

RECREATION COMMITTEE

5:00 p.m., Thursday, October 11, 2012

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was held at 5:00 p.m., Thursday, October 11, 2012 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Thomas and Ward, Chair Bergwerf, City Administrator Tucker, Assistant Recreation Director Ferrell, Assistant Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Chair Bergwerf 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 Thomas moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 9, 2012 as submitted; Councilmember Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. **Departmental Report for August/September 2013 – Assistant Director Ferrell**

Assistant Ferrell commented that August had seen the end of camps and summer activities, while September had brought the start of fall programs. The 3-on-3 basketball league has ten (10) teams participating, and the new 6-vs-6 adult soccer league has six (6) teams playing. Ten (10) people have registered for the adult table tennis league, and soccer continues to draw youth of all ages. Wellness Wacky Golf, an employee wellness event, drew twenty (20) employees; participants had so much fun that they have asked the Recreation Department for a repeat – when the weather is a bit cooler. The three (3) day “Get Your Spike On” soccer clinic drew eighteen youths ranging in age from ten to sixteen (10-16) years of age. Good participation continues in the babysitting course taught by the American Red Cross. Other programs that continue to thrive are the dog training obedience classes. The first meeting of the Keenagers was September 5th with sixty (60) seniors having lunch and playing Bingo. Another first for the fall was the Middle School dance held September 28th; three hundred twenty (320) young people attended. New this fall is Tiny Tennis for children three to five (3-5) years old; the session beginning October 1 had to be split into two (2) classes due to the number of children who registered. Zumba continues to be a huge success with forty (40) participants. The new Tai Chi program is geared for seniors and has three to five (3-5) attendees. For the annual Community Wellness Fair, thirty-six (36) employees participated, and more than two hundred (200) residents attended. A program that is returning from hiatus is “Ghostly Tide Tales” scheduled for Friday October 19th; the 28th Avenue beach access path will be lit with tiki torches and fire barrels will be located on the beach to provide warmth. The Halloween Carnival will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31st, and over eight hundred (800) young people are expected. The annual tree lighting will take on a new look this year with the tree lighting and a Street Festival on December 8th from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; activities will include a ferris wheel, climbing wall and big slide for children and adults.

5. Old Business

Update on ball-field and tennis/basketball courts lighting

Assistant Ferrell reported that the work has been completed, and staff is getting positive feedback from residents around the Recreation Center and those using the tennis and basketball fields and the ball-fields.

6. New Business

Consideration of electronic message boards

Assistant Ferrell distributed copies of the proposal submitted by Fast Signs for an electronic message board; a copy is attached to the historical record of the meeting. She explained that, in the two hundred fifty-three (253) days worked by Recreation Department staff in 2011, one hundred two (102) changes were made to the message boards at Breach Inlet and the foot of the Connector; in a month, eight to ten (8-10) hours are spent changing the boards. Some of the benefits to be gained from an electronic board are that changes can be made in-house, and updating the message boards would be more efficient and timely, even weekends. Director Page got three (3) quotes that ranged in price from twenty four thousand to twenty-nine thousand dollars (\$24,000-29,000); the Fast Signs' proposal was the lowest bid, includes Clip Art and the necessary software, and has free technical support. Fast Signs personnel indicated that the City could use the existing frame to install the electronic sign and reduce the expense, and this quote is for two (2) electronic message boards. Assistant Ferrell assured the Committee that the electronic message board being discussed has the capability of holding as much information as the current message board. The Fast Signs representative stated that he could make a presentation and answer questions for Council as needed.

Councilmember Thomas liked the fact that information regarding an emergency condition could be posted as soon as the City is notified.

Administrator Tucker stated that she has many unanswered questions, beginning with assurance that the electronic board would hold the volume of information that can be put on the message board currently; earlier research had found that not to be the case.

Chair Bergwerf remarked that she wanted to know that the electronic board could be easily controlled off-site and that it would stand up to the effects of the salt air and moisture.

Councilmember Thomas asked where he could see other electronic signs that had been installed by this company. Assistant Ferrell responded that, like the other two (2) companies who had submitted proposal, Fast Signs is a local company and that she could get that information for the Committee.

Other concerns from Administrator Tucker were that the proposal stated that the electrical component is not included; therefore, additional research was needed to determine what that involved and the cost associated to it. When this project was explored in the past, the electrical involved some conduit over a considerable distance and was cost prohibitive.

Councilmember Ward pointed out that the City would incur a monthly fee from an internet provider; he also voiced concern about the capacity of an electronic sign.

Administrator Tucker noted that the Committee needed answers to these questions before making any decision to move ahead that could include a budget detailing the expenses involved.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Next Meeting Date: 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 7, 2012 in the Conference Room.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 p.m.; Councilmember Thomas seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk