

# TOWN OF PALM BEACH

## Information for Town Council Meeting on January 10, 2023

---

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, 2023

---

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

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

Commission Membership/Meetings  
COVID Response  
Par 3 Golf Course  
Tennis Operations  
Morton and Barbara Mandel Recreation Center

#### **Commission Membership/Meetings**

The RAC is comprised of seven regular members. Each member serves a three-year term, with a chairperson and vice-chairperson selected as necessary. The Commission held three regular meetings in the calendar year 2022 (February, May, and October). The current Commission membership is as follows:

Commissioner	Position	Term Expires
Nicholas Coniglio	Chair	4/23
Grier Pressly	Vice-Chair	4/25
Millie Dayton	Regular Member	4/25
Peter Harris	Regular Member	4/23
Henry 'Budge' Jamison	Regular Member	4/25
David Missner	Regular Member	4/23
Susan Watts	Regular Member	4/24

Mrs. Dayton and Mr. Missner were the only new appointments to the Commission in 2022. Mr. Missner's appointment was in July 2022, to complete the term vacated by Ms. Schonwald Vila.

### COVID-19 Response

Covid-19 continued to affect the operations of the Recreation Department in 2022. The Recreation Advisory Commission was kept abreast of the programmatic modifications required due to the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. The impact was particularly felt at the Mandel Recreation Center, with many residents still concerned about indoor activities, especially in the year's first half. Overall, the department performed exceedingly well and had participation and revenue records in all areas.

### Par 3 Golf Course

It was an exceptional year in every way for golf operations. Lessons, shop sales, rounds, and the restaurant were all up in a big way. The Palm Beach Par 3 has become a leading golf destination in South Florida. FY21 was by far a record-breaking year with 52,000 rounds of golf and \$3.6M in revenue. Staff was up for the challenge in FY22, as the course finished with 54,000 rounds and more than \$4.4M in revenue!

Shop sales were at an all-time high in FY21 with \$420K in sales, but in FY22 they hit \$675K! Kudos to Tony Chateauvert and Sabrina Gordon, their efforts to improve the appearance and selection of apparel and offerings at the shop led to the shop winning the SFGA Merchandiser of the Year Award for the entire south Florida Section! The teaching program also had a brilliant year. Gene George, Bob Hite, Tim McCoy, and former Tour player Trevor Dodds have all had incredible years, which resulted in the highest-grossing year in lessons ever.

Superintendent Tim Campbell and his staff did an incredible job in keeping the course in outstanding condition. Starting in May, the course was closed for maintenance on Tuesday mornings to allow staff to work on the golf course without interfering with golfers. In addition, the course was closed for aerification and DryJecting three times during the summer and early fall. The result has been remarkable with greens and tees being in excellent condition despite the huge volume of play.

Staff received approval from Town Council to add eight additional parking spots to the course to help ease the parking crunch due to the popularity of the course and restaurant. Work on adding the eight additional spots is expected to start and be completed in May 2023.

Outstanding course conditions are a priority at the Par 3, and the members of the Recreation Advisory Commission have provided input on several aesthetic and practical applications that have been put in use. Additionally, janitorial and clubhouse services remain highly important, and staff is constantly working to improve the experience for guests.

Some notable improvements to the golf operations this year:

- A new fleet of carts was delivered in December 2022.
- The clubhouse bathrooms were renovated in late fall.
- New cart path was put in along #14 (oceanside) that provides a much more scenic route, and it opens up the view of the green.
- New gutters were installed on the exterior of the clubhouse.
- Concrete work was completed on the patio.
- California Closets installed two desks in the secondary office, allowing two staff members to work in the space and even allowing the opportunity to checkout patrons as a third station during hectic periods.
- A new online shopping feature was added to the [golfontheocean.com](http://golfontheocean.com) site.
- Rick Shiel of YouTube prominence posted a video calling the Par 3 the ‘World’s Best Par 3’, the 21-minute film already has over 576k views.
- Youth on Course, an organization that promotes junior golf held a clinic at the Par 3 that featured Rory McIlroy and was filmed by the Golf Channel.
- Al Fresco remains a favorite dining destination for residents and guests alike as they did over \$6M in sales, which was an all-time record

#### Seaview and Phipps Ocean Park Tennis Centers

The Town’s tennis resurgence continues with many residents returning to their love of tennis or discovering/rediscovers the high-quality courts. Residents represented 72% of players, 62% of juniors, and 84% of adults. This past year also saw a continuation of a few events, notably the Town of Palm Beach Championships - doubles, singles, and mixed doubles in January, February, and April, respectively. In addition, a full slate of teams (six) is again representing the Town, including two senior league teams. The Town has added Pickleball to the activities list, incorporating lessons, clinics, and open play.

Revenue was at an all-time high in FY22 hitting over \$539k, representing an increase of 54% over the FY21 record of \$348k. Teaching revenue from the contract with DM Tennis Enterprises was up over 27% from the previous year - a new revenue high. Participants and residents continue to provide positive feedback about the quality and professionalism of the instructor team, pro-shop staff, and the excellent playability of the courts.

Daily court maintenance continued to be a priority for in-house staff and contractors to keep the courts in excellent condition. With the increase in play, maintenance staff have been challenged, but responded well and worked diligently to limit downtime. Projects of all sizes were completed at both tennis centers to enhance the playability and welcoming nature of the tennis centers, including:

- Staying on top of routine items to limit court downtime:
  - adding clay, replacing lines, net post maintenance, net repairs, windscreen maintenance, edges being scraped and re-conditioned, and gate repairs
- Irrigation enhancements
- Landscape beautification

- New tables and chairs at Phipps have been installed
- Both pro-shops received a refresh and expanded lines of apparel with a new logo introduced
- New player benches at Phipps Ocean Park Tennis
- New windsocks at Seaview Tennis
- Pickleball lines installed on Seaview Tennis Court 7

### **Morton and Barbara Mandel Recreation Center**

Even with program participation somewhat limited due to Covid-19, revenue for the Mandel Recreation Center broke the record set last year by 45%, with total revenue exceeding \$821k. The Fitness Center sold a record 347 memberships, representing a 25% increase over FY21. Youth Enrichment revenue increased by over 29% and passes and daily admissions increased by 11%. The Mandel Recreation Center offered 214 programs through FY22. The ever-popular After School Program welcomed 30 participants each day. Camp Palm Beach was back to full capacity as 75 kids were welcomed each week of the ten-week camp.

There was a considerable demand for team sports this past year. Fall Soccer with Select Soccer Academy filled up the youngest age group and two age groups filled up in the Youth Basketball League with Perseverance Basketball. Tot Tumbling and Gymnastics are always popular and ran their programs at capacity. Story Time Soccer, Lacrosse, and Flag Football were also a hit.

Some additional highlights from 2022:

- Staff put on the annual Spring Celebration that over 200 residents enjoyed.
- Halloween Happenings event had great participation, with over 250 residents.
- The Mandel's Grand Opening 2.0/Navy SEAL event held on March 5<sup>th</sup> was a huge success enjoyed by over 500 people.
- Earth Day was held on April 22, and over 200 community members participated, including presentations from Palm Beach Public and Palm Beach Day Academy students.
- A sound and portable mic system were added to the Smith Family Fieldhouse.
- Palm Beach Rush, a competitive soccer program for ages 8-12, began training at the Mandel Recreation Center in late August and has been met with excitement.
- The RecConnect publication continues to go out weekly to keep everyone informed of the schedule and happenings around the Mandel and the rest of the Recreation Department. The publication currently reaches over 2,000 inboxes weekly.
- Acoustical paneling was added in the Fieldhouse, After School Room, and Game Room.
- New tables were installed in the classroom; they have a much more professional look with the ability to be flexible with use since all the tables are on wheels.
- The billiard table in the game room was recovered in September.
- There are now almost 2,000 followers on Instagram, be sure to follow [townofpalmbeachrecreation](#) on Instagram and/or Palm Beach Recreation Department on Facebook
- For the second year in a row a \$10,000 gift was received from the Friends of Recreation to cover up to \$500 for each employee who registered their child for a week of summer camp. This was well received by employees and the funds were fully exhausted.

- The Palm Beach County City Managers hosted their monthly meeting at the Mandel in September, with over 25 representatives from city managers' offices across the county.
- The Palm Beach Civic Association hosted an election event for the candidates on October 18, 2022 in the fieldhouse.

### Conclusion

Overall, the members of the RAC, in conjunction with the Department, had a very productive year and are looking forward to an exciting 2023. The RAC and Department staff are optimistic about the future and ready to capitalize on any opportunities which come our way; no one is resting on their laurels. We are just getting started!

cc: Recreation Advisory Commission  
Carolyn Stone, Assistant Town Manager  
Mark Bresnahan, Director of Recreation  
Ryan Reckley, Assistant Director of Recreation  
Tony Chateauvert, Golf Manager  
Faika Fareau, Administrative Assistant