



Recreation Committee Meeting
5:00pm, Monday, September 14, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom call due to COVID-19 Pandemic
broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Present: Council members Moye, Popson, and Smith

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Director Page

2. Approval of the previous meeting's minutes – August 10, 2020

MOTION: Council Member Popson made a motion to approve and Council Member Moye seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments

City Clerk DeNeane read three comments into the record. The full text of those comments can be found alongside the agenda for this meeting on the City's website.

4. Departmental Reports – Director Page

Director Page reviewed highlights of her activities report, noting the Recreation Center has been very busy. She shared classes that have had recent start dates, like dog obedience and IOP Kids, and detailed the participation rates in the exercise classes.

She reported that the surf lessons will begin in the spring. Starting in the fall was not possible, but she thanked Council Member Popson for his assistance with the necessary certification classes.

Staff continues to work on identifying the tutoring needs of the island children. IT is working with the Recreation Department to expand the internet bandwidth to support this effort. They are also working on a recess offering for children who are participating in online schooling.

Director Page reviewed upcoming special events such as the Yard Sale (9/19), Ghostly Tide Tales (10/23), Pumpkin Painting (10/16), and the Halloween Carnival (10/31). Registration for the Halloween Carnival begins October 5. The IOP Connector Walk & Run has been cancelled for this year, but monies raised to date will still benefit local charities. The Holiday Street Festival will go on but will offer different activities supporting social distancing.

While there will be no league softball due to insufficient signups, basketball, soccer, and table tennis are in full swing. Overall, she is enthusiastic about participation levels in Recreation

Center activities. There have been no COVID-related issues as of late, and the staff continues to take every precaution to prevent its spread.

She shared that the Recreation Department now has its own Facebook page. Council Member Smith encouraged Committee members to promote the Facebook page.

5. **Old Business -- none**

6. **New Business**

A. **Discussion of Recreation Department support for senior citizens during the COVID-19 crisis**

Director Page shared that 32% of all current Recreation Center participants are seniors (55 years of age and older). They are staying in touch with members of the Keenagers group, which they plan to restart in October. No one signed up for the recent offering of grocery delivery to the elderly.

Council Member Smith asked staff to look into the program Sullivan's Island has pairing an elderly member of the community with a younger family.

B. **Discussion of opportunities to support paddle sports in the community**

Committee members discussed places in the community where paddle sports might best serve the community. Council Member Smith would like to see a kayak storage facility available to residents to support the effort. Council Member Popson and Director Page agreed that the Marina was not the safest place for paddle sports in light of the number of boats and other motorized activities in the area. Asst. Administrator Hanna said staff has begun discussions with the Exchange Club about the possible and future use of their dock for such an endeavor. Council Member Popson said he would bring the issue of a kayak storage facility up to the Real Property Committee.

Council Member Smith would like for the Recreation Committee to "help be a voice" encouraging paddle sports on the island and to investigate the possibility of teaming up with marina business to promote the effort. She also asked for staff to investigate the viability of the marina as a place for paddle sports, what are the pros and cons for the use of that space for paddle sports, and what would need to be done to the dock to make it possible. She would also like to discuss with the marina operator about not charging residents who want to launch from the Marina.

C. **Discussion of landscaping practices and related chemical use at the Recreation Center**

Director Page reviewed outdoor chemical use at the Recreation Center. She said Roundup is used very little and "we use other things for the dollar weed and the broadleaf that does not kill the grass." What is used is listed as "safe to use around children or pets when they are applied properly. So typically, anything we apply to any of our fields, we do it when the sun's out in the mornings when there is no one using the fields. Now, obviously we have to treat the mole

crickets and grubs and those type things, so we do have to use some insecticides there, but we always surround the field with “Field Closed” signs. Technically, all the chemicals are watered in so for a child or a dog to have some side effects or be poisoned by this, they would almost have to literally eat the dirt.” The Recreation Center staff is looking into lower-risk and safer chemicals.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Council Member Popson thanked Recreation Center staff for their extra effort and “heavy lifting.”

The next meeting of the Recreation Committee will be on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 5pm.

8. Adjournment

Council Member Moye made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Popson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk