

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
9:00 a.m., Monday, March 2, 2015

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was held at 9:00 a.m., Monday, March 2, 2015 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 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 were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. **Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

**MOTION: Councilmember Buckhannon moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 2, 2015 as submitted; Councilmember Harrington seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. **Departmental Report for February 2015 – Director Page**

Director Page stated that the post-season tournament for co-ed volleyball will start March 10, 2015; upcoming adult leagues are softball, 3-on-3 basketball, 6-vs-6 soccer and table tennis. The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Half Rubber Tournament has been scheduled for Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, if necessary; the City will host the normal number of teams in 2015. (They were reduced for 2014.) Youth basketball has concluded, and they had a good season. Parent/player meetings will be held on Wednesday for ages five to twelve (5-12); approximately two hundred (200) youths are registered. The City will have a new twist to the Beach Run this year in that the plan is to time the walkers also; the event is scheduled for Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. The same classes and programs continue to be successful. A Hunter Education Class will be held on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m.; instructors will be from DNR. A babysitting course will be held on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, and staff are researching both a photography class or program and a water safety/community information class.

Councilmember Buckhannon stated that he was not necessarily promoting a water safety course so much as an island ecology program with information on oysters, sea oats, pluff mud, etc.; Administrator Tucker thought it would be include good principles for living with nature. DNR has been asked to attend Island Gras to provide information and to answer questions from the public.

Director Page indicated that she understood what they wanted.

Interest has been shown in a photography program, and she is confident that it will be successful.

For special events, the first Middle School Dance for 2015 was held on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup> with approximately three hundred (300) middle school students attending. The Keenagers met on February 4<sup>th</sup> and have fifty-two (52) attendees. Doggie Day at the Rec was a big success; sixty-

nine (69) dogs were in the competition and ninety (90) City dog licenses were sold.

The Island Gras street festival will be held on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4:00 p.m.; Director Page reported that she is working with Westy Westmoreland of SCE&G for some type of recognition for the new Front Beach lights, maybe a ribbon cutting.

Summer camp registration begins Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> for IOP residents and on March 23<sup>rd</sup> for non-residents; the themes for the weeks are listed. She commented that she does not necessarily know what campers will be doing regarding the themes, but she is very happy with the direction camp is going in – Andy is planning new activities and ideas for the children this summer.

The annual East Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.; the Yard Sale will be on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, Music in the Park will be May 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and the Sand Sculpting Competition will be Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

As usual, Holly, Shelia and Nick are doing great jobs inside and outside the building.

Responding to Councilmember Buckhannon's comments at the Council meeting, the Director has made sure that the gate to the fields will be left unlocked; the gate will only be locked in the future if there is some threat, i.e. fields have just been sprayed, or the fields could be destroyed if played on at that time, i.e. too wet.

**5. Old Business – None**

**6. New Business**

**A. Consideration of Purchasing a Portable Sound System in the Amount of \$3,500**

The Director stated that, in the past, the Department had a portable sound system, but it does not work anymore, and currently the Department rents a generator on many occasions to have amplification. For some events, staff runs extension cords, so they would like to go back to the portable system for Sand Sculpting, the Beach Run, Ghostly Tide Tales, the Half Rubber Tournament, etc. Since the Department did not have fall softball teams and, due to the reduction in the number of participants in the Half Rubber Tournament last summer, there is enough money remaining in the Adult Sports budget to pay for the portable system.

**MOTION: Councilmember Buckhannon moved to purchase a portable sound system; Councilmember Harrington seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**B. Review of Proposed FY16 Recreation Department Capital and Expense Budgets**

Assistant Dziuban initiated the first review of the expense budgets with the General Fund expenditures; she explained that the lines with bolded numbers reflect changes from FY15. Wages and Salaries have been forecasted with a six percent (6%) merit pool and two (2) additional holidays; the holiday addition has no impact on Recreation Department wages. The lines for FICA, retirement, group health and workers compensation are all functions of wages; retirement contributions from both employers and employees are increasing in FY16, and an eight percent (8%) increase is estimated for group health insurance premiums. Vehicle fuel has been reduced for all departments. The increase in electricity and gas includes the two percent (2%) adjustment to SCE&G franchise fees that becomes effective January 1, 2016. The City is encountering a number of problems due to not enough bandwidth, so the addition of approximately one thousand dollars (\$1,000) has been budgeted to the Rec Department for an increase the City's bandwidth. The Water and Sewer Commission has notified the City of an increase in sewer fees that is reflected in the line for water and sewer. The purchase of one (1) table tennis table has been included in the line for Non-capital Tools and Equipment; the increase in Cleaning and Sanitary Supplies is based on actual expenses. Current insurance premiums for property and liability have been increased by five percent (5%), and flood insurance has been increased by fifteen percent (15%). Assistant Dziuban reminded the Committee that the City had a decrease in insurance in FY15 from a one-time credit accounting correction of approximately one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000). A reduction is projected for Middle School Activities based on actual spending. Overall, the Recreation Department anticipates a six percent (6%) increase in its operating budget for FY16.

Looking at the Capital Projects Fund, the Department needs to replace one (1) desk-top computer and three (3) pieces of cardio equipment. In the category of maintenance, the capital budget contemplates replacing the two (2) outside showers and resealing and lining the parking lot; under Capital Outlay, the Recreation Department wants to replace the Toro groomer and, if they fail, to replace the basketball scoreboard in the gym and the HVAC system in the expansion.

Reviewing other funds, the Municipal ATAX budget would fund replacing the webbing on playground equipment (See photo attached to historical record of the meeting) and the track-ride beam of the infinity structure (Photos are attached to the historical record of the meeting.). Additionally, the budget anticipates replacing the exterior scoreboard, if needed, the z-track mower and to replace fencing at the tennis/basketball courts (Photos attached to the historical record of the meeting.).

Councilmember Buckhannon stated that both the tennis and basketball courts need to be rehabilitated soon; he suggested establishing a sinking fund in FY16 with half the costs and doing the work in FY17. He voiced the need to establish where this work is on the replacement cycle and get some idea of the cost to do the work. Councilmember Buckhannon and Director Page also discussed the need for additional tennis courts and the possible relocation of the courts on the Recreation site; if a move was to be considered, replacing the fence in FY16 would mean that the courts could not be relocated. He asked if it would be possible to simply patch the fencing in FY16 for more extensive work to take place in FY17.

Director Page reported that the tennis courts will be resurfaced at the end of March or the first of April; she recalled that re-doing the courts was quite expensive.

On the subject of adding tennis courts, the Director noted that there is not a lot of room to expand, but courts could be added sideways to the existing courts between 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Avenues. She added that she would advocate using some of the area already used for tennis courts since they are built-up a bit and expand out for a couple more courts. The biggest problems are the tree roots; she reported cutting palm trees out of the edge of the tennis courts. In addition, one (1) of

the basketball courts is almost below ground level; it should be built-up and graded. The Director assured the Committee that she would get cost estimates.

Councilmember Buckhannon indicated that he was considering using the corner of 27<sup>th</sup> and Hartnett for additional courts with space for parking, whether any of the trees along 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue need to be removed, etc.

Director Page questioned how wide the right-of-way was in that area; she recalled that the placement of the oak trees was dictated somewhat by the depth of the right-of-way.

Director Page commented that she did not see a problem with replacing the fencing because it could be reused if the City decided to increase the number of tennis courts.

Items to be funded from State ATAX funds are a new Christmas tree for Front Beach and support for special activities such as the IOP Beach Run, the Connector Run, Easter Egg Hunt, holiday street festival, music and cultural arts events and the Sand Sculpting contest. Expenditures from the Building Fund duplicate those of FY15.

The final two (2) pages are the Recreation Department items included in the ten-year (10 yr.) Capital Plan, and Assistant Dziuban noted that FY17 shows a large number of replacements that will be considered.

Administrator Tucker commented to the fact that the Capital Plan changes from year-to-year; as acquisitions occur during the year, they are added, and assets that have been sold are removed – the ten-year capital plan is not a static document.

The inclusion of a swimming pool to be constructed in FY19 again sparked the discussion of Councilmember Buckhannon's idea that a pool could be an opportunity "to put heads in beds" on the island in the off-season if the City was to hold swimming meets, which start in October and end in March. He reported that the events typically involve a three-day (3 day) weekend and use a municipal pool; in addition, typical hotel rates are one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) per night.

Administrator Tucker opined that such a consideration had not been brought to Council when a swimming pool was discussed in the past and that it might be a significant factor in future considerations. The Administrator stated that Council is always looking for something that can

continue to make Isle of Palms a family-oriented island more in the off-season, and she envisions having a pool and using it in this manner as having a lot of potential for the City.

Chair Carroll asked that the Director get some cost estimates to give Council information to digest.

The Chair noted that he has a pool, and the City would find that both the maintenance and insurance would be quite high.

Councilmember Buckhannon stated that the residents deserve a pool and, he believes, the residents are waiting for one. He indicated that the City would need a bond to finance such an expenditure. In addition, the Councilmember voiced the opinion that a pool could be revenue neutral if the City was involved with the swimming community.

Administrator Tucker entertained the thought that Charleston County might consider constructing a pool in space available at the County Park. Director Page was quick to respond that her experiences with Tom O'Rourke of the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Department were that he was not interested in building pools.

The ledger-sized schedule spreads the Recreation Department's expenditures between the funds that pay for them.

Assistant Dziuban continued by directing attention to three (3) tools developed for Council during last year's budget process. The first schedule illustrates increases in personnel, operations and controllable versus discretionary expenditures from FY11 through FY15; he second proved to be very useful for developing the FY15 budget because it estimates the budget contributions from the City's various sources of City revenues; and the third schedule depicts the justification for the use of tourism funds to pay operating budget expenses.

Councilmember Buckhannon commented that, although General Government, the Building Department and Recreation Department's personnel interact with tourists in their daily functions, these departments do not have the ability to track it, making it difficult to justify the use of tourism funds toward their expenses.

**5. Miscellaneous Business**

**Next Meeting Date: 9:00 a.m., April 5, 2015 in the Conference Room**

**6. Adjourn**

**MOTION: Councilmember Buckhannon moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m.; Chair Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:  
Marie Copeland  
City Clerk