

RECREATION COMMITTEE
5:00pm, Monday, November 4, 2019
City Hall Council Chambers
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Present: Council Member Smith (chair), Council members Buckhannon and Moye

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Asst. City Administrator Hanna, Director Page

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Council Member Buckhannon made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2019 meeting, and Council Member Moye seconded the motion. Council Member Smith asked that the minutes reflect the correct spelling of Susan Stabine's last name. The amended minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizen's Comments

Jamie Zazella, 104 Forest Trail, spoke to the Committee about the many benefits of swimming and of her full support for a community pool. She suggested sources of revenue could include lessons and classes for all age groups, memberships, and concessions. She noted the limited swim team pool space in the Charleston area. She also mentioned the LAPS program which provides swimming lessons to underprivileged children. Council Member Smith asked if it would be possible to suspend the rules of order to allow discussion with Ms. Zazella

MOTION: Council Member Buckhannon to reorder the agenda and move the discussion of the pool to before the Departmental Report. Council Member Moye seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

A. Discussion about adding a pool at the Recreation Center

Council Member Buckhannon said he is very encouraged about the conversation around the possibility of a community pool. Council Member Moye spoke about the importance of having a referendum on the 2020 ballot. He also said the effort to discover the needs and desires of the community regarding a pool is the perfect issue for a Citizen Committee to engage in to create a transparent and informative process.

Administrator Fragoso reported she recently reached out to the program coordinator at the new aquatic center in North Charleston. She is awaiting further information from her on operational costs. She noted that any referendum question would need to be ready by August to appear on the 2020 ballot. She spoke about the difference between a non-binding and advisory referendum.

She distributed proposed survey questions about a community pool to Committee members and asked for their feedback.

Council Member Moye stated the Citizen Committee needs a clear directive. Council Member Buckhannon agreed the Citizen Committee could be helpful in taking some of the work of engaging the citizens off the staff. Administrator Fragoso suggested engaging an architect to determine what is feasible for the space, which, in turn, will help define the directive given to the Citizen Committee. Council Member Buckhannon said David Burt from LS3P still has the plans from the previous pool discussion. Director Page reviewed older schematic designs of the recreation center, including a proposed pool area. Council Member Smith said for the record, “The Dog Park will continue to exist.” She supports the idea of engaging an architect to see how much space is available for future growth. She also suggested looking at the previous referendum when crafting the new one. Council Member Moye requested from City Staff a detailed timeline of milestones that need to be reached in order to successfully get the referendum on November’s ballot.

5. Departmental Report – Director Page

Director Page reviewed current and future activities happening in the Recreation Center. Discussion ensued about the Saturday morning basketball time in the gym. Administrator Fragoso said staff is still debating on how best to be responsive and fair to all the requests for use of the Recreation Center.

Administrator Fragoso reported the addition of a Pearl Harbor remembrance at the Holiday Street Festival on December 7. She said she has reached out to the VFW regarding the event, and Council Member Buckhannon suggested contacting the Citadel as well.

Director Page said the gym will be closed the week of November 18 while the gym floor is being replaced.

6. Old Business

B. Update on surfing lessons franchise RFP for summer 2020

Administrator Fragoso reported that the two bids received for the franchise were opened on Friday, November 1. This matter will be discussed further in Executive Session.

7. New Business

Discussion of the IOP Exchange Club facilities and partnership opportunities with the City

Administrator Fragoso shared details of the Turtle Hatching Scavenger Hunt effort proposed by the Turtle Hatching Team and the Exchange Club. She said the groups requested funding assistance from the ATAX Board, which was unanimously approved, and the initiative will be presented to the Ways & Means Committee on November 15.

When asked if there are other opportunities for the Exchange Club and the Recreation Department to work together, Administrator Fragoso said at this time the Recreation Center is

not in need of extra space to accommodate its classes. However, there had been some brief discussion about their access to the water for public kayaking. Council Member Moye asked about the vision for the scavenger hunt – what is the purpose, educational goals, how is it being promoted – and expressed concern that people not be led into the dunes with this activity.

8. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Recreation Committee will be Monday, January 13, 2020 at 5:00pm.

9. Executive Session

MOTION: Council Member Smith made a motion to move into Executive Session, according to §30-4-70(a)(2) related to a discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements related to a beachfront franchise agreement. Council Member Buckhannon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee members moved into Executive Session at approximately 6:13pm.

Upon return from Executive Session, Council Member Smith reported that no decisions were made, and the Committee will continue to evaluate the proposals received for the beachfront franchise agreement.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk