Breakers gets OK to upgrade tennis center

Town Council approves renovation, expansion

Diego Diaz Lasa

The Town Council has given The Breakers the green light to begin reno-
vating and expanding its tennis faciliti-
ties following a 3-0 vote during Wednes-
day’s development review meeting to do so.

Renovations include replacing the 10 Har-Tru clay tennis courts with six
state-of-the-art clay courts, two hard
courts, four grass courts and two pickle-
hall courts, according to the Breakers’
letter of intent. A shade structure will be
constructed over four clay courts and the
pickleball courts.

“Obviously having tennis at a luxury
resort is an amenity, but this is 75%
used by our town residents, our club
members,” Breakers CEO Paul Leone
said during the meeting.

The vote of approval comes after
earlier weeks of dialogue between the
resort and Palm Beach officials that
saw the tweaking and adjusting of the
original site plan.

“The process began with amending
the 23-year-old zoning rule to allow for
the creation of new courts, James Crow-
ey said during the meeting.

“My understanding was that after 5
years it would come up and we would
ask for an extension,” Breakers COO
Steve Flom said during the meeting.

The vote of approval comes after
earlier discussion of the project with
the Architectural Commission.

“We had the project split in two and
look into it,” Young said during the
meeting.

“By splitting it, you got it approved
on May 10,” Young said during the
meeting.

The vote of approval comes after
earlier discussion of the project with
the Planning and Zoning Commis-
sion.

“Before the Planning and Zoning
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challenging,” Young said during the
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Tennis

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Sept. 27. Crowley said, adjustments were made to the site plan including changing the color of the fencing and shade structure to conform with the foliage between the courts and South County Road to obscure the tennis structures.

“We don’t have any neighboring properties that would be impacted … our current fencing we’re proposing, and AROCM (Architectural Commission) agrees, is much more at-

tractive that a 10-foot chain-link fence or masts.”

Town Council members questioned the visibility of the center from South County Road, with council member Ju- lie Araskog highlighting what appeared to be a gap in the foliage of the virtual model presented.

Leonie emphasized the density of the foliage planned for the center. He said various species of palm trees, gumbo limbo trees and hedges would be plant-

ed between the courts and roadway.

“If you turn to try at this, you’d be better to conclude, because you have a color, you pass it, and with the landscaping and depth, it really is almost impossible to see,” said Leonie regarding Araskog’s concerns.

Araskog also criticized what she called the industrial aesthetic of the shade structure, questioning its neces-

sity. Leonie told the shade would be for the protection of the guests and noted the predominance of skin cancer caused by prolonged sun exposure.

“I think you’ve done a great job on it, and you’ve called me,” said Mary Jane Dau-

illo Moore. “I don’t see any problems with this.”

Araskog, the sole council member to vote against the project, cited the shade structures as her only reservation.

“Most of it was wonderful Paul, and it would be worth setting in sections I would approve almost everything,” she said.

Diego Diaz Lasso is a journalist at the Palm Beach Daily News, part of the USA TODAY Florida Network. You can reach him at dlazon@palmbeachdailynews.com.

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Foundations

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labatories, teaching rooms, office space, and computer stations in the labs and open areas.

“Over the last decade, we have increased thousands of the number of students … engineering,” said Professor As-

cher Cohen, president of the Hebrew University. “The current complex, which com-

prises three buildings, will be at full ca-

pacity by the end of 2024. Construction is underway.”

Tennis

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by Gervais. Said. It sits on the west side of the Atlantic Coastal Ridge, and has access to trails, a 2-acre restored wetland and an oceanfront.

But landscape painting called to him first in England, the part-time home he shares with his husband, Gil Cohen. They also have a home in Palm Beach af-

ter spending 35 years in Italy’s Tuscany region.

“The paintings of a non-representational artist,” he said. “My art has always been ab-

stract.”

Gervais’ exhibition kicks off another season of the arts at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens. He plans to continue exploring land-

scape painting, in addition to other for-

mats. “I would be very bored if I had to do one thing all my life,” Gervais said, smil-

ing. He referenced the artists of the ele-

ments as well as those who couldn’t or chose not to paint.

Giving his work in the Norton Garden 

equal to that, isn’t it?” Gervais said. “Stand-

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established.”

Joshua Rednik, CEO of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, de-

scribed the gift as “transformational.”

“I hope people see the beauty in the 

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Where: Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, 253 Barcelona Road, West Palm Beach
When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday through Jan. 7
Cost: Free, members adult, $10 for seniors ages 65 and older, $7 for students and free for ages 5 younger
Information: Call 561-832-5328 or go to www.ann.org

There was not much wildlife at the scrub when he visited, but he did see mantis, several varieties of frogs, bugs, “back ing,” he said.

Gervais pointed to that there are still places in Florida such as the Hypoluxo Scrub that are unique that people who had the foresight to protect them.

“They chose to preserve it; this seems to be a good decision,” Gervais said. “So we can all have a better take on where we live and this planet. I think we should be very grateful for that.”

Gervais said he grew “more and more abstract” as time went by. “I'd be totally bored by that.”

Rothko,” Gervais said. “I would never want to be colorless. I think that’s boring. I’d be totally bored by that.”

Shadows were blown, and the shade structure to white and increasing se-

One thing all my life,” Gervais said, smil-

ing.

He explores natural light in the paint-

ings. Where he sees potential to draw more darkness from the shadows, he said — further highlighting the places the sun-touch and adding only to the striking nature of some of the scenes.

Gervais focused his painting onto the natural world, being careful to remove any suggestions of human presence. There were some tracks from a vehicle used by preserve staff, which he did not include. Where there might have been footprints from other visi-

tors, Gervais also did not include them. He did, however, include animal tracks.

“There are landscapes that are origi-

nal and natural and more or less un-

touched,” he said. “It’s impossible that they could survive intact from centuries ago. I really like them without people, and human interaction, just focusing on the natural feel of it. That’s some thing that’s so rare to finish in Florida now.”

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