

RECREATION COMMITTEE

9:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 4, 2017

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was held at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 4, 2017 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending were Councilmembers Carroll, Kinghorn and Rice, Administrator Tucker, Director Page, Assistant Administrator Fragoso and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Administrator Tucker 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. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Councilmember Carroll nominated Councilmember Rice for Chair, and Councilmember Kinghorn seconded. Following a unanimous vote, Councilmember Rice was elected Chair for 2017.

Chair Rice then assumed control of the meeting and called for nominations for Vice Chair. Councilmember Carroll nominated Councilmember Kinghorn for Vice Chair, and Chair Rice seconded; Councilmember Kinghorn was unanimously elected Vice Chair.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 2, 2016 as submitted; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Citizens' Comments – None

5. Departmental Report for November/December 2016 – Director Page

All adult athletic registrations are ongoing now; this includes softball, 3-on-3 basketball, 6 vs 6 soccer, and table tennis. The coed volleyball league began in January with officials from Charleston Officials SC. Youth basketball games begin today; seventeen (17) coed teams make up the league. Two (2) new dog obedience classes begin with the New Year; they are "Fun Nosework" and "Clicker Training Foundations." All fitness classes are going well; from a citizen's request, a modern square dance class has been established to begin the middle of January. From the wellness front, the Recreation Department sponsored an AIMS test program that looks for a variety of food allergies. The Holiday Street Festival was a huge success with four to five thousand (4,000-5,000) attendees and forty-six (46) food and craft vendors. Thirty-three (33) children wrote letters to Santa and each one received a personal response. Upcoming events include "Doggie Day at the Rec" on Saturday, February 4th from 9:00 a.m. til noon; the "Front Beach Fest" planned for March 4th from noon to 4:00 p.m. and the Community Yard Sale on March 25th from 8:00 a.m. til noon.

Director Page reported that eight (8) of the ten (10) holiday light displays were sponsored in 2016; the sponsorships are for two (2) years and fees range from five hundred to two thousand dollars (\$500-2,000) each.

When Councilmember Carroll asked about the level of participation by Sullivan's Island residents, the Director reported that they are very active; she also noted that, when an activity is wait-listed, IOP and Sullivan's Island residents are the first to be called if an opening occurs.

Councilmember Kinghorn asked what the capacity of the classes were overall, and Director Page responded that many classes are full. She agreed that, generally, classes are seventy percent (70%) full.

Councilmember Kinghorn asked about a history of the fee schedules for classes; the Director said that the fee schedule has been established in such a way as to provide visitors to the island to participate on a one-time or weekly basis.

6. Old Business – None

7. New Business

A. Year-end Review

Director Page and her staff prepared an overview of the past year's activities and distributed it to Committee members; she explained that this report goes through June because budgetary projects have not been completed, but will be by the end of the fiscal year.

The Director stated that, over November and December, the Rec staff spent a lot of time researching and discussing the expansion of the Cardio Room and that she is not a proponent of the idea "that if you build it, they will come." She looked at the demographics of those residents who use the cardio room that are composed primarily of people fifty (50) years of age or older and questioned what could be done to attract the younger residents. The answer, in her opinion, is to work toward a fitness space over a cardio room; a fitness room would have the equipment for someone to work on their "abs" or "glutes, etc."

Having had that revelation, the Director has reached out to contractors and David Burt with LS3P and told them that she wants to look at both options, expansion of the room in the gym or construction of an additional room that could be incorporated with the next phase. With a space for properly equipped for fitness and cardio, Director Page thought that younger residents would stay on the island to meet their fitness/cardio needs.

Councilmember Kinghorn asked why the City has not issued an RFP to do the study.

Chair Rice recalled that Council has approved the money and she did not think that an RFP was needed at this point.

Councilmember Kinghorn said that he considered an RFP a document to take action; he voiced frustration that nothing more has been accomplished in three (3) months.

Director Page indicated that she has engaged a firm to provide architectural services, but has not received the desired work product to present to the Committee.

Chair Rice said that she was very interested in talking with David Burt of LS3P since he had been the architect for the most recent addition.

Stating that she thought she was hearing two (2) different things, the Administrator sought clarification from the Committee. Originally, she and the Committee thought this was going to be simpler than it has turned out to be; in the beginning the idea was to reach out to the people who helped with the design of the addition and to ask, if the need to reconfigure within the existing space to improve the cardio room was wanted, what their professional recommendation would be. If the mission has now changed to create a fitness room that also includes cardio space and, possibly, get more than one (1) recommendation, probably the best course of action would be to craft an RFP. In her opinion, the least complicated method would be to work with the same people with whom the City engaged for the building addition, but, if the Committee thinks it might get more creativity, fresher ideas and more for the Committee to noodle on in terms of options, the City could produce an RFP defining the new mission.

Chair Rice has always referred to this project as a fitness room; she envisioned a place where island residents could get physical therapy without leaving the island. She also stated that she thought the Committee should make every effort to work with LS3P since they know the building.

Director Page reported that Mr. Burt's first recommendation was to construct the space needed, but she thought she was directed to look at other areas within the existing building footprint.

When Councilmember Kinghorn asked whether Mr. Burt had offered a recommendation for an expanded cardio space within the building, Director Page indicated that she had shown him what she had and what the Committee had talked about. He was then going to base his drawings on tearing out the storage area in the gym and putting the steps in the existing cardio room; the Director said she had misgivings about how that would work logically with the equipment upstairs.

Councilmember Kinghorn said that, unless classes and rooms are reconfigured, the only logical place for it is in the gymnasium, either where the existing cardio room is or on the other side.

Chair Rice also thought that it might be more cost effective to add a room across from the High Tide/Low Tide Room at the end of the hallway going toward the dog park.

Councilmember Kinghorn continued that, if construction of another gymnasium is not in the foreseeable future, what will the Recreation Department do to provide the service to the residents in the interim? He repeated his opinion that the Committee needs someone to make a recommendation for the best course of action.

The Director noted that the money allocated for this work was seventy-five hundred dollars (\$7,500) to do a conceptual drawing of what could be done in the existing footprint for a cardio room.

If the mission has changed to a cardio/fitness room, the work product would be more complex. If the plan was to be a space in the existing gym, engineering and architectural costs, a cost estimate for the project, etc. are needed to make a decision.

Administrator Tucker said that seventy-five hundred dollars (\$7,500) or nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) would not be sufficient for the level of work Councilmember Kinghorn has described.

Chair Rice suggested that Director Page talk with Mr. Burt to learn how much money it would take to get the work product desired; Councilmember Kinghorn offered a different approach whereby Director Page would inform Mr. Burt of the amount of money she has and ask what he could do for that amount. Possibly Mr. Burt could give a preliminary assessment about reconfiguration of the existing structure or new construction.

According to Director Page, Mr. Burt has indicated that he could generate drawings for the proposed changes to the gym for about nine thousand dollars (\$9,000).

Councilmember Carroll suggested using the fitness room at the Public Safety Building (PSB) on specific days and for specific hours.

Administrator Tucker stated that the fitness room at the PSB was set up for the specific training needed for those personnel and that those personnel are not trained to supervise workouts; in addition, the possibility of being needed on a call would mean that the resident(s) would be left unsupervised.

Councilmember Kinghorn asked whether an overture had been made to Wild Dunes about using their fitness facilities, and Chair Rice thought that their answer would be that these people would be welcomed to join their facility.

The Administrator thought that using Wild Dunes' facilities might be worthy of discussion.

Councilmember Carroll expressed the opinion that answers to the questions raised at this meeting need to be pursued before spending any money.

In conclusion, Chair Rice stated that Director Page was to contact LS3P to learn what their work product would be for seventy-five hundred dollars (\$7,500) and that the Administrator was to speak Jeff Minton with Wild Dunes about the feasibility of island residents using their fitness facilities.

B. Opportunities for 2017

Director Page said that Recreation staff is researching the possibility of offering a meditation class as requested by the Chair, and staff always welcomes suggestions for new classes or programs.

Administrator Tucker told the Committee that all departments are working on plans for an event marking the solar eclipse on Monday, August 21st.

The Director indicated that staff was looking to hold an event on Sunday; safety glasses will be ordered for distribution to people who come to the island to view the eclipse, and the City also plans to sell commemorative t-shirts. Additionally, the Recreation Department will need funding

for this event to book music and other things; the Director indicated that she would submit an application to the ATAX Committee. She added that the Monday of the eclipse was to be the first day of school for local students.

"Doggie Day at the Rec" will be Saturday, February 4 from 9:00 a.m. until noon; a new offering this year will be microchipping island pets. Administrator Tucker recalled that the suggestion was made after last year's event to reach out to the military to bring disability service animals to the Rec Center.

8. Miscellaneous Business

The Committee agreed to meet in February only if the Committee had a work product from LS3P to discuss; Director Page was confident that conceptual drawings would be available. If the Director is successful in getting drawings, the next meeting will be at **9:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 1, 2017** in the City Hall Conference Room.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 a.m.; Councilmember Kinghorn seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk