

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
5:00 p.m., Monday, April 1, 2019

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee as held at 5:00 p.m., Monday, April 1, 2019 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Buckhannon and Moye, Chair Smith, Interim Administrator Fragoso, Recreation Director Page and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum of the Committee was present to conduct business.

1. Chair Smith 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**

**MOTION: Councilmember Buckhannon moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 4, 2019 as submitted; Councilmember Moye seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. Citizens' Comments**

Dan Harvey, 104 Grand Pavilion, stated that he read the City was planning to allow a surf camp in the area of Grand Pavilion, and, although he supported the concept, he was concerned that it was going to take place in a residential area. As a home owner, his concern was parking when Wild Dunes did not have enough parking in that area already; he also said that he did not think due consideration was given to the property owners in that vicinity of the beach as to the placement of the camp. He commented that the resort might be supportive, but he opined they had a commercial interest. He added that he thought the camp would better serve the residents of the island if it were not inside the gates on a part of the beach that was restrictive; he noted that Wild Dunes has three thousand (3,000) private homes.

**4. Departmental Report – Director Page**

Director Page stated that the March report did not contain much that was new from the February report and that classes were going well. She said that the fitness classes were some of the most popular. The youth baseball program started games today; one hundred sixty-five (165) young people between the ages of three (3) and twelve (12) were participating. The adult softball continued along with 3-on-3 basketball, 6-vs-6 soccer and table tennis. The monthly Keenagers potluck lunch will met on March 6<sup>th</sup> and will meet on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Front Beach Fest was a big success with perfect weather, and all attendees enjoyed the afternoon. At the end of the month, the Rec Department put on the Annual Community Yard Sale with fifty (50) booths set up on Hartnett between 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Avenues. The next event will be the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. that will feature the Easter Bunny, jump castles, face painting, a balloon artist and a photo booth. Other upcoming events are Music in the Park on May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Sand Sculpting Competition on June 1<sup>st</sup>, and the IOP Beach Run on Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. Summer camp registration will be on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for IOP residents only and on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 a.m., for non-residents. General information included in this report was a graph of the hours that the Rec Center was open in March 2019 compared to March 2016; it also illustrates how the hours vary month to month. A graph of the use of the gym on Saturday and Sunday as well as Monday through Friday as also included. Additionally, the report had a week's listing of the classes by day of the week, time, the room to be used for each

activity or program and the instructor; it was used as a “cheat sheet” for the front desk. Although the number of cars in the parking lot vary, this schedule also demonstrated how busy the Rec Department really was on a daily basis.

The graph showing the supervised hours the Rec Center was open caused Chair Smith to ask the reason for the differences.

Director Page stated that activities like 3-on-3 basketball games took place after these guys got off work so the Rec Center was open some nights until 10:00 p.m.

Councilmember Moye said that the schedule of classes and their room assignment was very helpful. He asked whether an individual could come to the Rec Center who did not want to participate in a class, but wanted to do yoga on her own, would she be allowed to use a room that as not already in use? To which the Director answered affirmatively, but noted that a room might not be in use for a class but was being cleaned or set up for the next class. She also pointed out that the schedule changed week to week so it would not be possible to tell someone that they could come in every day or every week at “x” time and use a specific room.

Chair Smith was interested in knowing if the monthly class schedules were available to the public in any way other than the front desk at the Rec Center.

Director Page replied that *The Moultrie News* was good about putting the class schedules in their publications; everything was in the Activity Guide, the Department’s e-newsletter and on the website. When the Department hosts a Special Event, *The Post and Courier* normally reports it in their Wednesday Charleston Scene magazine.

## **5. Old Business**

### **A. Update on franchise agreement for surfing lessons on the beach in Wild Dunes**

Interim Administrator Fragoso recalled an email she had sent to members of the Committee some two (2) weeks ago expressing her concerns about this initiative as it moved forward. She reported that she tried unsuccessfully to coordinate a meeting with Dave Kynoski, COO of the Wild Dunes Community Association (WDCA), and Frank Fredericks, manager of the resort; she succeeded in having a meeting with Frank Fredericks and a phone conversation with Dave Kynoski. She continues to feel that the three (3) of them need to meet to discuss the logistics, feasibility and do-ability. The resort was supportive of surfing lessons as a new activity for their guests, but Interim Administrator Fragoso questioned how the City would manage it so that it was not available only as a resort amenity. The City must be assured that the lessons were offered to all residents wherever they live as stated in the franchise agreement; she did not know how much oversight that would require. From the discussion with Mr. Kynoski, she learned that the topic had not been fully addressed by the WDCA Board; she did learn that the Board voiced some concerns about people live outside the gates coming inside for this activity. In addition, Mr. Kynoski said that the property owners in Wild Dunes knew that they would live in a resort with a variety of amenities, but the surfing lessons would be a new amenity that they were not sure they would like. Like Mr. Harvey, the Board was concerned about the location on the beach where the classes would be taught; residents thought that placing this commercial activity in a residential area of the beach. She thought they could work through these issues when she meets with Mr. Fredericks and Mr. Kynoski on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>; the Interim Administrator thought it was important to have the WDCA Board’s support before any franchise agreement was finalized. She

opined that the City should be respectful of their concerns about access and parking, but she was confident that they could reach a mutually agreeable solution to that and to parking. On the issue of offering the lessons inside the gates, she questioned whether the City would be offering something that would directly benefit the resort, which was not the intent; she said she needs more assurances.

Councilmember Moye said the City needed a better message to the residents, i.e. the City was aware that residents wanted surfing lessons and that this would be a pilot program on a small scale that was very controllable and very observable.

According to the terms of the franchise agreement, the business awarded the contract would owe the City three thousand dollars (\$3,000) upfront plus four percent (4%) of the gross revenue; if the service were to be scaled back, the concern has been that the business would not generate enough profit for the City to receive a favorable proposal. Since the business would be operating within the resort and the resort would be assisting the business with scheduling and the online infrastructure, one could assume they have some type of agreement with the resort, but that was information the City does not have. The Interim Administrator envisioned the classes having five to ten (5 to 10) students at a time, operating Monday through Thursday and only between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., and Mr. Kynoski and Mr. Fredericks do not believe that this would generate enough revenue for someone to find it profitable enough to reply to the RFP for the franchise agreement.

Interim Administrator Fragoso said that she was continuing to work on this initiative, because she did not want to issue the RFP without having all of the pieces put together. She was optimistic that the meeting on Wednesday would resolve these issues and insure that the resort and the WDCA understand that the goal was to provide this activity to everyone on the island, not just Wild Dunes residents and guests. She believed that, if they could get beyond the concern of people coming inside the gates for the lessons and if the City could be assured that the lessons fall under the purview of the franchise agreement with City, the other issues would resolve themselves. She concluded that she could not support the program if the public perception was that surfing lessons were offered for the benefit of the resort.

## **B. Discussion of 2019 Farmers Market**

Recently, Interim Administrator Fragoso met with last year's co-managers of the 2018 Farmers Market Rebecca Stephenson and Jessica Blaszcak regarding the 2019 market, and they recommended moving the market from the County Park to the Rec Center. Last week, she met with Director Page and Assistant Director Ferrell to discuss when and where the market could be setup, and they found a cement pad along 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue that was shaded and appeared to be perfect for the farmers market. For the past two (2) years, the IOP Farmers Market has been held on Thursdays in September and October between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., but the Rec Department has a number of activities on Thursdays that would preclude holding the Farmers Market the same afternoon. When the discussion transitioned to selecting other months, the co-managers thought that July and August were too hot, would conflict with Sullivan's Island and would conflict with the many other markets in the area in the summer months. Mention was made that the summer camps end their days at 3:00 p.m. which was also the time the Farmers Market has started, so the coincidence of the two (2) events might drive people to the market. Considerations the co-managers brought up were, again, the heat, one (1) of them traveled in the summer months and would not be available for all markets and many island residents travel in the summer months. If the Market were to continue in the fall and be at the Rec Center, it would have to be moved from Thursdays to Wednesdays. The Interim Administrator explained that the

fall months were selected hoping vendors would be more available since other local markets would have closed for the season and the availability of the County Park.

Currently, the Interim Administrator was waiting to hear back from the co-managers about what they are willing to commit.

Councilmember Buckhannon reported that the only time parking was an issue on 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue was during softball and baseball seasons.

For Councilmember Moye, the decision was fall or summer, not Wednesday versus Thursday.

The Interim Administrator said that she would have an update for the Committee next month.

### **C. Discussion of FY20 budget**

Since the Rec Department budget has not changed since the budget workshop on March 31<sup>st</sup>, the consensus of the Committee was to review only the highlights. The Operating budget has seen a decrease to some line items based on actual expenditures and produced a savings of approximately one hundred four thousand dollars (\$104,000). Of particular interest to the Interim Administrator was the Committee's opinion on the RecTrac software that was deferred from FY19 to FY20 and has been deferred again to FY21 with a cost of thirty-one thousand dollars (\$31,000), from a 2017 quote. Although substantial, it would be a one-time expenditure. Residents have become accustomed to the registration process at the Rec Department, and, it was a simple process with a single location for everything.

Chair Smith wanted to move forward with the online registration and would be happy to eliminate the Wi-Fi and move that money to the software line item; she commented that she has not heard any complaints about the lack of Wi-Fi at the Rec Center and wondered what the need was.

Director Page agreed that she was not keen on the idea of Wi-Fi for the grounds of the Rec Center, but she did see the need inside the building. People in the Cardio Room would like to have it as well as the ladies who hold their book club group at the Rec. She thought that people who come to the Rec Center were wanting to disconnect from technology for a while and the cost would almost be cut in half.

Chair Smith defended online registration as being an annoyance for the younger generation on the island; they have become accustomed to managing their world from the comfort of their living room. The Chair did note that residents do not generally know that they could register for athletics, classes or other programs with a phone call.

Director Page said that a new family must come to the Rec Center to establish their household in the RecTrac system before any type of registration could happen, a phone call, in person or online.

Councilmember Moye did not perceive online registration as a pressing need; in his opinion, technology was not the answer to everything. He did say that the RecTrac software might be outdated or not especially suited to a small community; he encouraged Director Page to investigate what alternative software was available that would be cloud-based and to consider it for the next budget year.

The Director said that changing technology was complicated without a dedicated IT person.

Interim Administrator Fragoso remarked that the existing IT contract has expired and that, internally, staff was looking for alternatives, including the addition of an IT position.

Chair Smith suggested that the investigations continue for possible inclusion in the FY21 budget, and the Committee agreed to include only Wi-Fi in the building for the FY20 budget.

For Councilmember Moye, the Director's expressed needs for IT assistance demonstrate the shortcomings of the RecTrac system.

Interim Administrator Fragoso said that she would produce a list of the changes to the budget that come from the standing committees of Council and present them to the Ways & Means Committee for approval or disapproval before generating a second version of the FY20 budget.

The Chair suggested that it would be helpful to see the sources of revenue generated by the instructors, the classes and programs, athletics, accommodations or hospitality taxes, etc. for the Rec Department to study with the Department's expenditures. The Interim Administrator told the Committee that she would work with the Treasurer to produce that information for each committee.

## **6. New Business**

### **A. Discussion of adding a coastal science class or presentation series**

Referring to the IOP Council website she has created, Chair Smith informed the Committee that she had received positive, enthusiastic feedback on the prospect of having classes or presentations on coastal science, ecology, marine environment, etc.

Councilmember Buckhannon recalled that such classes and programs have been offered in the past, and, typically, they started strong, but began to fall off.

Director Page agreed and stated that series/programs like this were not good for the long-term, but she has been talking with several people about this topic to get resources and speakers who would participate in the fall.

Chair Smith's suggestions were to gear the program toward adults because the island kids attend Sullivan's Island Elementary and have a class on the subject. If the classes were to be in the fall, she suggested that they start early to have sunlight on the beach.

The Director questioned whether such a group could go to the beach due to ADA requirements which were not available at 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

In addition, the Chair suggested holding an event at the beach in coordination with a speaker, for example, painting at the beach; possibly a lecture could be coordinated with the Farmers Market if it continues to be in the fall.

Councilmember Moye advised Chair Smith to take a more structured approach to her website to get the specific information she wanted. That information would give the Rec Department team the information to make the best decisions for the residents.

Director Page cautioned that the first step was to find out when the instructor, speaker, etc. would be available.

The Interim Administrator asked to go back to the discussion of the budget for an item that she had forgotten, and she reported that Councilmember Kinghorn had asked about a celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hurricane Hugo.

Councilmember Moye thought he had used the wrong word and that he meant a commemoration of Hurricane Hugo. He, then, asked what the goal would be and why.

Interim Administrator Fragoso said that she had not known what her response should be to Councilmember Kinghorn; she could not imagine celebrating a devastating storm that was traumatic to many people on the Isle of Palms and in the low country. She did think an activity could be appropriate to provide information on hurricane preparedness, emergency planning. She noted that Council had very little to say about the Councilmember's suggestion, but, if the Rec Committee wanted to consider having some type of activity, money needed to be identified in the FY20 budget.

Councilmember Moye was not supportive of spending any City funds on such an event or activity.

#### **B. Discussion of recent suggestion from community for new Rec programs**

Chair Smith informed Director Page that her solicitation on social media for new classes or programs that residents wanted to see at the Rec was picked up by one (1) of the island's neighbors' groups and generated a lot of feedback that she copied and distributed to the Committee. It contained a lot of comments about a pool at the Rec Center; many of the programs or activities have been tried at some time in the recent past. The newly re-surfaced tennis courts have also been lined for pickle-ball, so that program will begin soon. The Rec Department staff will be considering this list as they plan for the fall and winter.

The Chair said that a pool has a lot of support among the residents; residents who live outside of Wind Dunes do not have access to a community pool. She said that she would like to see the island have a pool in the not too distant future. She would not require a year-round pool, but a pool that was available to residents from mid-spring to the end of summer, a pool that could support a swim team, be a community focal point, etc. To offset the costs of the pool, the City could charge for memberships. She suggested that it could be helpful for the City's drainage situation although it would be an impervious surface.

Councilmember Moye noted that his brother-in-law built pools, and he has talked to him a lot about a splash pad and pool for the Isle of Palms and about what other municipalities were doing. Councilmember Moye learned that many municipalities defray the operational costs associated with a pool through the sale of concessions, food and beverage, and not allowing people to bring snacks or drinks. He opined that the construction of a pool would require a referendum.

After Hugo in 1989, the City had a referendum about a pool and it was soundly defeated; people recovering from a major hurricane did not want to think about a pool.

Interim Administrator Fragoso suggested holding an advisory referendum; it would be non-binding and would gauge the interest in the community. She told the Committee that a referendum for funding would be determined by the City's position relative to its debt limit.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

**Next Meeting Date: 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 6, 2019 in the Conference Room.**

**8. Adjournment**

**MOTION: Councilmember Buckhannon moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m.; Councilmember Moye seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk

Like

Comment

**James Smiley** Swimming lessons for children in the city pool.  
Like · Reply · 3w 6

**Donna Ouzts** James Smiley are the hours for Senior Swim posted yet?  
Like · Reply · 3w 4

**Gillian Murray Koerber** Pickleball lines on both courts please?  
Like · Reply · 3w 3

**Michele French** An adult bocce ball league 😊  
Like · Reply · 3w 1

**Michele French** Where's the pool , is one being installed there ?  
Like · Reply · 3w 3

**Laura Judson** An exercise gym with big windows and more machines! Gentle yoga with Judy Fischer.  
Like · Reply · 3w · Edited 4

**Christiana Harsch** LOL I thought that said activist.  
Like · Reply · 3w 3

**Todd Beals** Stefany Behrendt Beals  
Like · Reply · 3w

**Christiana Harsch** Bingo!  
Like · Reply · 3w 2

**Christiana Harsch** Oh and a pool 🏊🏊  
Like · Reply · 3w 3

**Sarah Parker Daniel** Christiana Harsch We have a big saltwater pool!  
Like · Reply · 3w 2

**Christiana Harsch** Ahhh...I see what you did there 🐶 ..  
Like · Reply · 3w 1

**Christiana Harsch** And a much bigger dog park 🐶🐶🐶🐶  
Like · Reply · 3w 3

**Sarah Parker Daniel** Christiana Harsch Yes!!  
Like · Reply · 3w

**Christiana Harsch** Sarah Parker Daniel my Vizsla gets three good strides in and he's at the other side, face in fence. 😊😊  
Like · Reply · 3w 1

View 10 more replies

**Victor Smith** Mulch the dog park  
Like · Reply · 3w 3

**Betsy Abbott Michaels** Pool  
Like · Reply · 3w 1

**Nadine Delf** Pool  
Like · Reply · 3w 1

**Nadine Delf** Surf lessons for kids  
Like · Reply · 3w 2





**Joe Grizzle** Senior basketball league

Like · Reply · 2w



**Darlene Venable** Pickle ball classes and league

Like · Reply · 2w



**Dana Ruus Johnson** Pool

Like · Reply · 2w



**Darla Hood** Pool... our kids need a pool... we live on the beach and we don't have a pool for local kids to learn to swim.

Like · Reply · 2w



**Joe Bergstrom** 🇺🇸 So many advantages to building a community pool. Currently the island kids swim for Wild Dunes but we can't have home meets there. We could actually become the Isle of Palms swim team and have home meets. Sell food and drinks etc.. A community pool with a snack bar could actually make some money, give all the kids a great place to hang out and give the older kids on the island life guarding and baby sitting jobs .

Like · Reply · 2w



**Darla Hood** Joe Bergstrom yes!!!

Like · Reply · 2w



**Christiana Harsch** Joe Bergstrom Yes all of this!

Like · Reply · 2w

↪ View 1 more reply



**Deborah Streetman** Art classes for older citizens.

Like · Reply · 2w



**Nicole Streetman** I agree with Victor; more mulch in the dog park. Also, could we just get a nice hose with a spray nozzle on the spigot near the entrance, instead of the human shower that was put there(which is useless for washing off dog paws)?

Like · Reply · 2w



**Jessica Kane** Pool and golf lessons

Like · Reply · 2w



**Sue Wohlford-Bork** Volleyball

Like · Reply · 2w



**Mike Zimov** yes

Like · Reply · 2w



**Jessica Kane** Sue Wohlford-Bork a beach volleyball sand court would be amazing!

Like · Reply · 2w



↪ View 1 more reply



**Susan Adkins Stabene** Pool

Like · Reply · 2w



**Lisa Howe Mordecai** Pool

Like · Reply · 2w



**Penelope Lanigan** A pool would be super but don't lose the dog park—

Like · Reply · 2w



**Nicole Streetman** Penelope Lanigan The dog park is located on the only Rec land where there isn't a sports field. It's the only place they have to put it, and that is where it was proposed when there was a big push 15 or so years ago to build a pool.

Like · Reply · 2w



**Richard Lanigan** I will volunteer to give golf lessons rich p.g.a life member

Like · Reply · 2w



**Christiana Harsch**



Like · Reply · 2w



**Christiana Harsch** Combine park and pool!

Like · Reply · 2w



**Mike Zimov** bubble soccer and archery tag

Like · Reply · 2w



**Shirley Ross** I know everyone keeps asking for a pool. They aren't going to build one. This has been going on for years. They aren't going to build one for the same reason most people don't have one. They are expensive, the insurance would be crazy. Sorry:({

Like · Reply · 2w



**Nadine Deif Shirley Ross** but they can charge membership fees to recover the costs. It's worked out for other towns and subdivisions. It'll be used a lot by all ages with the heat here.

Like · Reply · 2w



**Shirley Ross Nadine Deif** I agree.

Like · Reply · 2w

↪ View 1 more reply



**Jack V Owens** Two sand volleyball courts

Like · Reply · 2w



**Matt DeAntonio** Exercise equipment: weights, cardio, etc.

Like · Reply · 2w · Edited



**Carol Powers** Totally agree Matt. A small but decent cardio and weight room!

Like · Reply · 2w



**Nedra Campbell** Agree Matt

Like · Reply · 2w



**Michelle Sterett Berson** Surfing Camp/classes with Sol Surfers!

Like · Reply · 2w



**James Smiley** replied · 1 Reply



**Wessie Osborne Mitchell** Pool ...

Like · Reply · 1w