

## RECREATION COMMITTEE

5:00 p.m., Monday, June 2, 2014

The Recreation Committee held its regular meeting at 5:00 p.m., Monday, June 2, 2014 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Buckhannon and Harrington, Chair Carroll, Administrator Tucker, Recreation Director Page, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Chair Carroll called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public had duly been 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 May 5, 2014 as submitted; Chair Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Citizens' Comments – None

### 4. Departmental Report for May 2014 – Director Page

The last middle school dance was held on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>; there was an incident and police were called. Over the summer, the Recreation Department staff will take a hard look at the middle school dances and determine whether there is a better way. Director Page reported that tickets must be purchased in advance for middle school dances; tickets are not sold at the door.

Chair Carroll asked whether Mount Pleasant had police officers present at their dances; the Director said that she did not know, but that officers are always present for IOP dances.

Councilmember Harrington asked about having parents in attendance; Director Page stated that if they were to be chaperones, she would have to run background checks on all who participated.

The Director explained that, when an incident occurs, she immediately calls the parents detailing what has happened and asking that they pick up their child as soon as possible. She indicated that there seem to be more problems when eighth graders attend, so there is the possibility of limiting the dance to sixth and seventh grades and checking identifications to verify the youth's age.

Responding to the Chair's question, Administrator Tucker said no parents have called City Hall to register any kind of complaint about the incident on Friday night.

Director Page reported that adult spring sports were having their season-end tournaments; Ted Kinghorn was the Table Tennis Singles winner. The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Half Rubber Tournament will be held on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, if necessary. The final game in the youth baseball program will be on Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>; thirty-four (34) youths participated; a total of two hundred thirty-one (231) children participated in the various baseball programs offered by the Recreation Department. Ten (10) youths enjoyed the dodge-ball pickup games on May 14<sup>th</sup>;

the next dodge-ball pickup game is planned for Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Director Page stated that an athletic camp is planned every week of the summer, except the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>; there will be a soccer camp, basketball camp, multi-sport camp, girls' volleyball and lacrosse camps, and boys' lacrosse camp. Many programs have ended until the fall, but there are also many that will continue through the summer, i.e. BOSU, mah jongg, yoga, and Zumba. Tennis continues to be very popular with children on the island; the Tiny Tennis program has been split into two (2) classes, and good participation continues in both Youth Tennis Beginners and Youth Tennis Intermediate. The "Music in the Park" event was an afternoon of healthy family-oriented entertainment; the group "Sweet Potato Pie" is performing in Branson, Missouri this week. The Piccolo Spoleto Sand Sculpting Contest will take place on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> along Front Beach; more teams have signed up for this year's event than have ever registered this far in advance. All sessions of Camp Summershine are full; counselors reported to work on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to prepare lesson plans and activities for the eight (8) weeks of camp. The Fire Department will provide CPR training for counselors who are not already certified. Wee Camp for three to five (3-5) year olds is also full and will run simultaneously with Camp Summershine. Support personnel Holly Norton, Shelia Redmon and Nick Bako continue to do a very good job; Nick has been especially busy getting the ball fields in shape for the season. In conclusion, Director Page reported that the oak trees along 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue have been planted.

## **5. Old Business**

### **Review of FY15 Budgets**

#### **Consideration of Reservations of Fund Balance Policy**

Administrator Tucker recalled from the City Council meeting, ideas were put forth on ways to reduce the heavy contributions to the Reserve for Fund Balance in these initial years; among the suggestions were extending the useful life of equipment on the schedule by one (1) year and paying for seventy-five percent (75%) of an item and financing twenty-five percent (25%). Staff is recommending that the FY15 contributions remain as they are, because any change will provide little gain in the budget and the FY15 budget is balanced. The Administrator reminded the Committee that Council can decide whether a contribution will be made to the Reservations of Fund as each budget year comes along; she also pointed to FY21 when the annual contribution levels off year over year. One (1) last point relative to the Reservations of Fund Balance is money in the bank and that Council has the ability to use any or all of these funds any time there is a significant need.

At the Public Safety Committee meeting, the digital sign was re-budgeted to FY15 as were the traffic counters, since neither of these projects is expected to be completed in FY14. The Administrator also reported that the Public Safety Committee added money in the FY15 budget for software and ticket writers which the City paid for in FY13 and has never received; the City anticipates seventeen thousand four hundred dollars (\$17,400) to be refunded by the vendor who has been unable to deliver his product.

Discussing the digital sign, Director Page explained how this project has developed from her initial recommendation; she stated that the only difference people will see is the appearance of the letters. The new digital sign has been designed to look as much like the existing sign as possible while incorporating the wayfinding sign motif.

In discussing the demonstration sign that the vendor offered to bring to the island, the Director stated that it will be on a trailer and will be remindful of the sign as one drives onto Sullivan's Island; she does not think the demo sign will provide anyone a true image of what has been designed for the Isle of Palms. Director Page stated that there are no plans to scroll letters or to use graphics; staff is trying to communicate the same information in a more efficient way; she readily admitted that people do not like change.

Councilmember Harrington stated that the responsibility for updating the Exchange Club sign has fallen to him and his wife, and he said that they are very familiar with the tediousness of changing the sign. He stated that he thinks the digital sign is very practical, particularly if residents and guests need to be informed of a rip current or an approaching storm.

Administrator Tucker commented that she hopes this committee supports re-budgeting the sign to FY15; in her opinion, the alternative is to eliminate the message portion of the sign and have a WELCOME sign instead.

Director Page added that any new sign must have break-away posts, because they are now a DOT requirement.

Chair Carroll said that he is hearing from residents that this sign is the "Myrtle-Beach-ization" of the Isle of Palms; Director Page noted that the City of Myrtle Beach does not have any digital signs.

**6. New Business – None**

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

Councilmember Harrington related a conversation with Andy Benke where he learned that Sullivan's Island has fourteen (14) handicap walkovers, four (4) of which meet ADA regulations; the Councilmember noted that, on the Isle of Palms, a handicapped person can only access the beach if he/she is in a special beach-accessible wheelchair. He stated that 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue is designated as handicap accessible, but at the end of the path is soft sand which is difficult to navigate without the special wheelchair. The Isle of Palms has no ADA rated walkovers. The Councilmember stated that funds with a fifty-fifty (50-50) match are available through DHEC-OCRM.

Administrator Tucker recalled that she had been the administrator there when many of these accesses were constructed, and she commented that there are differences in terms of the sand and the topography. The Administrator added that Sullivan's Island has been successful with several of the OCRM fifty-fifty (50-50) grants.

The Administrator said that the Isle of Palms could have more if the City budgeted for its half of the project. Another factor to be considered is that some of IOP's beach accesses are quite long, and to make them ADA compliant the distance of the construction would be more expensive. Should the City succeed in getting an OCRM grant, the path must have ADA compliant parking as well.

Councilmember Harrington noted that he was interested in providing easier beach access for those who are handicapped, but not necessarily bound to a wheelchair, for example people who must use crutches or must walk with a cane. Administrator Tucker stated that Mobi-mat is an excellent material for that use and is less expensive, but it does not qualify as ADA compliant. The Administrator indicated that the City has tended to expand the use of Mobi-mat on beach accesses, and it generates a positive response from beach-goers. Another advantage to the Mobi-mat is that it can be picked up and re-positioned when the topography changes.

Councilmember Harrington asked if there grants available that would totally fund ADA-compliant beach walkovers; according to the Administrator, there are very few one hundred percent (100%) grants. The most generous grant she is familiar with has an eighty/twenty (80%/20%) match, and the OCRM grants are typically fifty/fifty (50%/50%) splits.

Chair Carroll suggested that maybe Charleston County would share in the costs.

Administrator Tucker stated that the 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue path was funded by a Charleston County Community Development Block Grant, which is the one (1) area of that grant for which the City qualifies, and the grant was an eighty-twenty (80%-20%) split. The Administrator explained that the bulk of those funds go to for slum and blight and to benefit low-to-moderate income persons, which are not found at the Isle of Palms. Becoming ADA compliant is an eligible component of the Community Development Block Grant and the City could apply; the City must remember that it will be competing for funds with places with no indoor plumbing and other severely poverty-driven requests.

Councilmember Harrington asked whether it would be possible to make ADA compliant walkovers a philanthropic community goal, seeking donors to provide the funds.

Administrator Tucker indicated that the City has received successful donations in the past for a several different items, i.e. the handicap accessible door at the Rec Center, items at the Bark Park, the Rec Building fund, etc. The Administrator advised the Committee that the beach accesses are expensive.

**Next Meeting Date: 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> in Council Chambers.**

**8. Adjourn**

**MOTION: Councilmember Buckhannon moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m.; Councilmember Harrington seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk