

Friends of Recreation
PO Box 977
Palm Beach, Florida 33480

Progress Report from Friends of Recreation, Vice Chair, Michael Ainslie
Presented to Town Council at it's April 10, 2018 meeting

Good morning, Ladies and Gentleman,

It is my pleasure to come before you today with some very exciting news. Friends of Recreation, the non profit created to raise money and support for the new Town of Palm Beach, Barbara and Morton Mandel Recreation Center, has reached it's goal of raising \$3.7 million to fund 1/3 of the cost of the new Rec Center. In fact, we have exceeded our goal and are close to the \$3.9 million mark.

The support from the Palm Beach community has been nothing short of amazing. Our three lead donors have given \$2 million collectively. So, as in most capital campaigns, over 1/2 of our donations came from only three donors.

Another 17 donors have given at the \$50,000 to \$150,000 level and their gifts total \$1.3 million. The final \$600,000 has come from over 60 other families with gifts ranging from \$1,000 to \$30,000.

What, you may ask, will be done with the funds raised in excess of \$3.7 million, which was our commitment to fund 1/3 of the project budget of \$11.1 million. We would hope the funds would be used to create an endowment with the income to help fund operating costs of the new Rec Center.

I would also like to point out the very modest cost of raising these funds. FOR has spent approximately \$110,000 to date. Another \$63,000 is set aside for future costs and interest payments on funds borrowed in advance of pledge payments. The total of \$173,000 represents only 4% of funds raised, a remarkable accomplishment. These funds have been spent on the Business Plan, advertising and brochure costs, mailing the brochure to every resident of Palm Beach, audit and accounting fees, and fund raising consulting expenses. We have had earmarked donations to cover these operating costs. These donations for admin and fund raising expenses are in addition to the \$3.9 million mentioned above.

The extremely low level of cost has been possible due to literally hundreds of hours of donated time and effort by Matt Smith, myself, and many other FOR board members. As well, Bob Simses and his law firm have donated over \$40,000 in pro bono legal fees. Maura Ziska and her firm, as well have donated their time, representing over \$20,000 in legal fees. We are most grateful to them for their good counsel, generosity and support.

We also want to thank Mort and Barbara Mandel for their continuing patience and support of the Rec Center. They have been invaluable to our efforts.

We are excited to see the Rec Center moving to become a reality. Thank you.