

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
4:45 p.m., Monday, February 10, 2014

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was held at 4:45 p.m., Monday, January 10, 2014 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmember Harrington, Chair Carroll, Administrator Tucker, Director Page, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; Councilmember Buckhannon arrived late. A quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Chair Carroll 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 Harrington moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 14, 2014 as submitted; Chair Carroll seconded.**

Councilmember Harrington pointed out a typo on page 3, paragraph 3 where the word "prevent" was typed instead of the word "percent."

**VOTE: The motion to approve the corrected minutes PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. Citizens' Comments – None**

**4. Department Report for January 2014 – Director Page**

Director Page reported that adult co-ed winter volleyball will conclude on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> with a double-elimination tournament and that registration is underway for adult spring softball, basketball, soccer and the table tennis league. In youth sports, basketball will end in February and be followed by a district tournament to be hosted by the Isle of Palms Recreation Department for youths between the ages of nine and fourteen (9-14) on March 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup>. An all-star team will be formed from participants at the IOP Recreation Department. Baseball registration is going well with between one hundred seventy and one hundred eighty (170-180) participants registered thus far. Anticipating warmer weather, boater education classes will be held in both March and April and conducted by the Department of Natural Resources. Keen-agers remain very active and continue to enjoy the monthly covered dish lunches. The Middle School Dance held on January 10<sup>th</sup> drew three hundred eleven (311) students; the next dance is scheduled for Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. School's Out Activities continue to be well-attended; the next activity will be Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> when the children are out for President's Day. Another Writing from Memory class will begin on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Although the weather was less than perfect, Doggie Day at the Rec was again a successful event with eighty-four (84) dogs vying for a win in any of twelve (12) areas of competition. Replacing the Blues Bash is Island Gras that will take place from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Front Beach; this event is an effort to promote Front Beach businesses in the off-season.

A discussion ensued regarding the Exchange Club's participation in the event, and Administrator Tucker indicated that all arrangements were being handled by Recreation Supervisor Will McElheny, who is responsible for City events. Director Page speculated that Mr. McElheny had likely contacted the Exchange Club.

Other up-coming events are the St. Patty's Craft on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, the Egg-cellent Craft on April 17<sup>th</sup> and the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. Holly Norton returned from maternity leave to assume her role of Community Specialist just in time for Laura Togami to fill-in for Karrie Ferrell who will soon be starting her maternity leave. Nick Bako and Shelia Redmon continue to do an excellent job maintaining the grounds and building.

**5. Old Business – None**

**6. New Business**

**A. Discussion of Vandalism at Recreation Center**

Chair Carroll stated that he had asked that this subject be placed on the *Agenda* after reading about an incident of vandalism at the Recreation Center in the *Island Eye News*.

Director Page stated that she did not submit the information to the newspaper or ask that they print the picture of graffiti on the wall and attending story; the owner of the paper is frequently at the Rec Center and overheard a conversation on the subject. The Director indicated that she does not like to see attention brought to these situations because she believes that it gives other people an idea that they otherwise may not have had.

Administrator Tucker added that the story asked that anyone with information about the graffiti contact Director Page.

According to the Director, there is vandalism at the Rec Center quite often; just the prior week, about the same graffiti was painted on the dugouts, and staff painted over it. The type of incidents that occur are things being broken, graffiti inside the playground equipment, etc. In her opinion, it is the nature of the facility and the nature of kids for this to happen; whether the Recreation Department is open or closed, the Director indicated that the cameras show that there are kids around all of the time. The cameras frequently will provide evidence of who has done the deed, and, when that happens, the Director contacts the parents and the child is brought in and talked to. In most cases, the parents are most supportive and assure the Director that the child will know that there are consequences for his actions. For incidents like the one described in the newspaper, the Director said that she always files a police report because she believes that, if the person(s) are painting graffiti on the Rec Center, they are likely doing it elsewhere on the island.

**B. Review of Revenue Projections for FY15 Budget**

Since both Councilmember Harrington and Chair Carroll have had the opportunity to review this information in other Committee meetings, Assistant Dziuban did not go into detail and stated that these projections will be more and more refined as the budget process progresses and the staff has more data from which to draw. The Assistant noted that staff has listed several areas that could generate additional revenues should that be necessary; the sources outlined are business license fees, franchise fees, the parking lot rate and parking meters in lieu of the most obvious source which is the property tax millage.

Three (3) options for raising revenue in business licenses were offered. The City charges off-island businesses one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the on-island rate; the surrounding municipalities charge two hundred percent (200%). A second option would be to increase all business licenses by fifteen percent (15%), and the third option would be to do both of the options suggested.

On the subject of franchise fees for Comcast and SCE&G, the City charges three percent (3%) when the maximum allowable is five percent (5%). Both Mount Pleasant and Sullivan's Island charge the full five percent (5%); Folly Beach charges three percent (3%) for SCE&G, but five percent (5%) for Comcast.

Administrator Tucker explained that the schedule reflects a full year's revenue increase, but, if the increase were made in December to begin in January, the effect on the budget would be for only half of the year.

In the area of parking, the Committee was presented with the idea of increasing the parking lot rate to seven dollars (\$7.00) a day, matching the County Park's rate, of increasing the per hour rate for the parking meters and of operating the parking meters at Front Beach for the entire year.

Administrator Tucker commented that the Recreation Department has the ability to raise additional revenue by increasing the fees charged for participation in programs for all or only for those from off-island. According to Director Page, the charge for off-island participants is five dollars (\$5.00) to embrace Sullivan's Island children. At the Mount Pleasant Recreation Department, the resident rate for basketball, for example, is fifty dollars (\$50.00) and the non-resident rate is one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

The Director stated that she had done some calculations relative to increasing the charge of youth sports by five or ten dollars (\$5 - \$10) and found that to do so raises approximately twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) annually. If the fee for summer camp were increased from sixty-five dollars (\$65.00) per week to eighty dollars (\$80.00) per week, the revenue generated would be approximately seventy-five hundred dollars (\$7,500).

Councilmember Harrington asked if the Rec Department gave discounts to families with more than one child participating in activities; the Director said that they do not. The Administrator cautioned that Council will hear the complaints for the increase in fees from parents who have multiple children participating in Rec programs. Two (2) other examples are Kids Night Out that is only twenty dollars (\$20), which is less than babysitting, and the Middle School Dance is only five dollars (\$5.00).

Chair Carroll summed up the discussion by stating that the Recreation Department is not a money-making proposition but that it provides a benefit for island residents.

## **7. Miscellaneous Business**

**Next Meeting Date: 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Conference Room.**

**8. Adjourn**

**MOTION: Councilmember Buckhannon moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 p.m.; Councilmember Harrington seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk