

Recreation Committee

9:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 11, 2017

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 11, 2017 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Carroll, who arrived late, and Kinghorn, Chair Rice, Administrator Tucker, Assistant Administrator Fragoso, Recreation Director Page, Assistant Director Ferrell and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Chair Rice 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 Kinghorn moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 2, 2017 as submitted; Chair Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments – None

4. Departmental Report for September 2017 – Director Page

Adult athletics started back up in September with a healthy number of participants for each, and the same can be said of youth soccer. Fall has also brought the start up for programs, and participation is strong for both adults and youth. New programs initiated in September were Mommy & Me Music, Toddler Talk where participants will work on language development through songs, games and play, Science with S.A.M. that is a hands-on science class for preschool ages, and a Fitness Class for six (6) weeks to help participants meet and focus on specific fitness goals. The first Keenagers meeting was Wednesday, September 6th with thirty (30) attending; representatives from the South Carolina Aquarium brought in a few animals and spoke to the group.

Councilmember Kinghorn suggested inviting the Keenagers to participate in ping pong or to possibly put on a ping pong exhibition for them; Director Page replied that most of the Keenagers are not physically able to participate, but she would mention an exhibition.

The Employee Wellness Program continues offering a group of exercise classes to employees at no charge; the classes include Core & More, Fit Body in 50, Total Body Challenge, Barre, Yoga and Zumba. The eclipse viewing event was a huge success; over five thousand (5,000) people were estimated to be on the beach when clouds parted as if on cue, allowing for an indescribable experience as the moon moved between the earth and the sun. Fifty-one (51) employees and more than sixty (60) residents received free bloodwork screenings and free immunizations for the flu, tetanus and pneumonia (with proof of insurance for residents) at the Community Wellness Fair held September 22nd. Director Page reported that Harris Teeter ran out of the geriatric flu vaccine.

Councilmember Kinghorn commented that the most recent MASC magazine had a very good article about wellness in it and recommended that the Committee members read it.

The annual Ghostly Tide Tales event is scheduled for 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Friday, October 27th on the beach at the end of the 25th Avenue beach access. Pumpkin Painting will take place a week earlier on October 20th at 10:00 a.m. for children ages five to fourteen; the cost is five dollars (\$5.00) and registration ends on Wednesday, October 11th. The much-anticipated Halloween Carnival will be, of course, on Halloween from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and costume contests will begin at 5:30 p.m. The highlight of the holiday season will be the 6th Annual Holiday Street Festival that will be held on Saturday, December 2nd from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Front Beach.

5. Old Business

Parking at the Rec

Chair Rice was pleased that all of the vehicles previously parked at the Rec have been removed, and she noted that the Rec staff has repainted the lines and re-numbered the spaces.

Director Page stated that the parking issues at the Rec Center were discussed by the Public Safety Committee, and they charged the Police Department to determine ownership of the vehicles that have been parked there for long periods of time to have them removed, and they have been successful. She said that the Rec staff thought this was an opportunity to promote parking along 27th Avenue for soccer parents.

When the Chair asked about the backhoe that had been parked on Rec grounds for an extended time, Director Page reported that it has finally been removed and has not returned. She also noted that Morgan Creek Grill employees had stopped parking at the Rec around Labor Day.

Councilmember Kinghorn asked how many days a year the parking capacity at the Rec was exceeded, and the Director indicated that it was more than twelve (12) and the highest number was always for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Administrator Tucker commented that the events that draw the largest crowds, therefore, vehicles, last for a specific timeframe and do not have a long-term negative impact on the neighbors.

Councilmember Kinghorn inquired about the impact on parking at the Rec by the addition of new facilities, like a fitness room or a pool; he asked whether the current parking would be sufficient, and he cautioned that parking should be a consideration with any improvement to the Rec Center.

Administrator Tucker explained that parking requirements were defined in the master plan for the Recreation Center.

According to Director Page, the biggest problem was that everyone wanted to park along 28th Avenue; she hoped that having the newly numbered spaces would promote alternate parking.

Responding to Councilmember Kinghorn, Director Page said that the Rec Center had opened in September 2004 and that no major improvements have occurred; large maintenance items undertaken include the rehabilitation of the ball fields and the replacement of the ball field lights.

Administrator Tucker complimented Director Page at the reconfiguration of the playground to incorporate more shade; she has noticed that “the parents were embracing it and using it.”

6. New Business

A. National Youth Sports Recommendations

Having observed sports’ games at the Rec Center, Councilmember Kinghorn indicated that he did not think that the game rules being followed met state or federal guidelines, for instance, he said that goalkeepers were not recommended for soccer games with the smaller children. He asked how the IOP Rec Department had derived its rules and procedures and why the national recommendations were not being followed.

Director Page stated that the Rec Department follows the state guidelines found in the South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association (SCRPA) Policies and Procedures; they have guidelines for both competitive and recreational sports activities, and the IOP Rec Department follows the rules for recreational sports, as well as those of the National Alliance for Youth Soccer.

Councilmember Kinghorn asked the Director to review the guidelines about goalkeepers for soccer programs for small children. He also asked that all of the guidelines be reexamined to insure that the Department is employing the best recommendations for its sports activities and that the Director report her findings back to the Committee in an upcoming meeting. He asked if the guidelines were reviewed periodically or if staff has compared the IOP Department athletic rules and regulations to those of other local government sponsored athletics.

Administrator Tucker stated that, if she were given this task, she would take the SCRPA standards and requirements and compare them to IOP guidelines, examine the pros and cons of each to determine if changes were needed. She indicated that she would also check with other local governments outside the Charleston area, maybe Florence and Hilton Head.

Director Page added that she would be interested in community Rec Departments that have primarily recreational athletics, not competitive; she stated that her staff may tweak the rules if they feel something is not working, maybe the number of players is so large that the children are not learning the fundamentals they should know.

B. Innovative and creative ideas for programming

Director Page stated that the Department tries to introduce new programs every January and September and recent brainstorming resulted in pickle ball, outdoor yoga, meditation classes and the walking trail around the Rec Center and stroller walks. A wood-carving class will start this week and five (5) new programs were added in September.

Assistant Director Ferrell noted that programs introduced in September typically take until January to catch on.

When Councilmember Kinghorn asked if any program suggestions or recommendations have been made but never implemented, Director Page replied that nothing came to mind.

Chair Rice asked if further consideration had been given to having a "Music in the Park" event in the fall, and the Director said that she did not want to overdo the activity so that the spring program became less special.

The Administrator announced that the request for sidewalks on 28th Avenue between the Rec Center and Palm Boulevard was approved by the Transportation Sales Tax Committee (TST). She added that some of the property owners on 28th Avenue did not like the idea, but she planned to hold a meeting with the owners, the contractor and City staff to discuss the project and to show the property owners the design hoping their objections would be overcome.

Councilmember Carroll asked that the City be more progressive on this project by using pervious concrete or paver-scape, a product that looks to the future of the Isle of Palms.

Councilmember Kinghorn said that the City should pursue opportunities for sidewalks whenever they appear because he thought it would reduce the number of vehicles on the roads.

Administrator Tucker told the Committee about a MASC eighty/twenty (80/20) grant for trails and said that staff was trying to develop an idea.

Chair Rice asked if the walking trail had stops along the way with recommended fitness activities so that a walker could get in a fitness workout while walking, and the Director responded that it currently did not have fitness stations.

C. Upcoming events

Chair Rice indicated that she had asked that this item be on the Agenda because she does not expect the Committee to meet in November.

For the Street Festival of December 2nd, the primary band has not yet been booked, but "Plain Jane" was going to be one of the cover bands. As in previous years, the festival will have carnival rides and multiple vendors will set up along Front Beach.

Councilmember Kinghorn reminded the Committee of the Sullivan's Island vs IOP softball games on Monday, October 16th and Friday, October 20th.

On Wednesday, October 18th, the film "Chasing Coral" would be shown at the Rec; it has been advertised in the e-newsletter, the *Island Eye*, and on the website. The movie, starting at 5:30 p.m., is approximately one hour (1 hr.) long and will be followed by a question and answer period.

D. Consideration of naming the soccer fields after David Decker Elam

Chair Rice referred the Committee members to the letter from Mr. Elam's wife that was included in meeting packets. She stated that it was a very sad situation, but naming the soccer fields after Mr. Elam would set a precedent that she did not think the Committee would want to continue.

Councilmember Kinghorn suggested a table and benches since Mrs. Elam appears to be focused on the Rec Center.

Director Page explained that the times in the past when something at the Rec Center was named after someone was when the Rec Center had received a substantial donation to make a project a reality. She has thought about replacing a tree that was lost near the soccer fields in an area that does not require mowing.

Another suggestion from Councilmember Kinghorn was for the donation of fitness stations along the walking trail around the Rec Center.

Director Page said that she was trying to come up with an appropriate way to acknowledge Mr. Elam; she said she would consider the suggestions and talk with Mrs. Elam. She also welcomed additional suggestions Committee members might have.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Director Page stated that she was unaware of anything coming up that would warrant a meeting, and Administrator Tucker reminded the Committee that City staff would be involved in the transition to the new financial software, including department heads and many other members of staff. She suggested setting a meeting date in January 2018 with the understanding that a meeting would be called if the need arose.

Councilmember Kinghorn asked Director Page to submit her report on youth sports rules and regulations and the monthly departmental report to them early in December via email. Chair Rice asked the Director also include the results of her discussion with Mrs. Elam.

Next Meeting Date: 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 10, 2018

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 a.m.; Councilmember Kinghorn seconded, and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk