



May 27, 2021

Town Council
Town of Palm Beach
Post Office Box 2029
Palm Beach, FL 33480

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Dear Mayor Moore, Council President Zeidman, and Town Council Members:

The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach has been a constant presence at Phipps Ocean Park for the last 30 years. A 99-year lease with the Town to operate the Little Red Schoolhouse as a field trip venue enables the organization to serve over 4,000 Palm Beach County students each year. In August of 2020, Town Council enthusiastically gave approval for the Preservation Foundation to work with Town Staff to develop a masterplan for Phipps Ocean Park. Following that endorsement to proceed, the Preservation Foundation commissioned a survey of the 18-acre park, which stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to Lake Worth, and retained renowned landscape architect Raymond Jungles to design the masterplan. The Preservation Foundation generously underwrote the total cost of \$160,000 for the survey and masterplan.

Although the Preservation Foundation initiated and underwrote the masterplan for Phipps Ocean Park, the process leading to the final plan has been guided by the wisdom of Town Staff and valuable input of Town Residents. The kickoff meeting for the masterplan began in November of 2020 with members of the Preservation Foundation's Executive Committee, Raymond Jungles and his team, and Town Staff including Deputy Town Manager Jay Boodheshwar, Assistant Town Manager Carolyn Stone, Director of Public Works Paul Brazil, and Fire Rescue Chief Darrell Donatto. Monthly meetings followed and Community Feedback Sessions were held in January and February. Individualized meetings with the 2100 South Ocean Building, The Reef, and Ibis Isle were also held and much effort was made to modify the plan in response to their feedback.

The resulting masterplan harmonizes the existing elements of the park, introduces complimentary new features, and, above all, restores the natural ecosystems that once existed through the sole use of native plants. The Little Red Schoolhouse is proposed to be relocated to the heart of the park where its educational focus will be magnified by an outdoor classroom, plant propagation center, and a bespoke playground that reinforces the historic and natural features of the park. ADA accessible walking paths will connect all areas of the park and provide passive recreation with educational checkpoints along the way. Most importantly, the executed masterplan will enhance enjoyment of the park for all residents and create a green space reflective of the beauty for which Palm Beach is known.

We request the opportunity to present this masterplan to the Town Council for feedback and seek approval to work with Town Staff to proceed with Schematic Design, Design Development, and Construction Documentation phases for the project, all of which the Preservation Foundation will continue to underwrite.

Sincerely,

Amanda H. Skier
President & CEO