



**Recreation Committee Meeting**  
**5:00pm, Monday, November 2, 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: Asst. Administrator Hanna, Director Page, Director Kerr

2. **Approval of the previous meeting's minutes – October 5, 2020**

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

3. **Citizens' Comments – none**

4. **Departmental Reports – Director Page**

Director Page shared that Ghostly Tales was well attended on October 23 with 200-300 people in attendance. She noted that the location at the Front Beach worked out well with regards to bathroom access, better parking, and proximity to the Front Beach businesses. Staff is considering keeping the location for next year's event.

Committee members and Director Page agreed that the Halloween Carnival and Golf Cart Parade was a "smashing success." Over 80 golf carts participated in the parade. Staff has already begun to discuss plans for next year.

Director Page reviewed upcoming holiday offerings including the Holiday Street Festival, which will include less vendors to promote social distancing.

She reported there were not many changes to the activities happening at the Recreation Center from last month. Registration begins soon for the basketball league. She stated that practice and games will take up some gym time to allow for social distancing. Open Gym time is still not available and may require a reservation system.

5. **Old Business -- covered in the Departmental Report**

6. **New Business**

A. **Discussion and consideration of options moving forward with surfing instruction**

Asst. Administrator Hanna said that staff has taken a new direction on providing surfing instruction to island residents. Staff proposes altering the commercial activities permitted on the beach as a pilot program to allow for surfing lessons. Proposed restrictions for such a program include the times and locations of lessons, limitation of group size to 4 students to 1 teacher, the length of lesson time, and a prohibition for any signage or solicitation on the beach. The intent is for the operation of such classes to be as invisible as possible.

Council Member Popson expressed concern that permitting this change in commercial activity on the beach will act as a Pandora's Box, inviting more commercial activity. He also expressed concern about how these instructors will be policed to be sure they are adhering to the restrictions placed on them. Asst. Administrator Hanna and Director Kerr said they believed the business owners would be self-policing, believing that free market competition will keep all instructors in line with the restrictions. Director Page agreed, adding that the surf instructors are looking forward to teaching on the Isle of Palms. Director Kerr said that repeat violators of the rules face fines and the possibility of losing their business license.

Council Member Moye said request for any change to commercial activity on the beach should be determined by citizen interest, and there has been significant interest in providing surfing lessons on the island.

Director Page noted there was significant cost to the City and possible conflicts of interest on the part of the instructors had the City decided to hire someone as part of staff. She believes the program will be successful but is glad the sunset provision is included in the proposed change just in case something doesn't work out.

**MOTION: Council Member Moye made a motion to approve the draft ordinance amending commercial activities on the beach to include surfing instruction. Council Member Smith seconded the motion.**

Director Kerr clarified that each business would only be permitted to teach for a total of two hours per day. Director Page added that surfing is something that can only be taught in the ocean.

**VOTE: A vote was taken as follows:**

Ayes: Moye, Smith

Nays: Popson

**The motion passed 2-1.**

B. **Discussion of landscaping maintenance and pest control**

Director Page reported that Cecil Hernandez of the Clemson University Department of Pesticide Regulation visited the Recreation Center. He reviewed their records and said the City is in compliance with the products they use. She said that a member of Recreation Center staff is working on his "certification to spray."

She also reported that they spray insecticide “maybe once a year if we get mole crickets or something of that nature.” Typically, only fertilizers, pre-emergents, and herbicides are put down on the Recreation Center grounds.

She reported that a parent expressed concern last month about a child getting blue dye on them following some time on a soccer field. Director Page explained this non-toxic blue dye is used to indicate where spraying had occurred to prevent overuse. However, spraying was done later in that day than normal and had not dissipated as it does through the course of a typical day. Council Member Smith encouraged staff to use products that are safe for the public health.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

The next meeting of the Recreation Committee will be on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 5pm.

**8. Adjournment**

Council Member Moye made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Smith seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk