

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
4:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2013

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was held at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Carroll and Thomas, Chair Bergwerf, Administrator Tucker, Recreation Director Page, Assistant to the 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 Carroll moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 1, 2013 as submitted; Councilmember Thomas seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. **Recreation Report**

Director Page reported that adult athletics are in full swing – softball, 3on3 basketball, 6v6 soccer and the table tennis leagues. The Rec Department will have registration for a men's 7v7 lacrosse league beginning May 6<sup>th</sup>, and the staff has learned that Mount Pleasant Rec has decided to do the same. Fast Start Baseball for three and four (3-4) year olds had its last activity on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>; T-ball, machine pitch and youth baseball are continuing and will end in May. Lacrosse for boys will be setting up leagues following registration in May; the leagues are for ages twelve to fourteen years (12-14 yrs.) and fifteen to eighteen years (15-18 yrs.); children ages three to five years (3-5 yrs.) and their parents are learning the basics skills of lacrosse as well. A "Mechanics of Lacrosse" class will be held on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> for youths to learn the skills of cradling, passing, catching, shooting and scooping ground balls. Spike Nights continues to be successful as attendance shows. The IOP Beach Run will be held on Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> and will include a 5K, 10K and youth fun runs; City employees who want to participate will have the registration fee waived. Athletic camps will begin the week of June 10<sup>th</sup> and will include soccer, basketball, a multi-sport camp, girls' volleyball, girls' lacrosse and a volleyball clinic instructed by Laura Togami. Among the programs that will continue through the summer are BOSU training, dog obedience, Pilates, semi-personal training, senior aerobics, senior exercise and tae kwon do, as will yoga and Zumba. Fifty (50) Keenagers attended the April meeting, and several went on the Plantation River Boat Tour at Murrells Inlet. The last Middle School Dance of the school year will be held Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Submissions for the photography contest are due Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>; photographs submitted become the property of the Recreation Department. The public reading from the Writing from Memory class was held on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. The weather was not cooperative for the Yard Sale on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>; it was quite muddy and some vendors did not set up; therefore, the Recreation Department decided to do it all over again on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Both events drew good numbers of shoppers. The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Sand Sculpting Contest will be Saturday, June 1; both Mayor Riley and Mayor Cronin will participate. For the first time, the event will have a full page ad in the Piccolo Spoleto Program at no cost to the City. Camp Summershine is filled each week. On

the employee wellness front, a volleyball outing is planned for *The Windjammer* on Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the annual Community Wellness Fair is scheduled for Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Director Page announced that Community Specialist is expecting her first child in December.

Due the Nick Bako's recent foot surgery, Parks and Facilities Specialist Shelia Redmon has stepped up to the plate and taken on several additional duties in his absence.

## **5. Old Business**

### **Review of FY14 Recreation Department Budgets**

Administrator Tucker commented that this is one more opportunity to look at the FY14 budgets; the version for review is the one (1) that had First Reading at the April Council meeting and was the basis for the newspaper advertisement for the Public Hearing scheduled for May 21, 2013 before the Ways and Means Committee meeting. Changes can be made to the budget until it has Second Reading at either the May or June Council meeting.

Councilmember Carroll complimented Director Page and Assistant Director Ferrell on their presentation at the Council meeting on the fencing needed at the Recreation Center, it addressed all of his concerns.

Councilmember Thomas remarked that the Recreation Department is certainly deserving of a new vehicle, but he questioned what he would do if the Rec vehicle being replaced belonged to him and he knew that he would keep on driving it until he felt it was unsafe.

Chair Bergwerf noted that the vehicle is used to transport not only employees, but also residents of the island and that it has major mechanical problems that need to be addressed. The Chair confirmed that the book value today is about twenty-seven hundred dollars (\$2,700).

Director Page reminded the Committee that a thousand dollars (\$1,000) was spent on the vehicle recently, and the ball joints need to be replaced now, costing six hundred dollars (\$600). The Director repeated her comments from the April meeting that she has never driven a vehicle this long with as many miles on it; therefore, she does not know what to expect from continuing to drive it. The heater has had to be repaired twice.

Councilmember Carroll stated that he understood Councilmember Thomas' feelings, but he questioned whether the Committee or Council was being fiscally conservative by trying to keep it running to save a couple of dollars when it will cost more money with repairs and declining value.

The City could keep the vehicle, put a couple of thousand dollars into repairs and end up replacing it next year and get little to nothing for it at auction was the Administrator's opinion.

When the Director commented that a Ford is on state contract, Chair Bergwerf asked if that was the best deal. Director Page said she had priced the same vehicle off state contract, and it is two thousand dollars (\$2,000) higher in price.

According to Administrator Tucker, if the City does not buy off state contract, it must follow the procurement process, meaning that the City would have to specify what was wanted on the vehicle and hope for a bid lower than state pricing. The state has already done that work for a best price for vehicles statewide.

Councilmember Carroll complimented Administrator Tucker on the narratives that she has added to the FY14 budget. The Administrator responded that she hoped it would be useful to the community as they review the City's budgets.

## **6. New Business**

### **Discussion of Wellness Program in Fire Department**

Administrator Tucker opened her comments by saying this item could potentially have a budgetary impact. This issue will go through both this committee and the Public Safety Committee.

The Administrator acknowledged representation from both the Fire and Police Departments at the meeting to provide additional information. The issue is a good one in that a component of the Employee Wellness initiative has gained huge popularity, primarily with the Fire Department, but there is interest in the Police Department as well; it is a workout program taught by one (1) of the instructors at the Recreation Department. As you know, City employees can participate in Rec program at no charge to the employee, but there is still the need to compensate the instructor although there is no offsetting revenue. Those members of the Fire Department who were participating at the Rec became so enthused that they thought participation would be greater if the instructor came to the Public Safety Building (PSB); when the instructor asked Director Page, she instructed him to work out the details with Chief Graham. The program has migrated to the PSB and has become as popular as hoped; the Department has embraced it, and the instructor has modified the program to be specific to the functions of public safety personnel. Because it has gained this popularity, the program now has an expense factor since most, if not all, fire personnel now participate. In order to support it at its current level for the FY14 budget, an adjustment of fifteen thousand nineteen dollars (\$15,019) must be made to part-time salaries in the Recreation Department.

When the realization was made that the popularity was beyond what could be supported in the budget as it existed, staff looked at other alternatives for continuing to support the program. The most feasible option is for the trainer to remain a part-time employee within the Recreation Department; it is a fitness function, only for City employees, held off-site at the PSB. If the City were to treat the instructor as a private vendor for an off-site program, the City gets into bidding issues and other things of this nature to continue the program. It is believed that the added participation by the Police Department will not generate costs beyond the fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) estimated. The Administrator reiterated that, for the program to continue into FY14 at this level, the Recreation Department's operating budget must be modified by increasing the part-time instructors' salaries by fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000). As a result of this program, the City has a healthier and fitter department that performs its job better.

As Chief Graham apologized for the budgetary impact this activity has generated, she touted the positive effect it is having on Fire Department personnel, from their personal well-being to a heightened sense of team work. The Chief explained that the Recreation Department could not have absorbed the cost if the fire personnel were attending these classes at the Rec Center; the Recreation Department also would be hard pressed to have met the requirements of the modified class for the Fire Department. Fire personnel who were very resistant in the beginning are now dedicated to the workouts and seeing visible changes as well as increased stamina.

Director Page noted that both the Fire and Police Departments have certain physical requirements they must meet every year, and it is logical for this to be a part of their training to ensure that they are in the best physical condition. The Director stated that it has been proven that the more fit employees are, the fewer injuries they get; she added that she had statistics that prove City employees had dramatically fewer sick days after the Wellness Program was established.

Councilmember Carroll asked why the Fire and Police Departments could not fund the activity. Administrator Tucker indicated that, when staff met, they discussed that as an option – simply increasing the training budget for each department. The problem there is that neither budget has a line-item for instructors; therefore, the departments would be paying an instructor as a private vendor, a business with requirements for certain levels of insurance and a business license. These considerations do not exist when the person is an instructor with the Recreation Department.

Chair Bergwerf remarked that all departments are working from the same bucket of money and this becomes a matter of how the bookkeeping will be done. She added that she has heard about this young instructor and that it would be self-defeating to have to go through the bid process and have him undercut by someone else when the relationship between him and the Fire Department has been forged.

Chief Graham reported that the instructor has begun to learn about the Fire Department; she has given him the list of physical requirements each firefighter must meet to be classified as “medically fit to perform” the duties of the job. He has since made changes to his program to incorporate those things.

Police Captain Usry reported that this instructor is constantly assessing the participants to help them improve; he works with each participant to modify something especially for his needs. The Captain stressed that this instructor is certified – this is his profession.

Chief Buckhannon noted that, with the shifts personnel have, it is very difficult for members of the Police Department to attend scheduled activities at the Recreation Department, but the time of day this activity is happening at the PSB works out well for personnel to participate.

The consensus of the Committee was that this is an excellent program that needs to continue, but there needs to be a way for the cost to be shifted from the Police and Fire Departments to the Recreation Department. The Chair said that to end it would be a “morale crusher,” and that “the City can afford it” – “it is an investment in personnel” in the Chair’s opinion.

Chair Bergwerf asked the Fire and Police Chiefs if they could cut their FY14 training budgets by seventy-five hundred dollars (\$7,500) to fund this activity through the Recreation Department; Chief Buckhannon said that his training budget for FY14 is only eight thousand dollars (\$8,000).

The Chair indicated that an increase in the Recreation budget might be less painful if there could be reduction in the Police and Fire budgets.

**MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to recommend to the Ways and Means Committee for a change in the FY14 budget to add \$15,019 in part-time instructor wages; Councilmember Thomas seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

**Next Meeting Date: 4:00 p.m., June 3, 2013 in City Hall Conference Room.**

**8. Adjourn**

**MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:53 p.m.; Councilmember Thomas seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk