age of the population and how that’s changing and what the needs of the population is going to be in a couple of years. Mr. Schechet said “I don’t even think you can do a physical plan until you know that.”

Mr. Coffield said that he felt the intent of the letter from the Day Academy was to consider the big picture before we make major expenditures for renovating the athletic field or possibly elevating tennis courts. Mr. Coffield said “If you don’t do this before you put in elevated tennis courts, when are you ever going to do it? I guess the point of the letter, at this juncture, is to take a step back and look at it.” Mr. Coffield said that he was not in favor of hiring someone and felt that the Commission and staff could handle the task.

Mr. Boodheshwarheshwar said that he felt Mr. Coffield had made a good point, and at minimum we could look at this property and go through a thought process. Mr. Spaziani said that he felt this discussion should be tabled and revisited in September. The commission agreed.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

**RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Record of Attendance 2007**

<u>Regular Members</u>	1/10/07	3/14/07	4/26/07	5/9/07	9/12/07	11/14/07
Mr. Spaziani	P	P	P	P		
Mrs. Agnello	P	U	P	P		
Mr. Andrews	U	E	P	P		
Dr. Coffield	P	P	P	P		
Ms. Hickox	P	P	P	P		
Mr. Schechet	P	P	P	P		
Mr. Shulman	E	P	P	P		
<u>Alternate Members</u>						
Mr. Della-Giustina	P	P	P	P		
Mr. Jamison	P	E	U	A		
Mrs. Taca	P	P	U	P		

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

**RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Conflict of Interest Record 2007**

<u>Regular Members</u>	1/10/07	3/14/07	4/26/07	5/09/07	9/12/07	11/14/07
Mr. Spaziani						
Mrs. Agnello						
Mr. Andrews						
Dr. Coffield						
Ms. Hickox						
Mr. Schechet						
Mr. Shulman						
<u>Alternate Members</u>						
Mr. Della-Giustina						
Mr. Jamison						
Mrs. Taca						

LEGEND: X = Conflict of Interest