



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Recreation Advisory Commission

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023, AT 9:00 A.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The Recreation Advisory Commission (RAC) meeting was called to order on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. Upon roll call, all Commissioners were present for the meeting except Commissioner Dayton.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Coniglio led the pledge of allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Coniglio introduced new Commissioner, Devon Roush. He announced that today's meeting will be his last meeting on the Commission.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 26, 2023, MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Jamison, seconded by Commissioner Watts, to approve the Minutes of the January 26, 2023, meeting. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

V. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE & STAFF REPORT

Director Bresnahan spoke regarding Chair Coniglio and his impact on the Recreation Advisory Commission over the past seven years.

Mr. Bresnahan provided an update on the Rush Soccer team and Creators Game Lacrosse Club. He stated there was an 18% increase in revenue in Recreation compared to the first two quarters of Fiscal Year 2022. He announced recipients of the Pelican Awards, Angie Young, Dawn Helton, and Lauren Bayard. Angie and the tennis staff sold more

merchandise in the first two quarters of this fiscal year than in the entirety of last fiscal year. He provided a glowing review of the Spring Celebration. The construction of the Café is underway with an anticipated opening in May. He spoke regarding economic students at Dreyfoos tutoring children in the After School Program. He expressed appreciation to the Friends of Recreation for donating \$10,000 to provide scholarships to Town employees to attend Camp Palm Beach, this is the third year they did it. He announced that Par 3 won the South Florida PGA Award for merchandising.

Ryan Reckley, Assistant Director, provided an update on the Seaview Tennis Court lighting project and the resurfacing and fence repair project. He spoke about court maintenance and the new software that will help us improve customer service opportunities. He spoke regarding the success of Angela Young at the Pro Shop.

Tony Chateauvert, Par 3, spoke regarding the South Florida PGA Award that the Par 3 had won and commended the staff at Par 3, especially Sabrina Gordon. He stated at the 6-month mark, they reached 30,000 rounds. He commended Al Fresco.

VI. COMMENTS OF RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSIONERS

Chair Coniglio spoke regarding the increase in programming for the Recreation Department since the building of the Recreation Center. He also spoke regarding the upcoming opening of the new Café. He expressed appreciation for the generous support of the Friends of Recreation.

Commissioner Harris expressed appreciation for Chair Coniglio. He discussed having the head tennis pro attend an upcoming Recreation Commission meeting. He requested clarification on the increase in revenue, to which Mr. Bresnahan responded. He spoke regarding the Recreation Commission's recommendation to install four pickleball courts, but only two have been approved. He spoke regarding the Par 3 and the benefits of being a Town resident.

Commissioner Jamison expressed appreciation for working with Chair Coniglio and commended the work of Mr. Bresnahan and Mr. Reckley. He spoke in support of there being an ice machine and a corner bench adjacent to Courts 1 and 2 installed at the tennis courts. He spoke in support of the lawn maintenance staff working between 12 and 2 rather than when players are on the courts.

Commissioner Missner stated that he drafted an agreement for tennis pros to sign that stated that they won't take money for giving lessons, which is against the rules. Mr. Reckley spoke regarding the staff's procedures for handling this issue. Chair Coniglio spoke regarding handling the issue head-on. Commissioner Harris spoke in support of the Town sending a letter to players that paying for private lessons at the courts is not permissible.

Commissioner Pressley expressed appreciation to Chair Coniglio. He expressed

appreciation for the generous donation from the Friends of Recreation. He commended Mr. Chateauvert on the award for the Par 3. He inquired about the court resurfacing project timeline, to which Mr. Reckley responded.

Commissioner Watts expressed appreciation for Chair Coniglio. She commended Mr. Chateauvert for the Par 3 award. She also supported moving towards a “residents first” mindset for tennis and golf. She commended Mr. Reckley on his work on tennis and spoke in support of the head pro attending Recreation Commission meetings. She inquired about the shade structure for courts 6 and 7, to which Mr. Reckley and Mr. Bresnahan responded. She spoke in support of benches being installed at the Phipps courts in the alleyway between the courts. She spoke regarding the scheduling of lawn maintenance on match days at the courts. She commended Mr. Bresnahan and the staff on the incredible programming and the overall success of the department.

Commissioner Roush spoke in support of making residents a priority for Par 3 and tennis. She stated that she would like to do anything she can to get shade at the courts and that she would assist with fundraising.

Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding being available to all Commissioners at any time. He requested that Mr. Reckley put in a request to Public Works for the timing of the lawn maintenance. He discussed the maintenance at Phipps Ocean Park after the renovations were done at least partially by the Preservation Foundation. He addressed the reason why there are fewer pickleball courts than what the Recreation Commissioner recommended. He spoke regarding residents being able to reserve tee times before non-residents, 30 days vs 9 days. He spoke regarding the increases in non-resident fees in comparison to resident fees. He spoke about sending out a letter to the tennis players regarding the tennis pros, as well as other rules that need to be reinforced.

Ms. Watts inquired about the new POS system allowing residents to have priority. Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding the new vendor.

Mr. Harris spoke in support of the Recreation Commission members being able to meet with members of staff to discuss the budget and other procedures. Chair Coniglio spoke regarding having an annual discussion on the Commission’s philosophy.

VII. COMMUNICATION FROM CITIZENS – for items not on the agenda, 3-minute limit, please.

No one indicated a desire to speak.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mandel Recreation Center – shade structure

Chair Coniglio expressed support for the proposed shade structure. Mr. Bresnahan stated that the shade structure will be taken to the Town Council in June.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY2023 Proposed Fees

Mr. Bresnahan provided background information on the proposed fees for the fitness center. He spoke regarding trying to encourage annual passes at the fitness center. He stated that there are over 200 annual pass holders. He explained the larger increase in fees for non-residents for tennis and golf.

Ms. Watts expressed concern that the increase is not enough to dissuade non-residents. Chair Coniglio spoke in support of looking at a larger fee increase for non-residents after the upgrade of all the facilities, without the difference being too substantial.

Commissioner Harris spoke in support of a larger increase for non-residents at the Par 3 and inquired about the population of residents vs. non-residents at Par 3. Mr. Chateauvert responded and explained the proposed fees. Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding the budget process in response to a question from Mr. Harris and provided additional information regarding the proposed fees for the Par 3. Chair Pressly spoke regarding Town residents being members of private clubs and, therefore, would explain why the resident membership at Par 3 is lower. Discussion ensued regarding possible changes that would make it more accessible for residents to get tee times.

Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding going through the fees to ensure that there is a 25% differential between resident and non-resident fees. This would be done by keeping the non-resident fee increased as proposed and lowering the resident fee.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pressly, seconded by Commissioner Jamison to approve the proposed fee schedule, as amended, in the golf schedule to make a 25% differential between residents and non-residents by lowering the resident fees. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

Mr. Bresnahan explained how the Town could engage residents to notify them of improvements to the tee time process.

B. Tennis/Pickleball Lesson and Clinics Residents/Nonresidents

Chair Coniglio spoke regarding the options for Court 7. He spoke about making Court 7 a hard court, installing a wall for kids to hit balls off of, and installing pickleball lines.

Clerk's Note: At this time, Chair Coniglio stepped down, and Ms. Roush became a voting member. The Commission moved to Item. X.A. and returned to Item IX.A. immediately thereafter.

Mr. Bresnahan provided background information on the item. He stated that there is currently no difference in fees between residents and non-residents for tennis and pickleball lesson rates.

Discussion ensued regarding the desire to increase non-resident juniors by 10% and adults by 25% for all tennis lessons.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jamison, seconded by Commissioner Harrison that rates for tennis lessons for non-resident adults will increase by 25% come to the resident rate, and non-resident juniors will increase by 10% compared to the resident rate. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

C. Seaview Park Tennis Center – Court 7

Mr. Bresnahan provided background information on the increase in the number of pickleball reservations over the past three fiscal years. He spoke regarding the increased demand for pickleball courts and spoke regarding the possibility of making court six a hard court, and what improvements could be made to accommodate pickleball. Commissioner Roush expressed concern over doing a long-term project for a sport that might be a fad. Commissioner Watts inquired about the age of the population of pickleball players, to which Mr. Bresnahan responded. She also inquired about using the outside basketball courts for pickleball, to which Mr. Bresnahan responded. Mr. Harris supported keeping the Mandel Recreation Center courts for tennis only. Chair Pressly expressed concern over making this type of decision without more community input. Discussion ensued on converting a clay court to a hard court to accommodate pickleball. Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding the pickleball players wanting more outdoor pickleball courts and discussed the new pickleball courts that will be installed at Phipps Ocean Park. Discussion ensued regarding options for offering pickleball courts until the new ones are built at Phipps.

Motion made by Commissioner Watts to remove the pickleball lines on court seven and leave all of the courts in clay material. Motion died due to a lack of a second.

Motion made by Commissioner Missner, seconded by Commissioner Watts, that no courts will be changed into hard courts and that all of the courts will remain in clay material. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

Discussion ensued regarding the reasons for removing the pickleball lines.

Motion made by Commissioner Missner and seconded by Commissioner Watts to remove the lines for pickleball, and all courts will be lined for tennis only. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

Chair Pressly spoke regarding the pickleball options in mid-town. He inquired about installing a hitting wall, to which Mr. Bresnahan responded. The Commission agreed to have Mr. Bresnahan investigate possible locations for a hitting wall to be installed.

Clerk's Note: The following item was heard out of order of the agenda.

X. ANY OTHER MATTERS

A. Election of New Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr. Bresnahan called for nominations for Chair. Commissioner Jamison nominated Commissioner Pressly as Chair. The nomination was seconded by Harris. No other nominations were heard.

Motion made by Commissioner Watts and seconded by Commissioner Harris to accept Grier Pressly as Chair. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

Chair Pressly called for nominations for Vice Chair. Commissioner Watts nominated Commissioner Harris as Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Missner. No other nominations were heard.

The Commission provided consensus to accept Peter Harris as Vice Chair.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Missner, seconded by Commissioner Harris to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Grier Pressly
Recreation Advisory Commission