



THE VILLAGE OF

North Palm Beach

501 U.S. HIGHWAY 1 • NORTH PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33408 • 561-841-3355

Meeting Minutes

On Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 3:30 PM a meeting was held in the Council Chambers in North Palm Beach Village Hall for the purpose of obtaining resident input and opinions regarding a new Clubhouse and amenities at the North Palm Beach Country Club. Architect, Brian Idle, from Peacock + Lewis Architects and Planners, along with Rick Norton from Norton Consulting, moderated the meeting. Nine residents were in attendance, encompassing many facets of Village Residents. (See attached sign-in sheet)

First, the group introduced themselves and responded if they had used the amenities at the current Country Club:

- Laurie and Roland Samuelson moved to the Village in 1957 when he was a Pratt & Whitney Engineer. Their son, who attended Georgia Tech, Laurie is in the Swim Master's Program and plays tennis. They live on the golf course currently and Laurie swims at the Country Club pool. She has a brother that also lives in the Village. Roland has been a Member of the club for over 12 years and is very active. He is interested in the restaurant component.
- Lisa Emerson has two children (8th grader and a senior). Her husband was born in North Palm Beach and swam at the Country Club growing up.
- Brent Keller grew up in West Palm Beach, and has been in the area for 6 years. He has a 5 month old baby. He was in the golf business and previously worked at the North Palm Beach Country Club. He currently works for Island Construction.
- Lisa Interlandi lives on Marlin Road, has lived in the Village for 15 years. Her family uses the country club and is interested in amenities for children.
- Eric and Lisa Jensen stated they are empty nesters and want to use the Country Club as a social center.
- Linda Brandlein moved from Canada nine years ago and golfs on Saturday and Sunday and also plays tennis 3-4 times per week at the Country Club.
- Alison Mischke lives on Overlook Drive, has three children ages 11, 9 and 5 and previously lived on Country Club Drive.
- Jamie Germaine is a resident whom resides 713 Jacambre, her parents, while growing up lived at 740 and 716. She has two children ages 8 and 5. Her husband golfs.

Next, the group discussed the strengths of the country club:

- Location was large consensus
- Various amenities it offers
- Swim hours are good

- A Jack Nicklaus Signature Course is a big draw to the area
- Tennis has Har-Tru clay courts (Rare for public play)
- The staff at NPB Country Club – especially on the Golf Side
- Adjacent to Driving Range and Pool, Location as a Central Hub
- Very reasonably priced – good value
- Well respected swim club with Coach Cavanaugh – a lot of scholarships
- Great Village events like 4th of July and the boat Parade – Mr. Idle showed the Membership Brochure of all the various events held at the club throughout the year,

The group also discussed the weaknesses/detriments of the country club:

- Food and Beverage
- Clubhouse is an embarrassment due to its age/datedness
- Too few snack bar hours
- Area is not functional- must go through banquet room from the pool to get a drink
- Member Utilization during construction new site vs old site, moving of tennis courts. Discussed ten year long range plan to re-do tennis courts to have underground irrigation.
- Construction would take 18-24 months and would have some inconveniences during construction.
- Pool is shut down when swim teams practice- even kiddie area.
- No cohesiveness between memberships and co-mingling of members of tennis/swim/golf

The “wish list” of items for a successful Country Club was discussed:

- Use the views available- add a second story
- Have a casual coffee shop/bar by the water
- Bring back fun Friday nights/ Sunday Brunch and other events.
- Fitness room – overwhelming support and all agreed they would be willing to pay more to have gym on site and would cancel their outside gym memberships.
- Good restaurant with Good food.
- Goal is to be a self-sustaining facility. Mr. Norton announced that 2/3rds of current revenues are from outsiders (non-residents)
- Have the Club only for residents- or at least charge a premium for non-residents, like Palm Beach Gardens does. “Charge ‘em”;
- Clubhouse by the water with dockage, a restaurant by both the pool and near the water – would be two different types of fare.
- Bar by the water
- Banquet Rooms
- A nice locker room
- Centralized Food and Beverage operation like at Scottsdale Arizona Country Club
- Use the Jack Nicklaus Course to attract an LPGA Tournament
- Needs a good, professional management team.
- Splash Park for the younger children similar to Palm Beach Gardens; large water slide
- Day Care component for “date night” at the Club

- Game room with ping pong, pool, air hockey, especially for the teens.- Albany in the Bahamas was cited as an example.
- Re-do the pool to have a separate 25 x 50 yard pool for those other than lap swimmers
- Hire a professional to manage the club
- Have a higher end restaurant with outstanding service.
- Facilitate a social environment; make the Country Club the centralized gathering spot.
- Replicate the original Oakes building – make it be the trademark of North Palm Beach.

Questions were asked about how the club re-build and if condominiums were planned on the course. Mr. Idle responded that condos would require a referendum and were not part of the plan. He referred to a master plan proposal from ten years ago that showed condos on the water but was defeated early on in the process.

Information was provided to the group as to where to find accurate information regarding the new clubhouse and the Master Plan on the Village Website. Residents can sign up to be notified when any new information is added.

The group adjourned at 4:32 pm

jc

