



THE VILLAGE OF

North Palm Beach

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

Meeting Minutes

On Thursday, November 6, 2015 at 9:30 AM, 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. Village Manager Jim Kelly was also present. Eight residents were in attendance, encompassing many facets of the Village. (See attached sign-in sheet).

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

- Margaret Ramforth has been a resident for twelve years and has used the pool.
- Joseph DiMare has two children ages 8 and 9; he swims and golfs at the country club.
- John Samadi, an engineer, is a 25 year resident, and his children were on swim team and one could have been an Olympic swimmer.
- Ryan Kadyszewski has two children ages 10 and 5; use the driving range, pool in the summertime, has had breakfast at the club but feels the club is unfriendly.
- Bob Maurer is an 11 year Old Port Cove resident, was previously on the Library Advisory Board, has been a paid member to the Golf club for the past ten years and is a part of "Harry's Happy Hackers" Golf team.
- Joyce Reingold is a 23 year resident who lives on Greenway; has used all of the facilities- particularly the pool and driving range.
- Rosemary Ricketts resides on Country Club Drive and her son is a senior in High School. He grew up using the pool, had a tennis membership and used the driving range.
- Jeff Egizio has lived on Country Club for one year, has three children- a 10 year old son who is in the junior golf program and a 6 year old daughter who has attended the golf camps, along with a newborn. He plays golf 2-3 times a week and grew up in Palm Beach Gardens.

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

- Location/convenience/Ease of access (walking distance to the Country Club); topography of current site
- A well- run Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course with great staff
- Various amenities it offers
- Great Swim Team
- Walkable/bike to club- close proximity.
- Wonderful events such as Food Truck Frenzy, 4th of July and the boat parade

- NPB as a whole- private dock storage/new elementary school
- Community Feel without HOA's or gated communities
- Good Junior Golf Program
- Friday Night Pool Parties
- Tennis facilities are nice/staff is nice

Mr. Idle showed the Membership Brochure of all the various events held at the club throughout the year, and it was well received.

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

- Food is crappy (although one resident defended the food and said it has improved recently)
- No large banquet rooms to hold events
- No shade on pool deck
- State of Facility- dingy and old
- Locker rooms are horrible
- Unfriendly staff – not recognized
- Not enough promotion of breakfast – it is good
- Used to have weekly entertainment, singers, comedian, piano players, etc. with buffet dinners – Would like to see that again.
- Everything is separate – golf from Tennis, Tennis from the swimmers- they all have their own areas and do not integrate much with each other.

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

- Nice upscale restaurant – “Carabbas” with own chef – one resident was opposed to a leased restaurant as they are only in it for profit of 40-50%- non-golfers would come just for dinner if it was a nice venue.
- Have outdoor seating/bar like at Frigates
- Make it a Private Facility – or give the residents an incentive to attend- like a special membership Card mailed to each resident that would give a discount or some “extra” to make you feel like a real member. Charge more for non-residents.(all were in agreement)
- Gym – overwhelming support and all agreed they would be willing to pay more
- Tiki Bar– Turtle Creek and Tequesta CC were cited as examples of places that have done a nice job. Have a Tiki bar by the water.
- Have 2 separate dining areas- burgers and dog poolside fare and then a nice sit-down restaurant inside the club.
- Kid Friendly pool area with a Splash Park/Slides for the younger children similar to Palm Beach Gardens
- More Shaded areas by the pool
- Have Happy Hour at the Bar and outer kitchen restaurant/snack bar for the kids/more formal restaurant inside. Place for the “guys” to come on weekends to watch football, have a beer and hang out.
- Banquet Rooms/Birthday Party Room

- Updated locker rooms /nice shower facilities
- Needs name recognition of members and courteous staff –feel like you belong to a club-tiered membership levels
- Game room/Kids Room with ping pong, pool, air hockey, especially for the teens Place for kids to play. Could be a multi-purpose room with roll away ping pong etc.
- Have a second story to take advantage of the views – Par 3 in Palm Beach and Bradley’s Beach Club were used as examples.
- Have lots of windows to have natural light and take advantage of the views of the golf
- Wants Golf Cart usage on roads/sidewalks (Would be part of the Master Plan)
- Have golf cart storage/bag rooms underneath the facility. (Mr. Norton noted that Golf Director Casey Mitchell provided a very thorough plan and Mr. Kelly noted that staff had visited numerous golf clubs and all were in agreement storage is needed and suggested one way in, one way out)
- Tennis facility is too far from main hub and does not ingratiate the tennis members to the other members.
- Don’t lose uniqueness of NPB
- Coffee Bar like Starbucks- or room like Whole Foods and Christ Fellowship- can access wifi- meet friends and a very casual atmosphere. Mr. Idle mentioned a place called “The Brew” where in the am, people gather for coffee, and in the evening gather for a beer.
- Large portion of the group keep reiterating they want a “gathering place” with a real community feel.
- What you offer is more important than what it looks like.
- Replicate the Old Florida Style of original Old Winter Home of Harry Oakes

Village Manager Kelly stated that North Palm Beach was a very unique community and was interested in their input. He provided the village website to obtain accurate information and announced that there will be an online survey in December linked to the Village website. He announced two more meetings – one this Saturday at 8:30am and another on December 5th at 8:30 am. Both will be at the Country Club.

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 were told where they could sign up to be notified when any new information was added. Village Manager Kelly described the purpose of Phase I and what the timeline and process involved. Jack Nicklaus would also be consulted regarding any decisions or changes to the golf course. Mr. Kelly also discussed the Master Plan involving US 1 and Northlake Blvd. A Charrette will be held from January 30 through February 5th for the public. The Council will decide how to move forward after the Charrette. He thanked everyone for coming and for their feedback.

The group adjourned at 10:40 AM

jc

