

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: January 14, 2020

To: Mayor and Town Council

Via: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

From: Nicholas Coniglio, Recreation Advisory Commission Chairperson

Re: Recreation Advisory Commission Annual Presentation

Date: January 3, 2020

GENERAL INFORMATION

The contents of the annual Recreation Advisory Commission (RAC) report include:

Commission Membership/Meetings

Par 3 Golf Course

Tennis Operations

Town Marina

Recreation Center (Morton and Barbara Mandel Recreation Center and Seaview Park Improvements project update)

Commission Membership/Meetings

The RAC is comprised of seven regular members and three alternate members, appointed by Town Council for three-year terms. A chairperson and vice-chairperson are selected by the members on an annual basis. The Commission held four regular meetings (September 2019 meeting was cancelled due to hurricane). The current Commission membership is as follows:

Commissioner	Position	Term Expires
Nicholas Coniglio	Chairperson	4/20
Amy Bahl	Vice-Chairperson	4/20
Carla Termini Cove	Regular Member	4/20
Dr. G. Ellen Howe	Regular Member	4/21
Grier Pressly	Regular Member	4/22
Alexandra Woodfield	Regular Member	4/21
Leslie Wytrzes	Regular Member	4/22

Peter Harris	Alternate Member	4/21
Pamela McIver	Alternate Member	4/22
Kristen Schonwald-Vila	Alternate Member	4/22

The new appointments to the Commission in 2019 were Mr. Peter Harris and Ms. Pamela McIver.

Par 3 Golf Course

The Par 3 Golf Course had another great year with 39,114 rounds of golf played during fiscal year 2019. Tournaments continue to become more popular as the Par 3 played host to 95 tournaments and outings, the most in its history. The popularity of the golf lesson and clinic program increased, with participation increasing by 9.5% over the last fiscal year. Patrons consistently provide positive feedback concerning the quality of the lessons and the instructors.

The restaurant, al Fresco, at the Par 3, remains a favorite dining destination for residents and guests, alike. Town staff continues to work closely with al Fresco staff to address any operational issues that may be identified. The popularity of the golf course and the restaurant continues to be a testament to the outstanding service, which has become the hallmark of this remarkable facility.

Outstanding course conditions remain a priority at the Par 3 and the members of the Commission have provided input on budgetary expenses and fees, assisting in the establishment of a well-thought out budget. Fee modifications included the tweaking of green fees and annual passes. The hard work and efforts have paid off, as the Palm Beach Par 3 continues to receive numerous accolades and earned the most revenue in its history, more than \$2,450,000 (including more than \$200,000 in pro-shop sales).

Additionally, several projects were completed. Among them were projects for the clubhouse – new outdoor clubhouse furniture, elevator modernized and upgraded, refreshed front entrance signage, restriping and sealing of parking lot. Also, for the golf course itself, – laser leveled tees, replaced and improved course signage, trimmed all trees and mangroves on property in house, and new furniture on the course.

Tennis Operations

Lesson and clinic participation remains good. Town revenue from the teaching contract with DM Tennis Enterprises was up from the previous fiscal year, despite challenges that included the closing of courts as the result of construction at Seaview Park, compounded by weather (Hurricane Dorian closures, extreme cold in early 2019, and record rainfall in late spring). Participants continue to provide positive feedback about the high level of quality and professionalism in the instructor team with lessons increasing 25% over the previous fiscal year. The RAC and residents continue to comment on the high quality of the courts – excellent playability.

Additionally, several projects were completed at Phipps Ocean Park Tennis Center. Among them were refinishing of wood soffit and doors, replacing security lights on pro shop, installing new

pavilion lights along with the painting of the exterior of the pro shop, pavilion and maintenance building. Also, renovation of the interior of pro shop (merchandise slat wall installed, upgraded merchandise, new furniture and paint).

The construction in Seaview Park affected overall operations and provided challenges. Some of the more notable impacts include most team tennis matches being played at Phipps Ocean Park Tennis Center; Seaview Park courts closed for the construction of a new viewing pavilion, and parking limitations. An arrangement was made for a temporary sewer line to be connected to the pro-shop restrooms, allowing them to function normally through the season. Despite all, participants continued to note the high quality of court conditions.

Town Marina

The Town Docks have continued to exceed cost recovery goals and recorded the most revenue in its history (more than \$4,116,000). Annual occupancy has remained strong at 88%. A total of 347 transient vessels were docked for 2,020 nights – a more than 20% increase in transient boats from the previous fiscal year. Staff continues to address maintenance needs of the aging facility. Fees were reviewed throughout the year and increases were made to general dockage rates.

Regarding the Master Plan for the Town Docks and Accessory Structures, the design completion of 90% was achieved in FY19, with the consultants implementing the master plan. Staff is currently working with a consultant to fine-tune the revenue projections with a recommendation for the construction firm expected to be brought to Town Council in February 2020.

Recreation Center

The Recreation Center offered dozens of programs off-site, at the Palm Beach Day Academy, Bethesda-by-the Sea, and Palm Beach Public School, for which the Recreation Department is very grateful. In preparation for the first full session of programs at the new Mandel Recreation Center, staff continued to solicit feedback from residents and the RAC on program opportunities and collaborated with the RAC, enhancing recreation opportunities.

Morton and Barbara Mandel Recreation Center Update and Seaview Park Improvements

In 2014, the RAC began discussions regarding the need for a long-term plan to address the adequacy of existing recreation facilities. Community input was sought and a list of prioritized recommendations for new and improved facilities at the Recreation Center and Seaview Park was created. The Recreation Center was closed in late July 2018 and demolition commenced in August 2018.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Morton and Barbara Mandel Recreation Center took place on October 22, 2018, offering the opportunity to formally thank the Town's partners - the Morton and Barbara Mandel Family Foundation and the Friends of Recreation, each contributing one-third of the total cost. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on December 6, 2019. In between was a tremendous amount of hard work by Town staff, the RAC, the Morton and Barbara Mandel Family Foundation, and the Friends of Recreation. This resulted in the new Mandel Recreation Center, Seaview Park improvements (which includes the new playground-several RAC members participated in the selection committee), a renovated tennis pro-shop and a new tennis viewing pavilion. All of these projects were completed on-time and under budget.

Conclusion

Overall, the members of the RAC had a very productive year and are looking forward to a very exciting 2020. With the construction of the Morton and Barbara Mandel Recreation Center and Seaview Park improvements completed, many exciting opportunities will present themselves to residents and visitors. The Commission is optimistic about the future and is committed to working with the staff to meet any challenge which may present itself. We are involved in an ongoing dialogue concerning the role of recreation in the Town of Palm Beach, and want it to be seen as an essential service. We are dedicated to assisting in any way necessary, as we plan for an exciting and successful future.

cc: Recreation Advisory Commission
Carolyn Stone, Director of Business Development and Operations
Rod Gardiner, Assistant Director of Recreation
Tony Chateauvert, Golf Manager
Mike Horn, Dockmaster
Mark Bresnahan, Program Development and Operations Manager