TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Recreation Advisory Commission

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025, AT 9:00 A.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Recreation Advisory Commission (RAC) meeting was called to order on Friday, January 24, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Upon roll call, all Commissioners were present except Commissioner Missner.

II. PLEDGE OFALLEGIANCE

Chair Pressly led the pledge of allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OFAGENDA

Motion was made by Vice Chair Harris, seconded by Commissioner Dayton, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 24, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

A. October 24, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Vice Chair Harris, seconded by Commissioner Jamison, to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2024, Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

V. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE AND STAFF REPORT

A. Director's Update and Staff Report

Mayor Danielle Moore presented the Commissioners with a thank you gift from the Mayor, Town Council and staff.

Director Bresnahan spoke regarding the extensive redesign of the Department website and spoke regarding new features that the website has for residents to access. He stated that the first quarter of the fiscal year in tennis has been remarkable compared to previous years. He reported that the Mandel Recreation Center 5th Anniversary "Birthday Bash" will be held indoors tomorrow.

Assistant Director Rance Gaede stated that tennis operations are running very smoothly and spoke regarding clinics that are being offered. He provided a brief update on the hitting wall project. He provided an update on tennis revenue and explained that there was over a $100k increase in revenue over the previous fiscal year in the first quarter. Assistant Director Gaede answered questions from Commissioners. Commissioner Harris requested that future reports include the budget and expenditure numbers in addition to the revenue. Mr. Gaede spoke regarding the expenditures for the first quarter and Mr. Bresnahan explained why the expenditures are generally shown at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Gaede addressed a question regarding players' reaction to the recent fee increase.

Tony Chateauvert provided an update on the operations at Par 3 Golf Course. He spoke regarding the large increase in sales at the Pro Shop. Mr. Bresnahan commended the staff of the various Recreation Divisions on their hard work and dedication to the Department's mission and emphasized that excellent customer service is the Department's top priority.

VI. COMMENTS OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSIONERS

Chair Pressly commended Mr. Bresnahan, Mr. Gaede and Mr. Chateuvert and all of the Department's staff for the excellent work. He spoke regarding the variety and quality of programs available in the Department, especially considering the size of the Town. He spoke regarding the condition of the playing field, to which Mr. Bresnahan provided an update on the field conditions after the drainage that was installed. He spoke regarding additional areas that might also need the rope drainage.

Commissioner Watts commended the improvement of customer service, especially in the Pro Shop. She spoke in support of looking at installing drainage in the area of the fields that was previously mentioned.

Commissioner Roush expressed appreciation to Mayor Moore, Council Members Moran and Crampton for attending their meeting. She stated that she would be interested in the Recreation Center partnering with charitable organizations to work with children from Title 1 schools.

Commissioner Jamison stated that the Seaview Program has been the best he's seen in the past 25 years and he expressed his appreciation for the hard work.

Vice Chair Harris spoke regarding the hitting wall and stated that the discussion has become too complicated and that the wall could share an existing court. Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding the demand for the courts and the issues with sharing a court and a hitting wall and stated that he wants to vet the proposed location.

Commissioner Dayton stated that she does not support having a court share a hitting wall.

The following item was heard out of order of the agenda:

VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT PLEASE

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There were no Old Business items.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Field lights (Time Certain 9:30 a.m.)

Friends of Recreation Board members, Kimberly Goodwin, Natalie Emerson and Tara Vecellio, were introduced. Ms. Emerson presented a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed field lights. She spoke regarding the Town's commitment to the changing needs for recreation, for Town residents, and the need for field lights due to the demand for the use of the fields after dark, especially in the winter months. She spoke regarding the substantial increase in use of programs by children at the Recreation Center and the increase in enrollment at the local schools and programs. She provided research and statistics on the importance of children participating in sports and other outdoor activities. She provided details on how much time the lights would be on at the field and that they would be on only when sports were taking place. She provided an overview of lighting proposals that were received. She stated that the Friends of Recreation is committed to paying for the installation of the lights. She spoke regarding the ongoing increase in costs to the Town and spoke regarding the increase of revenue that the Recreation Department has experienced. She answered questions from Commissioners.

Commissioner Roush expressed concern over the need for additional security and stressed the importance of knowing who the users will be, to which Ms. Emerson responded. Commissioner Harris spoke regarding the success of lights that were installed on the tennis courts at a club to which he belongs. Commissioner Watts spoke regarding the use of Rush Soccer, to which Mr. Bresnahan responded. Mr. Bresnahan and Ms. Emerson addressed concerns and questions from Commissioner Watts regarding "mission creep," age restrictions and the aesthetics of the lights on the field and the impact to that area of Town. Chair Pressly inquired about light height and the vendors, to which Ms. Emerson responded. Commissioner Jamison expressed appreciation for Michael Ainslie and Matt Smith for their vision for the Recreation Center. He spoke regarding his experience of being a coach and spoke regarding the need for having lights for the teams to finish games. He spoke in support of the Recreation Department's ability to properly manage these lights. Commissioner Dayton spoke regarding the concern over users and spoke in support of the proposal to install the lights. Chair Pressly inquired about whether the Town could limit the use of the field, to which Mr. Bresnahan responded and spoke regarding the demand currently is for youth programs. Commissioner Harris expressed concern over teams from other cities using the field rather than residents. Ms. Emerson responded.

Public Comment

Lew Crampton, South Ocean Blvd., stated that he worked with the presenters, and he supports this item. He spoke regarding some of the items raised will be managed by the Recreation Department. He spoke regarding the process that this item will be undergoing if it is approved by the Recreation Advisory Commission.

John David Corey, Australian Ave., had questions on the proposed project, to which Mr. Bresnahan responded.

Michael Ainslie and Matt Smith spoke regarding the new young talent on the Friends of Recreation Board. Mr. Ainslie spoke regarding the fundraising for the Mandel Recreation Center and the endowment which will be funding this project. Mr. Smith spoke regarding the great success of the Recreation Center and spoke in support of the proposed project. Chair Pressly spoke in support of the proposed project.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jamison, seconded by Vice Chair Harris, to approve the proposal for the field lights and to move its passage to the Town Council. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

Discussion ensued on the fact that Michael Ainslie and other key contributors are not allowed to have a membership at the fitness center.

Vice Chair Harris, seconded by Commissioner Jamison, moved to consider a new category for honorary membership to the Mandel Recreation Center. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

B. Seaview lot parking
Director Bresnahan provided background information on the item. He spoke regarding the issue with parking at Seaview and stated that staff is recommending that signage be installed to state that the parking is for recreational use only. Discussion ensued on who is currently parking at this lot.

Motion was made by Commissioner Watts, seconded by Vice Chair Harris, to the staff recommendation to make the parking lot limited to Seaview Park use. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT PLEASE

Anne Howe, S. Ocean Blvd., spoke regarding the plantings at Par 3 Golf Course and inquired about the plantings, to which Mr. Bresnahan responded. She also congratulated and thanked the Department and the Commission for their work. Discussion ensued on the potential liability of golf balls hitting cars or pedestrians adjacent to the Par 3.

Commissioner Watts expressed appreciation for the work of the Recreation Department.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Vice Chair Harris, seconded by Commissioner Dayton to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Grier Pressly,

Chairperson

Meeting audio is located at:

https://townofpalmbeach.granicus.com/player/clip/3109?view_id=5&redirect=true