



Recreation Committee Meeting
8:00am, Monday, March 1, 2021
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 Buckhannon, Pounds, and Smith

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

2. Approval of the previous meeting's minutes – February 1, 2021

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

3. Citizens' Comments

One citizen's comment was received regarding summer camp eligibility. It is posted on the City's website alongside the agenda for this meeting.

4. Departmental Reports – Director Page

Director Page reviewed some of the new offerings including pickleball classes and the formation of a pickleball league, a league for table tennis beginners, and youth baseball. A soccer camp will be offered during Spring Break.

She spoke to Kitty at the IOP Exchange Club about joint recreational offerings between the Exchange Club and the Recreation Department at the Exchange Club dock. Kitty will share that suggestion with the Board to see if there is any interest in pursuing the matter further.

There has not been success yet in setting up a coastal environmental education class. Director Page is reaching out to a resident with expertise in that area to see if he would be interested in leading such a class.

She reported on the hot water heater malfunction at the Recreation Department. Staff did a wonderful job in helping clear the building of water on an early Saturday morning. Insurance will cover the costs of the new floors needed. The City will replace the 60-year-old water heater.

Recreation grounds are being cleared of old shrubbery, and they are working Assistant Director Asero on new plantings.

Director Page reviewed the COVID-19 protocols for basketball as included in the meeting packet. There are currently no plans for Open Gym until further COVID-19 related restrictions are lifted. The gym is currently being used for overflow classes.

She reported on a meeting she had with MUSC personnel regarding safe COVID-19 related measures for youth baseball.

Upcoming special events include the drive-in movie in the Municipal Parking Lot (3/6), Easter Egg Drop (4/4), Yard Sale (4/17), and Music in the Park (5/1), which will be followed by Movie in the Park. Social distancing will apply to these events as needed.

5. Old Business

A. Discussion of outlook for classes and activities in the Spring

In addition to what was covered in the Departmental Report, Director Page shared that DNR is offering resident participation in their own classes such as boating safety, shorebirds, and pond management.

B. Discussion of adjustments and impact related to COVID-19 on recreation programming – covered in the departmental report

C. Discussion of potential partnership opportunities for recreation activities such as kayaking and paddle boarding – covered in the departmental report

D. Update on implementation of Coastal Environmental Science education class – covered in the departmental report

6. New Business

A. Discussion of FY22 Operating Budget for the Recreation Department

Asst. Administrator Hanna noted that the Recreation Department's FY22 budget is the same as before except for the additional IT services (online registration software) and facilities maintenance. Council Member Pounds said that expense levels seem a big jump compared to last year but are in fact at pre-COVID levels.

Administrator Fragoso said the budget assumes a lot of "going back to normal." The two biggest increases are in maintenance and IT services. The new software will create efficiencies for the staff. Improved live-streaming equipment is also being budgeted to allow for expanded meeting and class participation.

A brief discussion was held about the possibility of an event to acknowledge the end of COVID restrictions when the time comes.

Council Member Pounds asked about the increase in salaries in the budget to which Administrator Fragoso said, "That number assumes reinstating the 2020 2.5% merit and FY21 2%. There is nothing in it for FY22, and I think that was a conversation with the rest of Council at the workshop."

B. Update on implementation of Commercial Surf Instruction ordinance

Asst. Administrator Hanna briefly reviewed the process by which potential surfing instructors can apply and be approved.

C. Discussion of Summer Camp registration and preview of programming

Director Page said the registration process will be the same as last year using the same COVID-19 guidelines. Small groups of children will be kept with the same counselor throughout their time at camp.

Campers are assigned weeks to attend camp by a lottery system handled by the RecTrack software. She shared that grandchildren or nieces and nephews of residents are eligible to register for camp if they live at least 50 miles from the Isle of Palms. She anticipates the camps will be filled with island residents due to the reduced numbers of campers permitted.

7. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Recreation Committee will be on Monday, April 5, 2021 at 8am. Asst. Administrator Hanna said the goal is to offer a hybrid of in-person and Zoom for next month's meeting. Council Member Buckhannon said it is important to offer the same level of service and accessibility to citizens who want to engage with their government. He said he is willing to wait for in-person meetings until the IT infrastructure offers that level of accessibility.

8. Adjournment

Council Member Buckhannon made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Pounds seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk