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RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MARCH 12, 2003

I. Call TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

A meeting of the Town of Palm Beach Recreation Advisory Commission was held on March 12, 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. Coniglio, Mr. Gavigan, Mr. Gross, Mrs Morris, Mr. Schulman and Mr. Spaziani. Alternate member in attendance was Mr. Fishman. Absent from the meeting was Mr. Ochstein, Mr. Bone and Mrs. Agnello. Staff members in attendance were Mr. Brown and Mrs. Walkowich

II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Mrs. Coniglio asked for a motion for the approval of the agenda. Mr. Spaziani made the motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Shulman, all were in favor.

III. **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 15, 2003, MINUTES** - Mrs. Coniglio asked for a motion to approve the January 15, 2003, minutes. Mrs. Morris made the motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Fishman, all were in favor.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on Palm Beach Public School Renovation

Mrs. Coniglio stated that she had attended the School Board meeting two weeks ago, and at that meeting the School Board decided on a plan (Option 1) for the school renovation. (These drawings are attached). She said that the plan they have chosen does not to make use of the west campus. She stated that she had several concerns regarding the plan. They are as follows:

I. Deliveries for the kitchen will be on Seaview Avenue. This poses a safety hazard considering how narrow the street is and the proximity of so many children. This new delivery area would take away much need parking spaces. Approximately 8 spaces would be lost.

2. The building that they are proposing to build will take up the schools entire green space on the north side of the Recreation Center entrance and abut the basketball court.

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3. The baseball field which they have as a plus or minus 16 feet will be moved south towards Royal Palm Way. This causes a problem with the Town's fertigation tank and the plan does not allow for dug outs, the alleys and the back stop which are all necessary. In addition there is a potential huge safety issue with the field so close to the side walk and Royal Palm Way.

4. For security purposes, the school will be entirely on the east side and would most likely have a perimeter fence like all the other public schools, making the facility look more like a penitentiary.

5. The school bus drop will remain in the front of the school but will be much smaller with an entrance on Royal Palm Way and an entrance on Cocanut Row.

Mrs. Coniglio stated that the School Board discussed their desire to leave the school in Palm Beach because of the small town feel, volunteers and the money they are funded by town residents. They voted on going forward with the plan (Option 1). They also requested an appraisal of both the west and east campus. She said that Mr. Benaim was extremely concerned about the amount of money that would be spent renovating the east campus as opposed to selling both properties and building the school in West Palm Beach. Mrs. Coniglio said that even though this plan has been approved this item will be discussed again at the next school board meeting to discuss the numbers.

Mrs. Coniglio said that after the School Board meeting she attempted to contact Kris Garrison to obtain a scaled drawing, but her phone call was not returned. She said that she contacted Song & Associates and they too were unable to give her a scaled drawing. Mrs. Coniglio said that she spoke with Ms. Song's assistant Ray and asked if he would be willing to meet with her so that she could address some of the Commission's concerns about the conceptual drawing. She said that it could possibly save them a lot of work considering that there were some problems with the current drawing and these issues would only have to be addressed at a later date. Mrs. Coniglio said he was most agreeable, but that he would contact Kris Garrison first and get back to Mrs. Coniglio. Mrs. Coniglio asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Fishman said that he felt the commission should take the position that unless they use the west campus they should build the school in West Palm Beach. He said that parking and traffic congestion would only worsen with the increased number of students that would be attending, and it was ridiculous to try to squeeze this school on to that site, it made no sense and was not in the best interest of the Town. Mr. Gavigan said he did not feel comfortable taking a position on whether the school should be here or not. He felt that was not something the Commission should get into. Mrs. Coniglio agreed.

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Mr. Gavigan asked how many more students would be attending the school. Mrs. Coniglio said that the current student population is 382 and will rise to 445 with the potential of the capacity going to 490. She said that this item was brought out at the meeting. If the capacity is 490 where is there room for change, expansion or renovation at a future date. Is this public school in 10 years going to be obsolete having been rebuilt based on the current numbers that they draw from.

Mr. Schulman asked if there was anything in the school system that said you have to have a certain amount of children in a certain amount of space. Mr. Gavigan said "I feel this is an exception, this site doesn't meet their criteria and the whole site is an exception." Mr. Fishman said that ordinarily a school this size is built on 9 or 10 acres. Mr. Schulman asked "How is this project going to be effected when the state has to limit the number of children per class. How do you get 490 kids in a space this size and why would they need more space if they are going to have to limit the number of children per class?"

Mrs. Coniglio said that she felt the commission should hold their position that the student population should not be increased because the site cannot accommodate the increase in students, parking, traffic congestion and the infringement on the recreation center.

Mr. Fishman said that what you are really choosing between is having an expanded school or having the very condensed recreation facility. With fencing all around that's not going to be aesthetically pleasing, very little green space and no room for expansion for the Recreation Facility. He said that he felt it benefits the Town a lot more to have the school go somewhere else and have room to expand the Recreation Department.

Mr. Fishman asked Mr. Brown what he thought of the plan. Mr. Brown said that the impact that he sees to the department under the current plan is, while they are not substantially changing the green space on the south side of the building he did have some concerns about the way they were shifting the field, and the fact that we may lose alley ways and dug outs. He said that we will lose one play area in the front of the building on the north side, where we currently have a large expanse of grass. With the proposed building being built almost up to Recreation Center the grass that will be left will be virtually useless for any programming. He said that during the day when tennis matches were in progress the public school would not be able to use the patch of grass that was left because of the disruption the noise would cause. He said that this particular area is virtually rendered useless for a play area, which is currently used by the public school during school hours and recreation programs in the afternoon.

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Mrs. Coniglio made the following motion: With respect to the School Board's proposed plan, (Option 1) the Recreation Advisory Commission recommends to the Town Council that they maintain their position in regards to the Palm Beach Public School renovation, that there is no reduction of the current open green space and that the Commission feels that the following items should to be taken into account and addressed:

1. The size of the baseball field should be maintained including dugouts, alleys and backstop.
2. The Commission is concerned at the loss of green space on the north side of the Recreation Center adjacent to the basketball court, since this area is so highly utilized by the Palm Beach Public School and the Recreation Department.
3. That the current student population should be maintained and that the size of the facility should be the same so that it accommodates the student population that now exists.
4. That consideration should be given to the location of the delivery area for the cafeteria because of the potential safety issues to the children and adults as well as the loss of valuable parking spaces on Seaview Avenue.
5. That the new bus drop may cause increased traffic congestion on Royal Palm Way.
6. That any renovation of the school be postponed until after the construction of the Royal Park Bridge and landscaping is complete, so as not to increase traffic congestion.

Mr. Spaziani seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS -

A. **Proposed FY-04 Budget Calendar**

Mr. Brown said that staff was beginning the budgeting process for 2004. He said that the capital improvement budget was due in on April 11, 2003, and the entire line item budget was due on April

18, 2003. He said that if any of the Commissioners had suggestions, concerns or items they wished to include they would need to get the information to staff by April 4, 2003.

Mr. Gross asked if future expansion of the Phipps Tennis Facility was being addressed. Mr. Brown said that Mr. Bitzer had obtained figures for adding one court and that a separate estimate had been done for the completion of the project with 3 more courts and the rebuilding of the beach restroom. He said that these figures had been submitted to the Town for consideration for the long term financial plan and Capital Improvement Program.

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Mr. Fishman asked that there be consideration on changing the hard courts at Seaview to clay courts. He also asked that the fencing be improved at Seaview Park Tennis Courts.

Mr. Shulman asked if there were any improvements that were going to be made to the golf course. Mr. Brown stated that we have not yet met with Rick Dytrych, Golf Pro-Manager, and were unaware of any projects for the golf course.

VI. ANY OTHER MATTERS

Mrs. Coniglio thanked Mr. Stuart Shulman and Larry Ochstein for their years of gracious service.

VII. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 9:40.

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Record of Attendance 2003

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

<u>Regular Members</u>	1/15	3/12	5/14	9/10	11/12
Gail Coniglio					
James Gavigan					
Arthur Gross					
Eileen Morris					
Larry Ochstein					
Michael Spaziani					
Stuart Shulman					
<u>Alternate Members</u>					
Milissa Agnello					
Bill Bone					
Ken Fishman					

LEGEND: X = Conflict of Interest