

RECREATION COMMITTEE

9:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 1, 2017

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Carroll and Kinghorn, Chair Rice, Administrator Tucker, Recreation Director Page and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

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

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 3, 2017 as submitted; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. Departmental Report for January 2017 – Director Page

According to Director Page, the report for January closely resembles the report submitted last month. Upcoming events are Doggie Day at the Rec on Saturday, February 4th, the Front Beach Fest on Saturday, March 4th, the annual Yard Sale on Saturday, March 25th and the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 15th. Registration continues for adult athletics and youth basketball and has started for youth baseball on yesterday. In addition to regular job tasks, Recreation personnel updated the message boards at the Connector and Breach Inlet and assisted with the "sprucing up" of the public restrooms.

Chair Rice thanked the Recreation personnel for their work in the public restrooms; she stated that they were looking much better.

5. Old Business

Discussion of LS3P's concepts for Fitness Room

Director Page stated that on the right side as one enters the gym is a storage area; LS3P proposes demolishing that and replacing it with a room that mirrors the existing cardio room with the stairs coming down on the other side to access storage upstairs. To do so would add approximately eighty square feet (80 sq. ft.) of space and would require that the entry to the gym be narrowed. The Director thought that the renovated space would not look like an after-thought, but would enhance the appearance of the gym.

Chair Rice said that this concept does not add much space to make it more of a true fitness room; Director Page replied that it would still be a cardio room. The Chair wanted to know what the cost would be to construct a room across from the Low Tide/High Tide Room, and the Director indicated that the information was on the handout she distributed. She reported that Liollo made a site visit, and their recommendation was to add a room; they were not interested in re-working the storage space in the gym.

Although Mr. Burt of LS3P said that the Low Tide/High Tide room was thirty-one hundred twenty-five square feet (3,125 sq. ft.), Director Page thought the room was closer to twenty-five hundred square feet (2,500 sq. ft.); with that amount of space, it would easily accommodate a fitness room with exercise and weight equipment as well as cardio equipment.

If Council were willing, annual memberships could be sold or walk-in fees charged to visitors; the new fees would not generate a lot of money since fitness centers are now charging ten dollars (\$10.00) a month. If the space were used for cardio and fitness, it could be open longer; when classes are held in the gym, the cardio room is closed because many of the instructors do not want people entering and leaving the gym when they are holding a class.

Responding to Councilmember Kinghorn, Director Page said that the cardio room is open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 or 6:00 p.m.

Councilmember Carroll voiced concern over narrowing the hallway and entrance to the gym; he recalled the large number of people who attend the Halloween carnival and the volume of people who sought shelter in the storm during the 2016 Easter Egg Hunt. With those occurrences in mind, the Councilmember recommended that Chief Graham be involved if this is the course the City is going to take.

With the addition of only eighty-two square feet (82 sq. ft.), Councilmember Carroll asked how many more pieces of equipment could be added, and the Director replied two (2). She added that the space would allow the Rec Department to be more in line with space requirements for the cardio equipment, for instance, the recommended space behind a treadmill is six feet (6 ft.).

Councilmember Kinghorn disagreed with the amount of space to be gained; he said that the Rec Center would gain four hundred fifty-three (453) usable feet. He asked how the existing cardio room would be used in the future.

Director Page indicated that the room would be used for classes in the future.

If the fitness room was to be in the renovated space in the gym, Councilmember Kinghorn asked how the existing cardio room would be used, and the Director said it would be used for storage and the new cardio space would be constructed with storage above it.

In an effort to make the cardio room more accessible in the evenings, Councilmember Kinghorn asked whether a new entry way was considered for the expanded space, for instance, where the vending machines are now located.

Chair Rice wanted to know the difference in cost between expanding the space in the gym and constructing a new room; she indicated that the cost could be the deciding factor.

Councilmember Kinghorn opined that there was merit to add additional functionality and square footage to the existing footprint, especially if it can be versatile.

Director Page reported that to-date she has not spent any of the seventy-five hundred dollars (\$7,500) authorized by the Committee and thought that raising the ceiling height would add very little to the costs of the design work.

Chair Rice stated that she would like to see a design for an additional room with a cost estimate.

Using a cost factor of two hundred dollars (\$200) per square foot for a room measuring twenty-five hundred square feet (2,500 sq. ft.) and adding in architectural and engineering expense, Administrator Tucker calculated that it would cost roughly five hundred forty-eight thousand dollars (\$548,000) to construct a new space.

Since the Director had stated that to put an entrance where the vending machines are would require buying a new flood panel, Councilmember Kinghorn asked for the cost of a flood panel. Director Page remembered that they were about ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) each when they were purchased years ago.

Assuming that a couple of pieces of equipment would be purchased, Councilmember Kinghorn asked about the average price for such equipment, and Director Page stated that an elliptical costs around four thousand dollars (\$4,000). She added that she has not priced out any fitness equipment recently.

Councilmember Kinghorn suggested that all possibilities for a different entrance be pursued, that the additional square footage upstairs be used for storage and that the existing cardio room be used for an office or a classroom.

Councilmember Kinghorn thought that having the drawings was a positive start and that he hoped the next version was one on which the Committee could make a decision.

Administrator Tucker understood that the drawings presented today were a starting point to pick and choose some different iterations in order for LS3P to come back with modifications that might be made in the ceiling height and the entry.

From the January minutes, the Administrator remembered the staff was to reach out to other fitness facilities on the island with the prospect of residents being allowed to use their fitness facilities.

Director Page said that she had spoken with Jeff Minton with Wild Dunes several times, and he wants to work with the Rec Department, but he has some problems. He questions how to let those who do not live in Wild Dunes use their facilities when residents of Wild Dunes pay membership fees. The Director asked Mr. Minton if it would be feasible for the City to buy a dozen or so memberships and to allow residents to check out a membership card or key fob, etc. that would be returned to the Rec Center after a workout.

In addition, the Director has contacted a contractor to give her an estimate for the proposed work; she has received an estimate from Hill Construction.

Another option offered by the Administrator would be for Mr. Minton to explain that a higher membership fee would be charged to the Rec Department to allow IOP residents use of the facility and Wild Dunes' membership fees would be reduced.

Chair Rice noted that their current facilities need upgrading and are not very large, but they are building a third facility. At this point, they do not feel that their facilities meet the needs of Wild Dunes residents, especially in the period from April to September.

6. New Business

A. Discussion of Aquarium Program

Director Page stated that she has a meeting with Kelly Thorvalson, Sea Turtle Rescue Program Manager at the South Carolina Aquarium, scheduled Thursday, February 2 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss program possibilities.

B. Discussion of Eclipse Event

Chair Rice thought that the Committee should decide when the eclipse event will be held, Sunday, August 20th or Monday, August 21st, the actual day of the eclipse, and she felt strongly that it should be on Monday as did the balance of the Committee.

Councilmember Carroll voiced his reasons for wanting the event on Monday as

- He thought it would be "cool" for the eclipse to occur during the event,
- Weekends throughout the summer bring so many visitors to the beach already, and
- Holding the event on Monday would extend the weekend.

Based on the comments made at the Council meeting last week, Director Page stated that she and her staff have begun to work on the event, and they are planning for Monday, August 21st. She reported that The Windjammer is also planning an event, so she and Andy Sinwald will meet with Bobby Ross the beginning of next week to coordinate the two (2) events to compliment both.

When asked about the opening day of school, the Director reported that the school board has decided to start the new school year on Tuesday, August 22.

Director Page stated that her staff was trying to come up with something different and unique, and she asked the Committee to share with her any ideas they might have.

The actual eclipse is expected to occur at 2:36 p.m., therefore the event will start at 1:30 or 2:00 p.m.; the Mayor will explain about the protective eyewear available from the City; a table will be set up near the stage for distribution of the glasses. The plan is to have t-shirts for sale also.

Administrator Tucker indicated that she wanted displays by people who are knowledgeable about astronomy; the Director reported that the staff has reached out to the College of Charleston.

7. Miscellaneous Business – None

Next Meeting Date: 9:00 a.m., Thursday, March 2, 2017 in the Conference Room.

Director Page stated that someone has spoken to her about having a walking trail around the Recreation Center; she reported that she and Assistant Ferrell have mapped out half mile trails, a red and a blue trail, on the grounds of the Rec Center.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 a.m.;
Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk