

Recreation Committee

5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 8, 2019

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 8 2019 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Moye and Smith, Chair Buckhannon, Interim Administrator Fragoso, Recreation Director Page and City Clerk Copeland, a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Chair Buckhannon called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Councilmember Smith asked that a change be made to fourth paragraph under Item 4, Departmental Report saying that she would like to see signs "posted in business' windows throughout the island."

MOTION: Councilmember Moye moved to approve the minutes as amended; Chair Buckhannon seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments

Dan Slotchiver of 6805 Back Bay Drive stated that he was the speaker for the Old Man's Basketball group that brought approximately twenty (20) members to this meeting; this group consists of approximately eight (80) members who routinely draw fifteen to twenty (15 – 20) members for basketball on Saturday mornings on the outdoor courts at the Rec Center. When the weather conditions are cold, rainy or extremely hot, they typically do not play. They have been trying to find a way that they could use the indoor basketball court at the Rec Center; now that the Rec Center is open on Sunday afternoons, Director Page has designated between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. for adult gym use so these guys can play full court basketball.

Mr. Slotchiver commented that tae kwon do has used the gym for many years on Saturday mornings, and only three to five (3 – 5) people have been participating in the past couple of months. He opined that tae kwon do "could easily meet in one (1) of the classrooms."

Although they appreciate the Director's efforts to give them exclusive play time in the gym, the basketball players have found that the men on the team typically have family obligations on Sunday afternoons and are not available for basketball. Mr. Slotchiver stated that the City has "a space that island residents want to use for a purpose that is legitimate and . . . should be looked at, especially when it has the majority of people" compared with tae kwon do. Mr. Slotchiver added that the gym is the only space they could use whereas the tae kwon do class could meet in a classroom; over the span of five (5) years, they have proven they will show up every week. He referenced the letter sent to all of Council and delivered to City Hall prior to the meeting for additional details and a short listing of the IOP residents who are in the group. In summary, he stated that they want the opportunity to be able to play on a regular basis in a nice facility recognizing that events occur throughout the year that occupy the gym. He asked that the Committee consider moving tae kwon do out of the gym or holding the classes at a different time and allowing them to play on Saturday mornings between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

The Old Man's Basketball group also asked that the Committee consider designating the entire afternoon on Sundays to family gym time.

Joe Birkstrom, 526 Palm Boulevard, thanked the staff for allowing the Sullivan's Island basketball team practice time in the gym, and he stated that the team was two and two (2 – 2) this far into the season. He also said that he was one (1) of several dozen parents who are spending a lot of time traveling over the County for games of soccer, lacrosse, baseball and basketball, and to Mount Pleasant, West Ashley, and North Charleston to rent fields for games. He asked that they be given the opportunity to rent fields at the Rec Center in the off-season; currently they are renting four (4) fields in Mount Pleasant for lacrosse. He asked that the Recreation Committee consider their request.

MOTION: Councilmember Moyer moved to address Section 6, Item B at this point in the meeting; Councilmember Smith seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. New Business

B. Discussion of Recreation Facilities use, rental and access options

Councilmember Moyer stated that he has been contacted many times over the course of his first year on Council about finding more ways for residents to have access, rent or otherwise use the Rec Center. By putting this on the Agenda, he chose not to present a plan to the Rec Director because he thought she has the expertise and that the staff knows what is needed and what is more feasible to serve the community. He then charged Director Page, her staff and Interim Administrator Fragoso to present to the Committee changes to consider to increase use of the facilities. He stated that currently the City does not have a fee schedule for renting out the facility, for instance, class instructors could be contract employees who rent the space and collect any fees established by the instructor rather than City employees. He thought that the requests made today were examples of activities that would be standard practice for other municipalities. He reiterated that he wants staff to come up with ideas to better meet the needs of the community; he thought that the requests were stemming from an ever changing demographic that has more young families on the island and from a more engaged citizenry. Statements he has heard over the last year are that residents want the Rec Center to be the "heart of the community" and "make sure the City has an open, inviting and available way to use it." He suggested that the Rec Center could become another revenue center for the City.

Director Page stated that tae kwon do was the first class to be offered when the building was opened in 1982. She then asked the Old Man's Basketball group if playing from 7:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. on Saturday mornings would be satisfactory for their games since the adult tae kwon do class does need to stay in the gym because the equipment they use is there.

Councilmember Moyer told Director Page that he was looking for a more holistic approach to accommodating the residents, and the Old Man's Basketball group was only one (1) small part of the community. He also said he would like to know who are taking the classes; he would like to see a breakdown similar to the one (1) in the monthly report for young people's sports. If the participants in tae kwon do were primarily Mount Pleasant residents, he questioned why it would get priority over island residents who want to play basketball.

Director Page reminded the Committee that the instructors bring in revenue. If the men's basketball group accepts the Director's offer, residents would have earlier access to the cardio

room, and, possibly, another class could be added; since the Rec Center opens at 9:00 a.m., the Department will spend a little more on wages to insure it is open at 7:30 a.m.

Councilmember Moyer said that the Rec Center should never have an unused space when people want to use it, and he has seen that to be the case. That is one (1) situation he believes staff's recommendations can eliminate. He added that he would also like to see a schedule comparing renting class space to instructors rather than bringing them on as part-time employees.

Speaking again for the basketball group, Mr. Slotchiver said that they would be content to have access to the gym from 8:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. on Saturdays.

Director Page said that she did not think they could start the Saturday basketball until the first weekend in February because staff schedules have been set through January.

4. Departmental Report for November and December 2018 – Director Page

The monthly report is attached to the historical record of the meeting.

One (1) item of information Director Page thought was interesting was that the participation of children between the ages of 5 to 6 years has increased by twenty-two percent (22%).

Upcoming events include Doggie Day at the Rec on Saturday, February 9th, the Front Beach Fest on Saturday, March 9th and the IOP Yard Sale on Saturday, March 30th.

Director Page stated that the Sullivan's Island basketball team did not contact her requesting use of the gym for their practices; she did get an email the day of the Council meeting from one (1) parent. She added that someone from that group went to *The Island Eye News* wanting an article written saying that the IOP Rec Center did not like children because children were not allowed to play in the gymnasium. She stated that just because something was on social media did not mean that it was the truth.

Councilmember Moyer referred to the breakdown of children registering for basketball as the report he would like to see for the classes held at the Rec. He stated that, in business, if someone can perform a job for you as contract labor, it was preferred over hiring another employee because the business would not be required to offer benefits.

According to Director Page, if an instructor was to rent space to teach a class, he/she would be required to have liability insurance meeting the City's coverage requirements and naming the City as an "also insured;" if the instructor purchased the insurance and paid rent on the space, he/she would not make any money by teaching. When they become part-time employees of the City, they are covered by the City's liability insurance. Additionally, the City has more control over what and how they teach than it would have otherwise.

MOTION: Chair Buckhannon moved to suspend the rules and to re-open Citizens' Comments; Councilmember Moyer seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments

Brenda Rosenthal, 3013 Waterway Boulevard, stated that she has been a resident of the island for twenty-five (25) years and regularly attends Zumba at the Rec Center. She said that, if some

of the ladies from Zumba want to go out for coffee, they go to The Refuge. She said that she would like to see the Rec Center become more of a community center, so that, if the Zumba ladies wanted coffee after class, they could go to a location within the Rec Center to sit and enjoy a cup of coffee together. In her opinion, the Rec Center does not now have any sense of gathering. She thought that holding lectures on a variety of topics would bring more adults into the Rec Center during the day and who would likely stop by a juice bar or coffee area. She stated that nearly all of the women who attend the Zumba class belong to a full-service gym in Mount Pleasant, and they are paying considerably less for those memberships than they pay to attend a couple of classes at the Rec Center for a full month. Another idea for drawing island residents to the Rec Center and creating sense of gathering would be a community organic garden.

Director Page stated that the Rec Center was moving in that direction with the free classes it offers and the groups who simply gather at the Rec for companionship, like the Gather Knit and Stitch group and the Wood Carvers. She also noted that coffee was available in the Lobby despite not offering much in the way of seating. The Director then urged Ms. Rosenthal and her friends to come to her with their ideas; she said that she tries to put every suggestion into action assuming it is reasonable.

The Director stated that the Recreation Department has a mission statement.

Additionally, Director Page reported having an active senior's group with the Keenagers.

Councilmember Smith stated that a lot of great things were going on at the Rec Center; she was excited at the prospect of a community garden.

Interim Administrator Fragoso stated that the City needed strategic planning; it needs to take a long look to determine what the City needs for its residents and what must be done to provide it.

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5. Old Business

A. Consideration of an award of a contract to Talbot Tennis/McGrath Industries in the amount of \$29,437 for the repair of the tennis courts (RFB 2018-06)

Committee members were directed to the recommendation from Director Page for this award. She recalled that, when the bids were originally opened, the bids were much greater than the amount budgeted; Director Page reached out to the two (2) bidders and asked about repairing the tennis courts. When the second RFB was advertised the same bidders submitted bids for using the same material; Talbot offered a three (3) year warranty that the cracks he fills will not re-appear, but new cracks could occur. This re-surfacing process should give the City another five (5) years to accumulate funds for the replacement of the courts.

Chair Buckhannon stated that, in five (5) years, the basketball courts will also need to be re-done, and he thought the entire corner should be re-developed at that time. He suggested that the City begin to reserve funds for that project and the addition of one (1) tennis court and the necessary lighting.

MOTION: Councilmember Smith moved to recommend to the Ways and Means Committee the award of a contract to Talbot Tennis/McGrath Industries in the amount of \$29,327 for the repair and resurfacing of the tennis courts; Councilmember Moye seconded and the motion PASSED UJNANIMOUSLY.

Responding to Councilmember Moye's question, Director Page stated that the work on the tennis courts must wait until the spring. She noted that she has applied for a grant, and the work cannot begin until after the grant funds are awarded.

B. Update on surfing franchise RFP and possible required amendments to the City Code

Interim Administrator Fragoso said that work on the RFP continues; she stated that she has been focusing on how the franchise agreement would look and talking to the City Attorney about ordinance changes that would be required. She reminded the Committee that the franchise agreement must be approved in ordinance form by Council, and, depending on how specific the RFP is written, the need for ordinance changes might be avoided. Currently she is coordinating with staff how the franchise would work since it is technically a lease and to whom the responsibility for oversight will be assigned.

When Councilmember Smith asked when the City would be ready, the Interim Administrator said that she was aware that summer was rapidly approaching, and she anticipated putting out the RFP in February so that the franchise agreement(s) will be in place for the 2019 season.

Director Page asked that a requirement for the franchisee to clean two (2) blocks of beach in either direction when his day is over, making them accountable for the area of beach that they use.

According to the interim Administrator, the typical financial arrangement would be one where the franchisee pays the City a percentage of gross profits.

As to location, the City knows that one (1) group has arranged for space on the beach in Wild Dunes; the resort will even book appointments for their guests. Interim Administrator Fragoso thought that the City should grant more than one (1) franchise to offer surfing lessons on the public beach. Based on the franchise agreement, the City can control the number of class participants, the location, etc.

Councilmember Smith expressed hope that the franchisee would offer a surfing camp a couple of weeks in the summer for island residents only.

6. New Business

A. Discussion of FY20 Budget and Capital Plan

After discussion and evaluation, several items originally scheduled for purchase or replacement in FY20 have been deferred to an out year; the remaining items are:

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| • Additional or replacement playground equip or outside scoreboard (only with failure) | \$10,000 |
| • Replacement of golf cart | 6,000 |
| • Replacement of server for RecTrac or cameras | 6,000 |
| • Replacement of HVAC as needed (15 units) | 50,000 |
| • WiFi for Rec building and grounds | 8,600 |
| • Building maintenance contingency | <u>25,000</u> |
| Total | 105,600 |

The items deferred to FY21 or FY22 are:

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| • RecTrac on-line registration module | \$ 5,400 |
| • RecTrac software to enable on-line with second server | 25,000 |
| • Acoustical panels for gym (FY22) | 30,000 |
| • Replacement of soccer goals (only with failure) | 6,000 |
| • Replacement lift (FY22) | 6,000 |
| • Replacement of floor scrubber | 6,000 |
| • Replacement of sound system speakers (FY22) | 10,000 |
| • Replacement of John Deere tractor | 20,000 |

On the subject of the RecTrac software, staff is evaluating whether other software is available that is compatible with RecTrac and costs less that could handle on-line registration.

Unlike other departments in the City, the Recreation Department has a dedicated maintenance person to handle small repairs and to manage contractors when their services are needed. This contingency will be evaluated against the maintenance plan to refine the amount.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Director Page asked that, when someone comes to Council or Committee members with an idea for a new class or program, to please direct them to her, and she will discuss it with her staff to determine if it is feasible for them to try.

Councilmember Smith shared an idea for a new piece of equipment she was told about by a resident, i.e. a swing for children confined to a wheelchair.

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Next Meeting Date: 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 4, 2019 in the Conference Room.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Moye moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m.; Chair Buckhannon seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk