

# TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Town Council Meeting on: February 14, 2023

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To: Mayor and Town Council

Via: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

From: Carolyn S. Stone, Deputy Town Manager for Business Enterprise & Culture  
Mark Bresnahan, Director of Recreation

Re: Phipps Ocean Park Project – Proposed Pickball Site Plan

Date: February 1, 2023

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## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends Town Council review the Phipps Ocean Park proposed pickleball site plan and make a recommendation on the inclusion and/or location of the courts.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Recreation Department started receiving requests from residents to add Pickleball in 2019. The Department currently offers two non-dedicated indoor courts, two non-dedicated clay courts, and one non-dedicated outdoor court for pickleball at the Mandel Recreation Center/Seaview Tennis. These courts do have reserved times for pickleball play but are primarily used for other recreation programs and tennis.

In February 2021, the Recreation Advisory Commission gave unanimous approval in recommending the Town moves forward with plans to add four pickleball courts within Phipps Ocean Park. Due to the limitations of green space on the island, Phipps Ocean Park Tennis Center was identified as the best location for consideration. When the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach began the discussion with Town staff regarding the park renovation, the staff asked that four pickleball courts be included in the site plan. The four courts appeared on the master site plan throughout the duration of the design phase. However, the Preservation Foundation and Town have since received input from residents in the south end that are opposed to the addition of pickleball at the park.

Raymond Jungles, Inc. has modified the site plan to show a new location for two pickleball courts that are further north and west from The Reef Condominium, which is the closest residential property to the proposed courts. Staff conducted a decibel test on Thursday, January 19, 2023, to determine whether the sound made from pickleball play at the courts would be lower than the permitted decibel level in the Town Code. The test confirmed that the traffic noise and sound coming from The Reef were higher than pickleball. The pickleball play was inaudible from the property line of The Reef. The measured decibel level range was 48.8dBa to 50 dBa. The maximum allowed for this zone is 61 dBa.

The Recreation Advisory Commission at their Thursday, January 26, 2023 meeting, reaffirmed their recommendation that pickleball should have a dedicated location. They also recommend four courts vs. two due to the sport's popularity and projected growth.

At the Town Council's request from the December 13, 2022 meeting, the new site plan showing the two courts will be presented along with the original master plan showing the four courts.

### **FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT**

The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach will raise the \$20 million projected project cost and establish an endowment fund of \$5 million. The pickleball courts would be built as part of the renovation and included in the project cost.

Attachment – Phipps Ocean Park Site Plan with Proposed Pickleball Court Locations

cc: H. Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works  
Nicholas Caristo, Police Chief  
Darrell Donatto, Fire-Rescue Chief  
Wayne Bergman, Planning, Zoning, and Building Director  
Amanda Skier, Executive Director and CEO of the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach