

RECREATION COMMITTEE

5:00 p.m., Monday, May 6, 2019

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was called to order at 5:30 p.m., Monday, May 6, 2019 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Present for the meeting were Councilmember 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 April 1, 2019 as submitted; Councilmember Moye seconded.

Councilmember Moye asked that the words "Wild Dunes" be removed from the first full paragraph on page 3 because the comment was not directed at only the Wild Dunes residents.

VOTE: The corrected minutes were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

3. Citizens' Comments – none

4. Departmental Report

Director Page stated that, like last month, she has included more information in the report to acquaint the Committee members with other things that the Recreation staff does for the City and for other departments. With the school year drawing to a close, many activities for young people will also end to be replaced with the summer camps. The exercise classes will continue through the summer months. Pickleball has become quite popular in Charleston County, and the Director has succeeded in finding an instructor. Beginner and intermediate levels of play will be taught beginning June 4th with both morning and evening classes. New programs being planned for the fall are "Handling Social Media with Confidence and Grace" that will be geared for eleven and twelve (11 – 12) year old girls and "Kids Planet Earth" that will be a hands-on learning program for children age six (6) and up. Although it is filling up quickly, openings are still available in the Rising Stars Basketball Camp, the Girls Volleyball Camp and the Get Your Spike on Volleyball Camp. As usual, Wee Camp filled up quickly, but spaces are still available for Weeks 11, 3 and 7 for Camp Summershine.

When Councilmember Moye asked how the Saturday camp registration had gone, Director Page acknowledged that some were happy and some were not; she did not think as many people showed up to register their kids. Councilmember Moye agreed that he heard positive and negative comments about the change; he heard one person say, "Now I am wasting an entire day here." An out-of-the-box idea he had for registration was a lottery system; he asked the Director to think about it and to consider how it could work.

The Director informed the Committee that a public meeting will be held at the Rec Center at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, May 16, 2019 to update residents on the progress made on the construction in

Wild Dunes and to foreshadow thirty-five (35) concrete pouring events that will take place in the wee hours of the morning beginning in July.

Director Page stated that she has a meeting with the RecTrac representative on May 20th to talk about what options were open for the Department. Councilmember Moye asked that she tell the salesperson that the City was shopping other software that would meet the Rec Department's needs and would be more economical.

Councilmember Buckhannon recommended that parents signing their children up for camp should pay the full amount at registration rather than a deposit. He was confident that parents would be more conscious of vacations when selecting weeks, and they would not just register the child(ren) for the whole summer. By paying in full, they were making a commitment and less likely to simply not show up for a week.

Chair Smith reminded the Committee that this would be the first summer with increased fees.

The Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success; the Keenagers made up fifteen hundred (1,500) bags of candy and none were left.

Councilmember Buckhannon said that the only problem he observed was parking; the City invites people to come to enjoy the program then have no place for them to park because the surrounding street are marked "Resident Only Parking". He plans to discuss this issue with the Public Safety Committee.

Director Page thought that attendance was low for the "Music in the Park" event; the Keenagers who normally attend told her that they stayed home because of the forecast of storms and rain.

The sand sculpting contest will be on Saturday, June 1.

Councilmember Moye recalled that last year the Committee discussed having one (1) judge from the island.

The judges are members of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) usually, but Director Page was happy to include the Mayor or other member(s) of Council.

On Wednesday, June 5th, the United States Air Force Heritage of America Band Heritage Winds will perform outside at the Rec Center.

The IOP Beach Run in July 27th and the Half Rubber Tournament is August 17th.

The multitude of tasks the other Rec employees do were highlighted in this month's report, including some of the jobs they do for other departments.

Director Page informed the Committee that Weston Smith, a Recreation Supervisor, has tendered his resignation; he has found a job in his hometown in North Carolina. With Baby #2 on the way, he and his wife decided that they need to be closer to family. In his position, he was responsible for events so the Director hopes she can fill the position quickly.

The Director noted that she is often approached by family members who want to do something at the Rec Center to honor or memorialize a loved one, and she has to tell them that she does not have a way to help them. She has been thinking about this and realized that a path from the

picnic area to the front door was needed to keep people from walking on the grass; she proposed having a brick walkway, like at Front Beach. People can purchase bricks to be engraved with the family name or the name of a loved one, etc. She asked that the Committee think about it and to discuss at the next meeting.

5. Old Business

A. Discussion of surfing instructions on the Isle of Palms beach for the summer of 2020

Interim Administrator Fragoso recounted how the process evolved from a young man having made an agreement with Wild Dunes to hold surfing lessons on the beach in Wild Dunes last year; since the City has a long-standing prohibition of commercial activity on the beach, the young man had to get permission from the City. After considerable discussion by the whole of City Council, the decision was made that the best way for the City to approach this would be through an exclusive franchise agreement giving the City the control it wanted over the operation. In the meantime, the City was informed by Wild Dunes that they were no longer interested in the program. Since island residents have shown support for offering surfing lessons at the Isle of Palms, consideration now will focus on generating an RFP for an exclusive franchise agreement. Options for offering the surf lessons next year have included classes tied to the Rec Department, hiring the instructor on a contract labor type of agreement; hiring the instructor as a part-time employee. Discussions will continue to refine the process and to make decisions like the location on the beach, the hours to be on the beach, etc.

B. Update on 2019 Isle of Palms Farmers Market

Director Page met with the managers last week, and they decided to hold the market in September and October on Wednesdays, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The City has been working with www.sc.gov to take payments on-line; this year, the vendors can pay on-line and do not have to come to the island. An earlier decision was to downsize the market, the question of music is yet undecided because the managers will have less money with which to work.

C. Discussion of FY20 budget version 3

Interim Administrator Fragoso stated that the budget has not changed since it was last reviewed; as requested, the final page shows the source of funds for the Recreation budget.

6. New Business – none

7. Miscellaneous Business – none

Next Meeting Date – The Committee decided not to meet in June.

Councilmember Moye asked that the Interim Administrator email the draft surfing RFP to members of the Committee when it has been completed.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Councilmember Buckhannon moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.; Councilmember Moye seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk