

## RECREATION COMMITTEE

9:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 7, 2016

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was held at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 7, 2016 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Kinghorn and Rice, Chair Carroll, Administrator Tucker, Recreation Director Page, Assistant Administrator Fragoso and 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 been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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

Councilmember Kinghorn reported that he had asked for a revision to the minutes of the August meeting to clarify his motion on hiring an architect; he reminded the Committee that he has contended that space for an enlarged cardio room exists within the current footprint of the building. He did not feel that the original minutes properly reflected his position and asked for some rewording; the changes appear on the bottom of page 3 and top of page 4.

**MOTION: Councilmember Rice moved to approve the revised minutes of the regular meeting of August 2, 2016 as submitted; Councilmember Kinghorn seconded and the motion PASSED on a vote of 2 to 1 with Chair Carroll casting the dissenting vote.**

### 3. Citizens' Comments

John McMaster, 2801 Palm Boulevard, was very complimentary of the Recreation Department, saying that the building is always clean and the staff is wonderful and friendly, but he also stated that he was "appalled" when reading the August minutes that someone had suggested spending half a million dollars (\$500,000) to expand the cardio room. He questioned that any Councilmember had ever used it and, with eight (8) users a day, no one has to wait to use a machine. He noted that the City might not always have all of the money it needs, so it must be spent responsibly. In his opinion, the cardio room is adequate for ninety-nine point nine percent (99.9%) of the island's population. He stated that he uses the cardio room several times a week. Another issue the Mr. McMaster thought was irresponsible spending was spending ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for a mural on the Front Beach restrooms; he does not think that it will make the restrooms any less of an embarrassment.

Patsy Hindman, 7 Barnacle Row, stated that she and her husband drive to the Mount Pleasant Recreation facility three or four (3-4) times a week because it has the equipment they need. She said that she would love to see more equipment at the IOP Rec Center; in her opinion, the reason that the cardio room does not have more traffic is that its offerings are so limited.

Ms. Hindman stated that the Keenagers are the reason for her attendance; she said that she loves it and always looks forward to the monthly lunches and other activities. She described the Keenagers as an opportunity to meet people and to see people whom you have not seen in a while, and it is always fun – good food and good programs. She recalled that, at one time, they had various committees to send birthday cards, decorate for the lunches, arrange the programs, etc.; additionally, attendees paid five dollars (\$5) at the beginning of the season to be used by the

committees throughout the year, but that stopped last year. She thought that they were finding it harder to get volunteers to serve on the committees, so the Recreation staff gradually took over many of those responsibilities. Bringing a dish to share at the lunches is not necessary to attend them; there is always food left over. She commented that Keenagers fall under Andy Sinwald's programs, and Ms. Hindman said that "he is the most amazing young man" and "incredibly patient." She concluded by saying that the Recreation Department is "one of the most wonderful things on the island."

Laura McMaster, 2801 Palm Boulevard, stated that everything Ms. Hindman had said was true and that "everyone loves Keenagers." As changes have come, she asked why the members do not decorate the tables anymore; unless there is a problem, she would like to see members decorating the tables once again.

John McMaster stated that the Rec library needs organizing; he remarked that there are books that have not been read in ten (10) years. He indicated that many have books they would like to donate if there was a way to purge some of the old ones.

Jim Raih, 3904 Cameron Boulevard, was interested in knowing what was happening with the Rec Center's Master Plan; having heard about hiring a consultant to find a way to expand the cardio room, he thought it was important to stick with the master plan. If the cardio room is a part of the master plan, he would support it. He recalled that a swimming pool was in the master plan, but he questioned that adding one to the site was set to be done in a reasonable time frame. He stated that, in his opinion, the Rec Department does a great job with what they have.

**MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to re-order the Agenda to address items D and E under New Business; Councilmember Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **6. New Business**

### **D. Discussion of Rec library**

Director Page said that staff limits the books they take now due to age and/or condition; she also recently organized the books by the first letter of the author's name. She indicated that they will accept newer novels.

Mrs. McMaster thought that she could get volunteers to come in once a week to assist with organizing the library.

### **E. Discussion of Keenagers participation in programs**

Referencing Ms. Hindman's comments on decorating, Director Page confirmed that years ago there were various committees within the Keenagers group, but, as they aged, they did not have the energy to continue and there were not enough volunteers to do it anymore. The Director said that anyone who wants to volunteer their time to decorating is encouraged to do so.

Councilmember Kinghorn asked about attendance, and Director Page stated that there is very little fluctuation in the number of Keenagers who attend the meetings.

Mrs. McMaster commented that, for many Keenagers, the lunches are the only social life they have.

#### **4. Departmental Reports**

Director Page started August's report by listing the classes/programs that run all year and those that took the summer off. As a part of the Employee Wellness Program, Wacky Golf was played at the Links Course in Wild Dunes, and employees attending had a wonderful time. As has been noted already, the first Keenagers meeting is today at noon; the Community Wellness Fair will be on Wednesday, September 22 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. East Cooper Medical Center is donating bloodwork for employees, and Harris Teeter is covering the expense for employee flu, tetanus and pneumonia shots. "Ghostly Tide Tales" is scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>, Pumpkin Painting will be October 27<sup>th</sup>, the Halloween Carnival will be on October 31<sup>st</sup> and the Holiday Street Festival will be December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Half Rubber Tournament was held on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> with fifteen (15) teams participating; a local Charleston team "Below Average" won. In the four (4) age categories for soccer, a total of two hundred eight (208) youths have registered.

#### **5. Old Business**

##### **A. Update on Departmental Survey**

Since the survey was not offered by a survey company, the results do not represent empirical data; the survey was more of an advisory survey.

Councilmember Kinghorn stated that the surveys were completed by people who are using the Rec facilities; he thought it would be equally important to know why other residents were not using it. He questioned the best way to effectively reach out to those residents.

Councilmember Rice was surprised to learn that there are island residents who do not know about the Rec Center or the programs offered.

Chair Carroll suggested using the message boards and/or the water bills.

Councilmember Kinghorn noted that a residential mailing could be done at a low cost to the Department, as well as the City's social media sites.

Director Page stated that the weakest area on the island in marketing was Wild Dunes; she indicated that she was to have spoken to new residents of Wild Dunes last Friday when the storm came through, and the meeting was cancelled.

All of the outreach media mentioned would help the Department to know if it is providing the best services, what could be done in addition to and what the citizens want.

In an effort to clarify the discussion, Administrator Tucker said that she thought two (2) different conversations were happening, i.e. 1) what does the community now want in Recreations activities and programs? and 2) how much can the participation be increased in programs with low attendance by getting the word out more? Just by the numbers in the monthly reports, the participation by the island's youths is excellent, but possibly the word is not getting out to everyone who would be interested in participating, for example, Keenagers.

Director Page complimented Assistant Administrator Fragoso on her work on Facebook and Twitter; the Director said that the island's following has greatly increased and that Assistant Fragoso was doing an excellent job. Although Assistant Fragoso was doing a very good job at promoting the Rec and its activities, the Director suggested that they partner more to market the Rec Center, its activities and programs.

Administrator Tucker thought that the segment of residents that is being missed is those who move to the island and have no children living at home to be involved with Rec activities and sports, but are mature adults. The Administrator thought that many of them are going to Mount Pleasant for fitness programs and sports not knowing that they could do the same thing on the island.

Ms. Hindman suggested that a way to reach a large number of people would be to setup a table in the lobby with flyers and information about the Recreation Department, maybe surveys, about the Rec Center on Election Day in early November.

Assistant Fragoso announced that the City now has the capability to put forms on the website and that, possibly, a survey could be embedded in the Recreation page. Visitors to the website would have the opportunity to make comments or ask questions and have a staff member respond.

## **B. Update on shade sails for playground**

Director Page reported that she has received a couple of bids. Additionally, she has realized that a couple of challenges, but they did not hinder the use of them. She stated that a forty by forty (40 X 40) sail with three (3) poles sell for about twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) a piece; removing and reinstalling would a sail of that size and sixteen feet (16 ft.) high could not be managed by staff members. [A sail must be a minimum of seven feet (7 ft.) above the equipment it is covering for safety reasons.] The playground equipment was laid out such that spacing between each piece of equipment is according to industry standards; therefore, to put a smaller sail up would require relocating some equipment because a pole must be outside the six foot (6 ft.) radius of pieces of equipment. One (1) bid of forty-one thousand dollars (\$41,000) included one (1) 40x40x15 foot sail and one (1) 25x25x10 foot sail.

Another option for shading the equipment would be to plant an additional tree, compliments of mitigation by a resident for not adhering to the City's tree ordinance.

Councilmember Kinghorn thought the tree(s) was an excellent option and one (1) that would require much less maintenance and upkeep and was free.

**6. New Business**

**A. Discussion of architectural concept drawing related to an expansion of the Recreation Building**

Director Page stated that she had approached this assignment as Councilmember Kinghorn stated earlier, i.e. new construction versus reconfiguration of the existing building and the best option of the two (2) to have more space for the cardio room. She reported speaking to two (2) contractors and neither was excited about taking on the job because the work will result in pretty much what exists today.

According to Councilmember Rice, the goal is to improve and increase participation of the cardio room.

Councilmember Rice also recalled that, while she was off Council, the decision was made to replace the lights at the softball field and leave the fields as they were, not reconfigure them.

Director Page said that the decision to replace the lights was one that she would have liked to postpone, but the lights on the softball and small baseball fields were so compromised that they had to be replaced before one (1) failed. Although it would have been nice to turn the fields around, the cost was very high to do that and they work fine as they are; the FY17 budget includes replacing the lights on the soccer field.

Ms. Hindman agreed that the space was a cardio room because that was primarily the type of equipment, but she was interested in seeing a fitness room. She has been told that in Wild Dunes there are two (2) fitness rooms, and she asked if there was a way for the City to partner with Wild Dunes for residents outside the gate to use one (1).

Councilmember Kinghorn asked about taking instructors from the mat-based programs to the Exchange Club to find out if they thought it would a better space for their classes.

Director Page responded that scheduling would be difficult as would the registration for and collection of class fees. She explained that the instructors were not contract employees, but employees of the City; she also does not have enough staff to provide a supervisor to be at the Exchange Club. She also commented that the fitness and exercise spaces are adequate as they are; the only logistics problem is the cardio room.

Chair Carroll asked if off-site storage could be found for the items in the now storage room so that the storage room could become the cardio room. He thought that the storage spaced was twice that of the existing cardio room and would save the City a lot of money.

Director Page noted that the swapping of the functionality of the two (2) rooms is what she has been talking to contractors about and who have been less than enthusiastic; she added that the storage room is only a couple of square feet larger than the cardio room. She stated that she did not mind storing the Christmas tree offsite, but she said that the equipment and supplies that they need on a daily basis need to remain on-site.

Councilmember Kinghorn asked that the Director also keep in mind the idea of partnering; if it could be done in as cost effective way, the City should seek out such partnership opportunities.

Administrator Tucker informed the Committee that the swimming pool and new gymnasium in the Master Plan are included in the City's ten-year plan in FY21, as well as the construction of a fitness facility for two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000).

On the subject of off-campus offerings, the Administrator commented that some of these things could be offered, but, in the past, the City has avoided those because of supervision issues. Anytime there is an off-site offering, it is not just the instructor, but a City employee at a supervisory level must be freed-up; the only offering occurring away from the Rec Center is taking place at another City facility.

Councilmember Kinghorn asked why a supervisory level employee would be required for an off-site program or activity, and the Director replied that instructors are not allowed to collect money and, for the majority of classes, the Rec Department provides equipment. IOP's yoga classes use weights and balls; they are not meditational; in addition, someone must be responsible to see that the room is left clean. Director Page noted that she does not think that off-site programs are needed at this time.

**B. Consideration of a contract with Carolina Fencing in the amount of \$11,200 to replace the baseball field fencing**

The replacement of the baseball field fencing was included in the FY17 budget at fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000). The Director received three (3) bids as follows:

AAA Fencing	\$26,985
Seegars	\$25,000
Carolina	\$11,200

Carolina Fencing, the lowest bidder, was awarded the contract for the tennis courts last year, so the Director has experience with the vendor, and he was much cheaper than the other bidders.

**MOTION: Chair Carroll moved to recommend a contract award to Carolina Fencing at \$11,200 to replace the baseball field fencing; Councilmember Kinghorn seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C. Consideration of additional programs**

Councilmember Rice recalled that the spring history series had been a huge success; therefore, she asked that other similar series be repeated in the fall/winter. She stated that the island has residents who were major college coaches, university presidents, etc., and one (1) resident who has recently completed hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Director Page said that staff wanted to re-start the history series, but the timing is off with Assistant Director Ferrell being out on maternity leave.

Councilmember Rice said that she would assist staff in putting the series together and identifying and contacting interesting speakers.

The Councilmember's second suggestion was to hold a second "Music in the Park" event in the fall of the year maybe next year; she thought that it was a rather simple event to put on with booking a band and getting a couple of food trucks lined up. Councilmember Rice added that it was a good spirited event and great for all ages.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

**Status of Marina Off-site Parking Experiment**

Director Page reported that there have been no issues related to marina employees parking at the Recreation Center.

The Committee agreed not to meet in October, and the next meeting was scheduled for **9:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 2, 2016 in the Conference Room.**

**8. Adjourn**

**MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 a.m.; Councilmember Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk