

Town of Palm Beach Application for Service

Please note that pursuant to [FS 119.07](#), the information provided in this application is considered to be a public record, except as provided by law.

Which board/commission/committee are you applying for?

- Recreation Advisory Commission

Recreation Advisory Commission

The [Recreation Advisory Commission](#) acts in an advisory capacity to the Town Council on matters related to recreation programs and facilities within the town.

**Membership:** 7 regular members

**Terms:** 3 year terms, no more than 2 consecutive terms

**Meetings:** 3 in-person meetings per year, no more than 2 unexcused absences allowed per calendar year

**Qualifications:**

- Members must be registered voters in the town
- Preference is given to candidates who are enrolled or have their children enrolled in a recreation department program or are a regular participant or volunteer at a town recreation department facility

Contact Information

First Name	Carolyn
Last Name	Ryan
Email Address	carolyn.pressly@gmail.com
Phone Number	9178816374
Address	171 El Pueblo Way
City	Palm Beach
State	FL
ZIP Code	33480

I affirm that I am a registered voter in the Town of Palm Beach.

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## Demographics

[FS 760.80](#) requires the Town of Palm Beach to maintain and report the following information:

Ethnicity	Caucasian/Non-Hispanic
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Gender	Female
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Physically Disabled	No
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If you are appointed and are currently serving on another board/commission/committee, you are required to resign from that position. Do you understand this requirement?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes</li></ul>
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If there are any periods of time during which you anticipate that you will be unavailable for meetings, please specify.	No
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## Interest/Experience

If you have served on any boards/commissions/committees in the Town of Palm Beach or elsewhere, please list them and include details such as length of service, attendance record, etc.	I serve on the board of the current \$10 million dollar Capital Campaign for Rosarian Academy where my children have attended school for the last five years; I am active in school volunteer (RAFA) and neighborhood committees (North End); and serve on the Youth Leadership Committee at Bethesda-by-the-Sea. Last May I was honored to be nominated and to join the Friends of Recreation board. My husband and I were delighted to pledge our financial support toward the realization of the field lights. While I greatly enjoy being a part of this organization and will gladly continue with Friends of Rec, I value public service and would step down to avoid conflict of interest if selected to service on the recreation commission.
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How many meetings of the board you are applying for have you attended in the past two years?	I have attended in person or via subsequent recording all of the meetings of the last two years.
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Why are you interested in serving on this board and what do you hope to accomplish by serving?	I am particularly excited about the town's golf program. For the past 10 years my family has been avid golfers at the Par 3, enjoying its growth and development under Tony Chatauvet's excellent leadership. At last month's meeting Tony mentioned this season's "Trump bump" for Par 3 usage, and his dreams on the horizon for golf's \$2MM revenue surplus, to put toward faster greens, a shaded range structure, and re-grassing the entire golf course for a more elevated experience. To add to these capital improvements, I would like to see new programs at the Par 3 that offer better availability for our local juniors. In the past, children at PBDA and Rosarian used to do after school clinics at The Breakers, but the program has been dialed down since Covid as membership concurrently swelled, keeping the junior lessons limited to the practice facilities—and off the actual course. While the Breakers' prior partnership has been admirable, I feel it is time that our local Par 3 course supports after school golf programs with broader on-course instruction after school. I was very excited to see that the Par 3 has a brand-new partnership with Bank of America to provide kids 6-18 a free membership to the instrumental Youth on Course program, as well as the invitation to play a round at the Par 3 for just 5 bucks. That is a wonderful offering for all area youth, but let's also offer something to our residents: let's
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Have you read the applicable sections of the Town Code of Ordinances related to this board?

Yes

## Background

Please describe your current and previous occupations, along with the number of years you spent in each role.

I currently am an engaged full-time resident and parent; enthusiastically involved in the North End and broader town community; at Rosarian Academy; and at Bethesda-by-the-Sea  
-Friends of Recreation, board member  
-Owner, Carolyn Pressly Interiors (NYC), 8 years  
-Morgan Stanley Financial Analyst, 5 years

Please describe your educational background. Do you have a degree in or have you taken courses in any fields of study relevant to the board you are applying for?

As a summa cum laude graduate of the old journalism school at Washington & Lee University, I am passionate about researching issues and doing my homework. I feel I have the necessary time, energy, and knowledge of the recreation activities to be an engaged and collaborative committee member.

Why do you feel you are qualified to serve on this board?

I come from a service-minded community mentality in my home state of North Carolina and in Bridgehampton, New York. Here in Palm Beach where I live year 'round, each week one or more of our family is out experiencing and enjoying all of the town's recreational facilities.

My husband, Kevin, and I, and our daughters Charlotte (13) and Pressly (11) are newer residents to the island, having moved here in 2020 and visited seasonally since 2014. We have much respect for the culture and history of this town and those who have lived here long enough to tell me about fishing, chasing ducks and walking barefoot trails on Maddock Way. But we understand there is something special about "the Palm Beach way," which has been discussed often this year with regards to how unique the town's character and programming are. Clearly steering this ship requires correct, and elegant, collaborative solutions.

Kevin and I joined the Mandel gym soon after it opened, which deserves a prize for the kindest and most welcoming staff. And outside on the field: Our daughters enjoyed picking up a lacrosse stick for the first time under the excellent coaching of Molly Miller. Yet lacrosse field time became a casualty of other more popular teams and sports, forcing players to drive to Boca or Jupiter in search of leagues and fields. Hopefully now, with town council's conditional passing of the field lights proposal—first ushered through by the rec commission, and something I stood in front of you advocating for earlier this year—more local children will have greater access to field time on our ever-popular field. Now pending ARCOM design review, this field as I noted to you this year, is an example of community growth, cooperation and the need to share and make the best use of our excellent—but limited—resources.

Are you a member of any of the following organizations?

- Palm Beach Civic Association
- North End Property Owners' Association
- Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach
- Other

If you would like to specify what other organizations you are a member of, please do so here.

Friends of Recreation  
Four Arts Juniors  
The Beach Club  
Bethesda by the Sea

If you would like to provide any additional documentation for consideration, please do so here.



Town Council Rec Center Speech May 2025.pdf

In the event you are applying to be a Regular Member and you are not successful, will you accept appointment as an Alternate Member should the Town Council wish to appoint you as an Alternate Member? Yes

\*Have you ever been convicted or pled guilty or nolo contendere to a crime other than minor traffic violations? No

### Signature Agreement

1. I understand the duties, role, and time commitment to the board/commission to which I have applied and have read the regulations concerning absences and [conflicts of interest](#).
2. I understand that I will be required to complete county-mandated ethics training if appointed.
3. I understand that any falsification of material facts will be grounds for rejection of this application or dismissal.

By affixing your signature in the box below, you agree that such signature will be the electronic representation of your signature to be valid and binding upon you for all purposes when you (or your agent) affix below, including on legally binding contracts, just the same as a hand-written signature.

Signature

Thank you for providing this information. After clicking 'Submit' you will receive a Submission ID number that can be retained for future reference.

You will be updated by our staff, if necessary, as your submission is processed. Please contact the Town Clerk's office at [townclerk@townofpalmbeach.com](mailto:townclerk@townofpalmbeach.com) with any questions.

Please note that Board/Commission applications expire on December 15 of each year.

Have a great day!

# CAROLYN PRESSLY-RYAN

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carolyn.pressly@gmail.com  
(917) 881-6374

171 El Pueblo Way  
Palm Beach, FL

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## OBJECTIVE

To serve on the Town of Palm Beach Recreation Advisory Committee

## EXPERIENCE

### **Palm Beach Island Resident (North End) — 2021-Present**

I would try to lend a unique “depth and breadth” perspective to the RAC. My husband and daughters and I feel fortunate to know all major Rec programs, and staff members, in depth. I particularly enjoy youth golf programming and feel this is an underserved area at the Par 3 for our young residents. Three words to describe me are sporty, collaborative, and community-minded.

### **Friends of Rec Board Member — 2024- Present**

Identify and support developmental projects for the Mandel, including an appeal to Town Council to advance F.O.R.’s fully funded field lights proposal

### **Youth Leadership Team, Bethesda-by-the-Sea — 2022- Present**

Liaise with BBTS administration to implement programming for 14-and-under

### **Flower Guild Member, Bethesda-by-the-Sea — 2020- Present**

Contributing member of this unique committee of 120 men and women

### **Rosarian Academy Capital Campaign & RAFA Volunteer — 2021 - Present**

Member of RA’s current capital campaign committee, which liaises with Development and our Principal to raise upwards of \$10MM toward a new athletic field and related resources

### **Children’s Museum of the East End, Bridgehampton NY — 2013-2020**

Chair of the Board (2 years); Trustee, 8 years

### **Vestry, St. Ann’s Episcopal Church, Bridgehampton NY — 2018-2020**

Member of the Church Vestry

### **Carolyn Pressly Interiors, New York, NY — 2008-2020**

Owner of boutique residential studio catering to clients in NYC and the Hamptons. Published in ELLE DECOR, Hamptons Cottage & Garden, NYT, etc.

### **Morgan Stanley, New York, NY — 2002-2007**

Financial Analyst, Global Capital Markets. Analyst to the CFO.

## EDUCATION

### **Washington & Lee University — BA, Business Journalism & Economics 2002**

Summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

### **Salem Academy School for Girls, 1772 (Winston-Salem, NC) — 1995-1998**

## AFFILIATIONS

Palm Beach Preservation Society; Palm Beach Civic Association; The Bridgehampton Historical Society; The Beach Club (Palm Beach); The Bridgehampton Club (NY); Liberty National Golf Club (NJ); The Dye Preserve (FL); Seaview Tennis D6, D5, D4, D3 and now D2. WMGA competitive golfer.

## **Carolyn Pressly Ryan**

171 El Pueblo Way  
Palm Beach, FL  
carolyn.pressly@gmail.com

May 1, 2025

Palm Beach Town Council  
360 S. County Road  
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Dear Town Council:

It is an honor to submit my interest in, and passion for, our unparalleled municipal recreation offerings here in the Town of Palm Beach. Our Par 3 golf course, Seaview & Phipps Ocean tennis courts, and youth recreation field are enjoying unprecedented levels of utilization and demand. The beautiful renovation at Phipps Ocean Park is about to commence, and its expected surge in use is sure to drive future discussion.

I have deep respect for the current Recreation Advisory Commissioners, for outgoing Chairman Greer Pressly's leadership, and for all the work the commissioners are doing on behalf of Palm Beach island residents as usage in all programs continues to grow. Last year I came before you to submit my enthusiasm to follow in the footsteps, if the appropriate time comes, of Susan Watts and Peter Harris who were honorably reappointed. I celebrate their efforts and accomplishments along with their fellow commissioners, as I see that they consistently ask questions and promote policies that put residents first. I have been regularly following the discussions and agenda items, and I applaud the work the commissioners are doing to operate rec services in "the Palm Beach way." I would be humbled and honored to be considered at the appropriate time to add to the work they are spearheading and making possible for our community.

I come from a service-minded community mentality in my home state of North Carolina and in Bridgehampton, New York. Here in Palm Beach where I live year 'round, each week one or more of our family is out experiencing and enjoying all of the town's recreational facilities.

My husband, Kevin, and I, and our daughters Charlotte (13) and Pressly (11) are newer residents to the island, having moved here in 2020 and

visited seasonally since 2014. We have much respect for the culture and history of this town and those who have lived here long enough to tell me about fishing, chasing ducks and walking barefoot on Maddock Way. But we understand there is something special about the Palm Beach way, which has been discussed often this year with regards to how unique the town's character and programming are. Clearly steering this ship requires correct, and elegant, collaborative solutions.

I am particularly excited about the town's golf program. For the past 10 years my family has been avidly golfing at the Par 3, enjoying its growth and development under Tony Chatauvet's excellent leadership. At last month's meeting Tony mentioned this season's "Trump bump" for Par 3 usage, and his dreams on the horizon for the Par 3's \$2MM revenue surplus, to put toward faster greens, a shaded range structure, and re-grassing the entire golf course for a more elevated experience. To add to these capital improvements, I would like to see new programs at the Par 3 that offer better availability for our local juniors. In the past, children at PBDA and Rosarian used to do after school clinics at The Breakers, but the program has been dialed down since Covid as membership concurrently swelled, keeping the junior lessons limited to the practice facilities—and off the actual course. While the Breakers' prior partnership has been admirable, I feel it is time that our local Par 3 course supports after school golf programs with broader on-course instruction after school. I was very excited to see that the Par 3 has a brand-new partnership with Bank of America to provide kids 6-18 a free membership to the instrumental Youth on Course program, as well as the invitation to play a round at the Par 3 for just 5 bucks. That is a wonderful offering for all area youth, but let's also offer something to our residents: let's explore positioning a PGA Junior league or Drive, Chip and Putt league at the Par 3 for our resident golfers. Who among our island youngsters has the longest drive or tightest chip?!

North of the Par 3 at the recreation center itself, Kevin and I joined the Mandel gym soon after it opened, which deserves a prize for the kindest and most welcoming staff. And outside on the field: Our daughters enjoyed picking up a lacrosse stick for the first time under the excellent coaching of Molly Miller. Yet lacrosse field time became a casualty of other more popular teams and sports, forcing players to drive to Boca or Jupiter in search of leagues and fields. Hopefully now, with town council's conditional passing of the field lights proposal, first ushered through the rec commission, and something I stood in front of you advocating for this time last year, more local children will have greater access to field time on our ever-popular field. Now pending ARCOM design review, this field as I noted before you earlier this year, is an example of community growth,

cooperation and the need to share and make the best use of our excellent —but limited — resources.

With regards to the crucial open dialogue with Director Mark Bresnahan and his team, I believe in, and am well-versed in, committee cooperation and open discourse with staff, having chaired and served on non-profit boards and committees in New York and here in Palm Beach. I serve on the board of the current \$10 million dollar Capital Campaign for Rosarian Academy; am active in school volunteer committees; and serve on the Youth Leadership Committee at Bethesda-by-the-Sea. Last May I was honored to be nominated and to join the Friends of Recreation board. My husband and I were delighted to pledge our financial support toward the realization of the field lights. While I greatly enjoy being a part of this organization and will gladly continue with Friends of Rec, I value public service and would step down to avoid conflict of interest if selected to service on the recreation commission.

Finally, as a graduate of the old journalism school at Washington & Lee University, I am passionate about researching issues and doing my homework. I feel I have the necessary time, energy, and knowledge of the recreation activities to be an engaged and compatible committee member. In conclusion, I care passionately about the recreation resources here in Palm Beach, and I would be honored to be considered to join the Advisory Commission if at any point I am called upon. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Carolyn Pressly Ryan