



# TOWN OF PALM BEACH

## Recreation Advisory Commission

### MINUTES OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024 AT 9:00 A.M.

#### I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The Recreation Advisory Commission (RAC) meeting was called to order on Friday, January 26, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Upon roll call, all Commissioners were present.

#### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Pressly led the pledge of allegiance.

#### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Harris, seconded by Commissioner Watts, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.**

#### IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Approval of the October 19, 2023 Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Harris, seconded by Commissioner Jamison, to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2023, Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting. The motion carried unanimously, 7-0.**

#### V. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE AND STAFF REPORT

Director Bresnahan introduced Rance Gaede, the new Assistant Director, and provided a brief background on his experience. He provided an update on the shade structure and announced that the approval for the project will be before ARCOM next month and encouraged members to attend the meeting if they are interested. He stated that the Point of Sale (POS) system has not yet gone live due to issues with the vendor not being able to accommodate all of the Town's needs. He stated that they have identified another vendor that appears to be able to accommodate everything, including tennis reservations and recreational programming. He announced that the Fitness Center membership has reached 305, who are all residents of the Town of Palm Beach! He provided an update on the Oakley Gage Debbs field drainage and spoke regarding the installation of rope drainage at the end of December. He stated that the project was within the operating budget.

He spoke regarding the department's online marketing efforts and showed graphs of the increase in Instagram followers. He stated now there are more than 2,500 followers for the Recreation Instagram page, and more than 4,900 for Par 3. He stated that RecConnect is the primary way that individuals are notified about department events. He stated that there are 2,614 subscribers with a 54% open rate. He responded to a question about how they get new residents' email addresses. He described other ways that the department gets the word out about department events and activities, including Facebook, word of mouth, ProCare, CivicReady, signage throughout the facilities, and press releases.

Director Bresnahan stated that Mr. Chateauvert was out sick, so he provided an update on the Par 3 golf course improvements, including the practice green, landscape plantings between hole 14 and the driving range, and the addition of double parking in the valet area.

Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding recent special events, including Halloween Happenings and the 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash and announced upcoming events, Movies on the Green and Mocktails & Conversations.

Assistant Director Gaede provided an update on the Seaview Tennis Court Project, new water fountains at Seaview, new benches at Seaview that will be installed in the next fiscal year, and custom-made windscreens. He stated that the Phipps courts will be open until 5:00 p.m., 6 days a week beginning Monday, January 29. Mr. Bresnahan stated that there is low usage in the later hours and encouraged everyone to tell players they know to play in those later hours. Discussion ensued on ways to advertise the new hours, including posting it on Instagram and including an article in RecConnect. Ms. Watts also mentioned asking the pros to do their lessons during that time.

Mr. Gaede shared pictures of winners of Town of Palm Beach Championship Series, including Juniors and Doubles and announced upcoming Championship Series dates.

Mr. Bresnahan provided an update on Palm Beach Par 3 staffing and the impact of recent inclement weather conditions.

Mr. Bresnahan mentioned that any comments from the public on the items listed under New Business should be held until those items are heard.

## VI. COMMENTS OF RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSIONERS

Chair Pressly thanked Mr. Bresnahan and his staff for responding to concerns from Commissioners and the public. He thanked Friends of Recreation for their \$5,000 contribution for the 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash. He expressed appreciation for the addition of cheerleading and girls' lacrosse and was appreciative of how busy the Mandel Center is when he visits. He inquired about when the ARCOM meeting regarding the shade structure will be held and asked if any of the Commissioners should attend. Mr. Bresnahan responded and stated that he doesn't believe there would be opposition, but there may be tweaking of the design. Vice Chair Harris inquired about the design, and Mr. Bresnahan stated that he will send it out to the Commission. Mr. Pressly congratulated Commissioner Dayton on her Town Championship in Doubles.

Commissioner Watts welcomed Mr. Gaede to the Town. She inquired about Phipps Park and whether that would be under the purview of the Commission or the Town Council. Mr. Bresnahan responded that the beaches are not under the purview of the Recreation Commission and explained that the lifeguards are under Fire Rescue and beach restoration is under the Shore Protection Board and Public Works. She confirmed with Mr. Bresnahan that the renovation of Seaview is being done by Public Works and inquired about the Recreation Department's input. Mr. Gaede responded about the Recreation Department's participation in the project. Mr. Bresnahan provided information in response to a question from Ms. Watts regarding the new POS system in relation to the tennis reservations. Ms. Watts spoke regarding a bench that was removed at Seaview and asked if it will be replaced. Mr. Bresnahan stated that staff can investigate it.

Commissioner Roush expressed appreciation to Mr. Bresnahan about his quick responses to Commissioners' requests. She expressed interest in expanding the youth programs for golf at Par 3. She also spoke regarding increasing the attendance of classes at Mandel, specifically the Spanish language class. She spoke regarding the impressive background of the teacher and spoke in support of highlighting her in the Shiny Sheet.

Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding the adult language classes and the youth programs at the Par 3. He stated that the ARCOM meeting on the shade structures is scheduled for February 28, 2024.

Commissioner Missner had no comments.

Commissioner Jamison welcomed Mr. Gaede. He expressed appreciation for the condition of the courts at Seaview and the increase and quality of the staff. He spoke regarding certain minor housekeeping items, and Mr. Gaede addressed his concerns over screens that were removed. Discussion ensued. Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding scheduling on the courts to ensure that pros are scheduled together on certain courts. Mr. Bresnahan provided additional information on the online reservation system. Mr. Jamison inquired about whether there could be cameras to show the weather condition of the courts and Mr. Bresnahan responded and stated that the new system would notify players that the courts have been opened or closed. Mr. Jamison inquired about whether there can be a subcommittee formed to make a recommended rate structure for Seaview and Phipps, to which Mr. Bresnahan responded. He spoke regarding the differential between resident and non-resident rates. Ms. Roush spoke regarding the possibility of keeping non-resident rates the same for Phipps and increasing the non-resident pricing at Seaview. Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding instituting more dynamic pricing.

Vice Chair Harris expressed appreciation about doing projects that have been recommended by the RAC. He spoke regarding the Recreation Department budget and spoke in support of the RAC having more input into the budget. He spoke in support of there being a forum for input on the Town budget and spoke regarding the importance of continuing to ensure that the residents are the priority. He spoke regarding parking at Par 3. Mr. Bresnahan responded to his comments on parking at the Par 3 and on the Town budget. He stated that he and Mr. Gaede would be open to meet with anyone on the department budget as it is developed and spoke regarding improvements that are being made. He spoke regarding the mandates for cost recovery for Recreation, Tennis and Golf and spoke regarding strides that are being made to ensure that those benchmarks are surpassed. Ms. Watts spoke regarding

Tennis not being overseen by a Town employee and Mr. Bresnahan clarified that Mr. Gaede oversees the tennis facilities and spoke regarding upcoming changes to the pro contracts.

Commissioner Dayton expressed appreciation to Mr. Bresnahan for meeting with the Commissioners and listening to their concerns. She inquired about the oversight of the tennis facilities and with whom to discuss improving the operations. She also spoke regarding improving the process for tennis try-outs for the Town teams. Mr. Bresnahan stated that he and Mr. Gaede are the appropriate staff members to discuss these items and that they are looking at adding another knowledgeable staff member to assist with the operation of the tennis facilities. He also addressed her concerns about the tennis try-out process. Mr. Missner inquired about the number of residents vs. non-residents for tennis and golf, to which Mr. Bresnahan responded.

## VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS - 3 MINUTE LIMIT PLEASE

Michael Vincent John Spaziani, South Ocean Blvd., spoke regarding his tenure on the RAC and spoke regarding the major projects that were accomplished during his term. He spoke in support of transferring the plates of donors onto new benches and Mr. Bresnahan responded with information on the plan for the donor benches. Mr. Spaziani expressed appreciation for the trap for the leaves. He spoke regarding grass that is growing past the white line which impacts bikers and pedestrians. He spoke regarding a better design of the windscreens at the tennis courts.

Helen Howe, South Ocean Blvd., spoke regarding the necessity for there being more than just signage about golf balls entering South Ocean Blvd. She also spoke regarding scheduling a Mandarin language class in the early evening. She expressed interest in joining a budget subcommittee to represent Phipps. Chair Pressly stated that he wasn't certain that a subcommittee is feasible, but she is welcome to meet with Commissioners. Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding efforts that the Par 3 is doing to help with the problem of golf balls hitting cars. He also addressed the request for an evening language class.

Lawrence Kaplan, Ibis Island Road, expressed appreciation to the Commission and Department staff for their work. He spoke in support of holding youth tournaments and increasing youth programs at Phipps. He requested that the Commission carefully consider parking after the Phipps renovation and encouraged the Commission work with the Preservation Foundation on dedicated parking for tennis. He spoke in support of a shade structure being installed at Par 3 driving range. Mr. Bresnahan addressed his comments about the shade structure.

## VIII. REGULAR AGENDA

### A. Old Business

1. FY2024 Meeting Dates
  - a. Friday, January 26
  - b. Friday, April 19
  - c. Thursday, October 24

Chair Pressly stated that he had a conflict with the April 19 meeting date and requested that that date be moved to April 12, 15 or 16. Discussion ensued.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Missner, seconded by Vice Chair Harris to approve to change the April meeting date to April 16, 2024. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.**

2. Seaview Park field drainage

Chair Pressly provided a brief update on the project. Mr. Bresnahan stated that the staff won't be able to know if it's effective until they get substantial rainfall.

3. Palm Beach Par 3 – old clubhouse bathrooms

Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding the timing of the project due to the other projects that are occurring. He stated that most likely it will occur in Summer 2025.

B. New Business

1. Hitting wall at Seaview Park

Chair Pressly provided background information on a hitting wall that had been at the recreation center adjacent to the playground before it had been rebuilt. Mr. Bresnahan provided background on why the hitting wall has not been replaced at that location and presented an alternate location next to the outside activity area at the Mandel Center. Mr. Bresnahan addressed a question from Vice Chair Harris about any conflicts with pickleball. Discussion ensued.

John Dotterer, N. Ocean Blvd., spoke in support of an outside hitting wall and made the recommendation to expand the width in order to allow for two players to play at the same time.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Watts, seconded by Vice Chair Harris to approve moving forward with the outside hitting wall at the Mandel Center. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.**

Mr. Bresnahan spoke regarding the timing and process for the project and stated that they are expecting it to be done by next season. Mr. Dotterer stated that he would be willing to assist with the presentation to ARCOM. Mr. Bresnahan responded to questions from Ms. Dayton on certain aspects of the wall.

2. Securing the Seaview Park Tennis pavilion and adding ice/water

Mr. Bresnahan provided a brief background on the item. He spoke regarding security issues and the recommendations for fencing the facility. Discussion ensued on the proposed installation of a fence.

Bridget Moran, Dunbar Rd, recommended using landscaping rather than installing

a fence.

Discussion ensued on the ice/water machine and the security improvements. Mr. Bresnahan stated that he would return to the April meeting with potential security improvements as a follow-up to the discussion.

IX. ANY OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Bresnahan stated that the new hours for Phipps are posted on the Recreation Department's Instagram page and requested that Commissioners "like" the post.

X. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion was made by Vice Chair Harris, seconded by Commissioner Dayton to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 a.m. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Grier Pressly,  
Chairperson

*Meeting audio is located at:*

[Recreation Advisory Commission \(granicus.com\)](https://www.granicus.com)