

## RECREATION COMMITTEE

9:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 2, 2017

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was held at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 2, 2017 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmember Carroll, Chair Rice, Administrator Tucker, Recreation Director Page, Assistant Administrator Fragoso and Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business. Councilmember Kinghorn was absent.

1. Chair Rice 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 Carroll moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 7, 2017 as submitted; Chair Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### 3. Citizens' Comments

Susan Smith, 20-23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, reminded the Committee that she had sent an email to the Committee members, Director Page and City Administrator after listening to the recording of the June meeting asking to encourage residents and visitors alike to clean up after themselves after the eclipse event. Noting that she is involved with the Wild Dunes Swim Team, she informed the Committee that she has organized team members and their families to do a beach sweep after the eclipse event; she has also arranged for a press release to be in *The Island Eye* leading up to the event. She is also considering getting the PTA from Sullivan's Island Elementary involved and asking the teachers to talk to their students about the value of clean beaches and how they can make a difference.

### 4. Departmental Report for June and July 2017 – Director Page

The Director reported that adult sports registrations are underway; the sports include softball, 3-on-3 basketball, 6-vs-6 soccer and table tennis. Youth soccer registration is also happening; registration for non-residents started July 31<sup>st</sup>. Both the Piccolo Spoleto Sand Sculpting Contest and the IOP Beach Run were very successful events; the sand sculpting competition drew forty-three (43) teams, and the beach run had three hundred fifty (350) participants. Camp Summershine ended on Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup>; Director Page said that she had a good group of counselors and asked them to return next summer. This week an art camp is taking place and next week will be a volleyball camp. The upcoming events are the eclipse event on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, the annual Half Rubber Tournament will be on Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, the Community Wellness Fair on Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ghostly Tide Tales on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, the Halloween Carnival on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> and the Holiday Street Festival on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Director Page reported that Robert Asero and Ricky Daugherty were helping out all over the island in addition to doing their regular work; they did some electrical work at the public restroom, repaired outlets and cleaned up exposed wiring at Front Beach, cut limbs and cleaned up the area on Palm Boulevard between 41<sup>st</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> Avenues, mowed and trimmed the beach access

paths at 21<sup>st</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 34<sup>th</sup> Avenues, mowed and trimmed grass on Palm Boulevard and Waterway, and the list goes on. The Director has recommended that they be named Employees of the Month.

## **5. Old Business**

### **A. Discussion of proposed fitness center**

Administrator Tucker noted that Treasurer Suggs had prepared an amortization schedule assuming that the City would borrow seven hundred thousand dollars to pay for design, engineering and construction for a period of eight (8) years at an estimated interest rate of two and a half percent (2.5). Additionally, utility costs were estimated to be approximately sixty-four hundred dollars (\$6,400) a year. Other financial information included was the estimated annual revenue to be generated by the fitness room that Director Page based on survey responses. The Administrator reiterated that this was only one (1) scenario; circumstances could be such that the City could finance the project without borrowing or the City could borrow a lesser amount. The purpose for presenting these figures was to give the Committee a working idea of the project costs.

Chair Rice expressed the opinion that the estimated revenue was a very conservative amount; she believed that the participation would be much better than the survey indicated.

Director Page added that one (1) characteristic of IOP residents is that they do not like to leave the island, and a fitness space on the island would serve the many residents who now cross the Connector to get to a gym.

Councilmember Carroll referred to the schematic drawing provided by LS3P of an equipment layout and asked what equipment the City now has versus the equipment to be purchased with an estimated cost. (The drawings are attached to the historical record of the meeting.)

Director Page responded that the City has seven (7) pieces of cardio equipment currently; she would recommend adding resistance equipment at an estimated cost of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). The cost could be less because the room would only be twenty-five hundred square feet (2,500 sq. ft.).

Looking at the drawings of the roof line, the Director and the Committee were in agreement that they did not want a flat roof. Director Page stated that the current roof was designed to complement whatever future expansion.

The Director stated that the layout of the equipment came from Carolina Specialty Fitness recommendations; she noted that the Rec Center would not lose any trees when adding this room on the building. Two items that need to be checked against code are whether there are enough bathrooms to accommodate more people and that the double doors into the hallway were sufficient.

Chair Rice commented that the space could also be used for other activities in the future.

Administrator Tucker asked the Committee if they had any feedback for LS3P related to the drawings, and all agreed that the flat roof should be eliminated. The Administrator then noted that LS3P had included the flat roof because it would mean less demolition to the existing roof and it would make for an easier transition to a gym. The Committee did not relent on their decision.

Councilmember Carroll asked whether hurricane proof windows could be installed thereby eliminating the need for shutters.

Administrator Tucker responded that her understanding was that, since the building would be at grade, the flood panels would be required; if the building were elevated, hurricane proof windows would be sufficient.

Chair Rice indicated that she was not ready to make any additional decisions about the building; she wanted more time to study the drawings.

#### **B. Update on eclipse event**

Administrator Tucker opened the discussion by saying that the City has been discussing, planning and preparing for the eclipse for more than a year despite the fact that many people have just now become aware of it and appear to be somewhat panicked. She stated that the City is preparing for what might be a bigger crowd of people than a typical July 4<sup>th</sup>; all resources will be in place, and all employees of the City will be available for this event. The Recreation Department is having activities to complement the solar eclipse. Since this will be such a big event all across the state, certain public safety resources the City would have for a July 4<sup>th</sup> will not be available. The Administrator asked that the Committee members reassure members of the community that the City believes that it is prepared. City offices will be closed for a period of time before and after the event; notes will be put on the doors indicating when staff will return. One (1) key difference between a Memorial Day or July 4<sup>th</sup> on the island will be the amount of national media attention the City will receive; the hope is that they will interview all of the right people. In an effort to control some of the media, specific locations have been selected for the some specific news outlets and a plan for other media that might show up unannounced has also been designated. The Administrator announced that City staff has scheduled a meeting with the Front Beach business owners on Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at Coconut Joe's to review with them the City's plans, learn what they are doing and make sure the channels of communication are open.

Describing the event itself, Director Page stated that the music will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a DJ from a stage set up between the Front Beach restrooms and *The Windjammer*; Ron Fowler will be broadcasting live for Channel 2 throughout the day with educational materials as well as the progress of the eclipse. Several thousand pairs of eclipse protective glasses will be held back to be distributed at the event. Distribution of the free glasses began Tuesday night; residents will be given glasses only for members of their immediate family and they will be asked for their name, address and the number of pairs they are getting. *Plain Jane* is scheduled to play from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; for the couple of minutes of the eclipse, the band will stop playing. Children's activities will be inside the County Park and not on the beach; the winners of the sand sculpting competition will have a demonstration/exhibition; East Cooper Medical Center will have a first aid tent on the beach and the Exchange Club will arrange for water on the beach. The Director noted

that they are trying to balance what will be provided and not taking away from the Front Beach businesses in any way. Although the Rec staff was unable to get moon pies for the event; a Martian organization will be on the beach selling moon rocks and other items. After contacting the cellular companies, they will be boosting their signals that day. Andy Sinwald is working with the Front Beach businesses to get items/gift certificates to be giveaways by 95SX as part of their promotion of the City's event the week prior to August 21<sup>st</sup>; 95SX will be transmitting from inside the County Park. CNN be parked on Ocean Boulevard and will be broadcasting from the beach in the area of the Front Beach restrooms; Channel 2 will be parked in spaces at *The Windjammer* and broadcasting from the beach closer to the stage. She concluded saying that the eclipse is the event and the City is only trying to enhance it with music and entertainment in a safe environment.

Councilmember Carroll stated that the solar eclipse is going to be a huge event with the Isle of Palms being the last place in the continental United States to view it; he believes that the island is going to be overrun and that parking in the neighborhoods is going occur all over the island. He encouraged the City to initiate a campaign for residents to be tolerant since this will be a one-time event lasting only a few hours.

Assistant Fragozo added that residents will be encouraged to view the eclipse from their homes as they will be in Charleston.

Administrator Tucker has contacted SCE&G and requested that the street lights not automatically come on at Front Beach and in the Beachside neighborhood.

### **C. Parking at the Rec Center**

Chair Rice reported that there has been a lot of chatter on social media about the "rogue backhoe" that has been parked at the Rec Center for some time and no one seems to know who the owner is. One (1) possibility would be to prohibit overnight parking on Recreation property on 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Councilmember Carroll opined that it looks at times like a commercial parking lot, adding that he was not in favor of Morgan Creek Grill employees parking there and being bused to the restaurant. He said that he would have preferred for the restaurant to lease space in the municipal parking lot.

Chair Rice said that the number of restaurant cars would drop dramatically once school starts.

Councilmember Carroll also suggested that those employees could have parked in the small lot on Palm Boulevard in front of the Public Works location.

Administrator Tucker pointed out a downside to that suggestion in that the City does everything possible to take stress off the intersection of the Connector and Palm Boulevard during peak times.

Unaware of the social media comments, Director Page asked whether the references were to the backhoe or to parking in general; to which Chair Rice replied that it was both situations.

The Chair commented that she thought that boats and trailers being left in that area of 27<sup>th</sup> for long period of time only exacerbated the issue for many.

Director Page remarked that Morgan Creek Grill employee parking could go back to 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue like last year. The Director added that, on Rec Center grounds, are signs that say "NO LOITERING AFTER 10:00 PM," and, if there is a car in the lot after that time, the police run the tags to identify the owner.

The opinion of the Committee was to refer the issue to the Public Safety Committee for action.

## **6. New Business**

**Award of a contract to Vic Bailey Ford for one F-150 Pickup Truck in the amount of \$31,834, state contract pricing**

**MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to recommend to Ways and Means the purchase of one F-150 pickup truck at state contract pricing; Chair Rice seconded.**

Responding to Councilmember Carroll, Director Page reported that the truck to be replaced was a 2005 model year and that the under carriage has rusted out and rats have nested up in there.

**VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **7. Miscellaneous Business – None**

Councilmember Carroll asked for confirmation that, to construct the fitness space at the Rec Center, the City would go further in debt. Administrator Tucker clarified her earlier comments that Staff provided an amortization schedule for borrowing seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) to see what the City would want to do and the payments associated with it. How to finance the project is a discussion that Council has not had; possibly the City would have resources elsewhere that would fund it or the financing could be a combination of City funding and borrowing or the City could save until it has amassed sufficient funds to move forward.

At the Director's request, the Committee agreed not to meet in September.

Next Meeting Date: 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 5, 2017 in the Conference Room

## **8. Adjournment**

**MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 a.m.; Chair Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk