



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Recreation Department

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

January 12, 2005

- I. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** - A meeting of the Town of Palm Beach Recreation Advisory Commission was held on January 12, 2005, at the Recreation Center. In the absence of the chairwoman and vice chairman the meeting was called to order by commission member Mr. Spaziani, at 9:10 a.m. Commission members in attendance were Mrs. Agnello, Dr. Coffield, and Mr. Spaziani. Alternate member in attendance were Mr. Andrews, Mr. Jamison and Mrs. Taca. Commission members absent from the meeting were Mr. Bone, Mrs. Coniglio, Mr. Gross and Mr. Shulman. Staff members in attendance were Mr. Bitzer and Mrs. Walkowich.
- II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Mr. Spaziani asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Andrews made the motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Agnello seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- III. **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2004, MINUTES** - Mr. Spaziani made the motion to approve the May 12, 2004, minutes. Dr. Coffield seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- IV. **OLD BUSINESS**
 1. **Junior Tennis Academy** - Mrs. Walkowich stated that this item which Mr. Bone had requested that this item be place on the agenda had been deferred from the last meeting. She asked the commissioner if they would want to post pone this item to the may meeting since Mr. Bone was absent. Mr. Spaziani said that he did not know what Mr. Bone was going to speak about but that he would like to inform the commission about a program that he was in the process of organizing. Mr. Spaziani said that for the past four years he has been organizing a tennis program with some of the local private schools which runs April through May. This year with the help of the USTA he is trying to organize a program for February and March where children between the ages of 8 and 18 will meet twice a week. One day will be used for practice and the second day will be for competitive play. The USTA will then keep all the children's scores on their computer. He said that he will be volunteering his time and paying for the courts at Phipps and is in the process of getting coaches from the schools to commit their time to the program. He said that he would be sending out flyers to the schools within the next two weeks and anticipated approximately 30-40 children to get involved in the program.

Mr. Jamison said that he was unsure what Mr. Bone was proposing but that the Recreation Center had just started an advanced program very similar to what Mr. Spaziani was doing. Mr. Spaziani said maybe would should try to get both of these programs together. He said the USTA wants to sponsor this and they have a lot of money allocated to support these types of programs. Mrs. Agnello said your program is geared toward children in school leagues and the recreation department's program is geared towards the children of this community who take lessons and I don't think the program here could handle the volume that your talking about.

Mr. Andrews asked Mr. Spaziani if his program was recreational or junior competition. Mr. Spaziani said "We're trying to make it both. I'm sure the competition is going to be heavier than normal but that's what were trying to do. We're trying to raise the bar." Mr. Jamison said that the new program at Seaview is meant for those who want to go from a recreational level to a more competitive level. Mr. Bitzer said that they would touch bases with Mr. Bone regarding his ideas and then take a look at all three programs. Mr. Spaziani said that he thought that was a great idea and stressed that the USTA is behind this, with funding and it would be a great opportunity. Mr. Bitzer said that maybe we could get Mr. Bone to put his idea in writing in the event he is not here for the next meeting. Mr. Bitzer complimented Mr. Spaziani for his volunteer service with junior tennis players.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Winter Program Report** - This report is attached.

VI. ANY OTHER MATTERS - Mr. Andrews asked how long it might take for the Town Council to respond to Mrs. Coniglio's letter regarding the Commission's request that the Parks Division of Public Works be under the auspices of the Commission. Mrs. Walkowich said that she didn't know how long it would take but that she was sure that she would receive a response to her letter.

Mr. Bitzer said that he wanted to update the Commissioners on several upcoming projects:

- 1. Hurricane Shutters:** Mr. Bitzer said that he had recently reminded the Public Works department that the hurricane shutters for the recreation center were not up to code and that several were inoperable. He said that he anticipated this project to be under way within the next few months.

2. **Generator-** Mr. Bitzer said that a resident has offered to pay for a generator that will run the entire recreation center building and that Public Works was in the process of obtaining bids. Mr. Spaziani asked if there would be an underground gas supply. Mr. Bitzer said that the last he heard they were looking at a diesel generator but now they are considering natural gas.
3. **Recreation Center Roof** - Mr. Bitzer said that he had suggested to the Public Works Department that the roof be replaced rather than repaired since it was 20 years old. That in the long run it would be more cost effective. The commission agreed.
4. **Tennis Lighting** - Mr. Bitzer said that the lights should be repaired in approximately two weeks.
5. **Drinking Fountains** - Mr. Bitzer said that after exhausting every possible avenue to try to find where the break in the water line is, it was decided that a new water line would be run. This work should be completed within the next couple of weeks.
6. **Tennis Court Renovations** - Mr. Bitzer said that at the request of the Town Council, staff is compiling statistics on court usage at the Phipps Tennis Center. He said that planning for the renovation of the Seaview Tennis Center will begin shortly. Mr. Bitzer said that once the plan is completed and the scope of work and the time frame for the Seaview project is determined, Recreation and Public Works are going to hold an open public meeting for residents to review the plans and make suggestions. The next step would be to take all this information to the Town Council who will make their decision on whether the Phipps Tennis Project will be completed first before the renovation of the Seaview Tennis courts.

Mr. Andrews asked if staff had any new information regarding the school renovation. Mr. Bitzer said that staff was going to meet with a school representative again regarding landscaping of the building directly in front of the Recreation Center which would hopefully take away from the mass of the wall that faces the tennis courts. He said they also have started to rebuild the basketball court.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT - Meeting was adjourned by Mr. Spaziani at 9:45 a.m.

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Record of Attendance 2005

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

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

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Conflict of Interest Record 2005

<u>Regular Members</u>	1/14	3/9	5/11	9/14	11/9
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

Program Report

Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, January 12, 2005

YOUTH & ADULT PROGRAMS

The Adult & Youth special interest classes were very much affected by Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne. Fortunately, the closing of the Auditorium did not cause any programs to be canceled as the rest of the building was arranged to temporarily accommodate those programs usually held in the Auditorium.

Youth:

- Autumn Youth Programs recovered very well from the hurricanes and were back to normal participation rates by mid-October. The pre-school and youth offerings all remain quite popular.
- The Winter Session began Monday, January 3, 2005, offering 17 classes that run 10 weeks which include a mix of arts, dance, karate, pre-school and various gymnastics type classes. New this session is Hip Hop Jazz! with Klein Dance Company for 6 - 9 year olds and we are finalizing arrangements with Gymboree Play and Music for a Gymboree music program for infants through age 3.

Adult:

- Autumn Adult Programs were very much affected by the hurricanes. Participation and registration were severely impacted as September kicks off the fall session for the Recreation Center programs. Several local recreation departments were contacted and found to have significant decreases in adult participation. However, interest in the programs has rebounded quite well with registration returning to its normal levels for the winter programs.
- The Winter Session offers 14 classes and will run ten weeks with offerings that include language, fitness/toning, relaxation, tai chi, dancing, visual arts and investing classes. A new class, French II started this session with Patricia Ronze expanding from French I at the request of the participants.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM & CAMPS

- We currently offer the after school program on a full time basis to Palm Beach Day School students Monday through Friday. Homework assistance and a wide variety of activities are available to children enrolled in the program. Winter Break Camp was a success, both weeks operated at near capacity. The children enjoyed a myriad of fun activities and field trips. Spring Break Camp will take place March 14 - 18 and March 21 - 24, 2005. Registration for residents begins February 7th and for non-residents on February 21st.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- The Halloween Happenings proved once again to be a very successful family night out. Because of the damage to the Auditorium, it was held at The Colony. It was one of our most successful Halloween events yet and we received many compliments on the quality of the event. Because of the success of this past year, we have scheduled the next Halloween Happenings there also. All the ghouls, ghosts and monsters of all ages had smiles on their faces!
- Daddy Daughter Date Night will be Friday, January 28, 2005, at The Colony with entertainment by Kenny Mondo Entertainment.
- The Spring Celebration will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2005, here at the Recreation Center beginning at 10:30 a.m.

ATHLETICS

- The fall athletic program was heavily impacted by the hurricanes. Flag Football was the most affected program. We lost nearly half the season to unusable fields and facilities. Rather than cancel the program we felt it would be better to offer a partial refund or credit for future athletic programs. This was well received by the participants with no withdrawals from the program.
- Itty Bitty Soccer was successfully held with a full class as it started later in the Fall. Itty Bitty Basketball is scheduled to begin on January 13th. We will be holding this program in the Day School Gymnasium as part of our interlocal agreement.
- The spring sports of Lacrosse, T-Ball, Coach Pitch and Basketball are all scheduled to begin the week of March 8th.
- Winter sports are running smoothly. Registration rebounded from the hurricanes and we have set a new record for enrollment in our ever popular Soccer program. We have over 200 players this year with a big increase again in our 5th -7th grade group as well as an increase in Kindergarten which is a good indicator for future years.
- The athletic field was overseeded with Perennial Rye grass during the holiday break. The seed has grown in well and we have a nice green field ready for play.

- The Recreation Department's new basketball court is scheduled to be completed in February. When completed this new court will feature adjustable goals allowing for more flexibility in programming for our younger players.
- For those who wish to see the parents try to recapture their youth (usually with much amusement) please come out and watch the annual Parents vs Coaches soccer game on Sunday, February 20th at 10:00 am.

TENNIS

Junior Programs

- The fall junior program, coordinated by Donna DeFrances, was a great success 56 juniors participated in the Fall 12 week session.
- Twenty seven juniors played in the Junior Town Championship held in November.
- Sixteen juniors paired up with a parent in the Parent/Child Round Robin that was held in September.

Adult Programs

- We have three teams ladies teams this year, with 56 women participating in the Palm Beach County Women's League which runs from October through April
- Sixteen men played in the Senior Town Championships held in December
- The Tuesday Night Doubles Mixer continues to be very popular.
- Twenty four players participated in the Holiday Doubles Mixer, a morning event held in December.

Phipps Ocean Park Tennis Center

- The weekday morning doubles mixers continue to be very popular.
- Twenty players participated in the Halloween Doubles Mixer, most of which came in costume.

- We will have three senior teams this year (2 men's and 1 women's) playing in the Palm Beach County Senior League which runs January - May, 2005.

Upcoming Events:

Town Doubles Championship - January 26th - 30th
 Parent vs. Child Tournament - February 26th
 Town Singles Championship - April 14th - 17th
 Parent/Child Round Robin - April 30th
 Independence Day Doubles Tournament (Phipps) - July 4th

GOLF

- Due to the hurricanes in September the golf course is off to a slow start , with many seasonal residents not returning until later in the year. Christmas week was also very slow due to bad weather. Overall revenue year to date is down 3%. Revenue for FY04 at the end of December was \$211,524 compared to FY05 which was \$204,398.
- The following is a comparison report of activity for October through December.

	<u>FY-04</u>	<u>FY-05</u>
Rounds of Golf	8,003	7,624
Buckets of Balls	4,521	4,347
Number of Lessons	389	360
Number of Clinics	123	166