

RECREATION COMMITTEE

11:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 2, 2010

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was held at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at the Recreation Center, 24 Twenty-eighth Avenue, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf and Duffy, Chair Buckhannon, City Administrator Tucker, Recreation Director Page, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland.

1. Chair Buckhannon 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

MOTION: Councilmember Duffy moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 6, 2010 as submitted; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments - None

4. Recreation Report – Director Page

The Director began her report stating that she had arranged for City employees to participate with the Methodist Church in March as it hosts Dr. Ann Kulze, who has become well known for her Wellness Newsletter and nutritional information; despite the event being held on a Saturday, Director Page hopes that there will be good participation. The staff is planning a follow-up on April 10 with a “lunch and learn” when new health and wellness goals will be established. The Tae Kwon Do annual tournament will be held at the Rec Center in March that typically brings participants from all over the area. The new acting classes have a total of twelve participants, both youths and adults, and the Zumba class has become one of the most popular programs with sixteen (16) participants. Spring softball and 3-on-3 basketball registration began on February 1, and expectations are to field twelve (12) teams in each sport. At Island Arcade Day, sixteen (16) bicycles were registered despite the terrible weather. Events for the Lowcountry Blues Bash will take place over the coming weekend, and local media has stated that the best performances of the Blues Bash occur at the Isle of Palms. “Doggie Day at the Rec” is planned for February 27th, and the intention is to have the new dog collars and licenses for sale.

Councilmember Duffy asked if blast emails were sent to notify island residents of upcoming sports registrations, and the Director responded that they were.

5. Old Business

Chair Buckhannon asked the Director for the status on the policy development for sponsorships; she replied that she and the City Administrator would be working on it.

6. New Business

A. Review of Capital budget for FY 2010-2011

Assistant Dziuban commented that today would not be the only opportunity the committee would have to make changes to the Capital Budget, but the Committee would be asked, at this meeting, to move to take to the Ways and Means Committee a Capital Budget on which the Committee is in agreement. It will likely be April before the revenue budgets are prepared for comparison against expenditures; the revenue budgets are the last to be prepared so that the Treasurer has as much historic data as possible from which to work.

Before discussions began, Director Page remarked that she had no problem deferring items to another year, but the Committee must be mindful that, at some point, the deferrals will come due.

FY 11 Capital Budget Items:

Additional/Replacement playground equipment	\$ 8,000
Director Page noted that the amount has typically been ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) offset by a two thousand dollar (\$2,000) PARD grant, but PARD grant money will not be available this year; therefore, she reduced the line to reflect that. She stated that she would be amenable to reducing the amount to five thousand dollars (\$5,000), but that, for safety reasons, there must be a reasonable amount in the budget.	
Tow behind aerator/lift for athletic fields/grassy areas (deferred in FY10)	2,600
Director Page commented that this piece of equipment would assist with maintaining the fields, but deferring the purchase would not affect the integrity of the fields. It would be a new piece of equipment.	
Replace basketball scoreboard in gymnasium (deferred in FY 10)	4,000
Since the existing scoreboard continues to function, Director Page said she could defer it for another year with the Committee's knowledge that, if it fails, it will have to be replaced.	
Sound system for Low Tide/High Tide Rooms (deferred in FY 10)	5,000
The Director stated that this was something that could be deferred to FY 12; it was not essential.	
Rec Trac software upgrade (deferred in FY 10)	3,400
Director Page stated that this item was badly needed; the Department is now three (3) versions behind. She assured Councilmember Duffy that there were no hardware upgrade requirements associated with these software upgrades.	
Acoustical panels for gymnasium	30,000
The Director commented that these could be deferred to FY 12.	
Replace Admin vehicle (replacement scheduled FY 10, deferred by Director)	25,000
In the past, Director Page has experienced high maintenance costs when a vehicle was deferred twice; she would like to see this remain in the budget. There are a couple of small problems with the vehicle, and it has over sixty thousand (60,000) miles on it.	
Replace Toro Groomer	13,000
This would replace the groomer that was purchased in July, 2003; this piece of equipment is used every day for preparing the ball fields to transporting equipment for edging and weedeating, etc.	
Replace golf cart	6,000
Director Page stated that she had made several pricing inquiries and could reduce this line to thirty-six hundred dollars (\$3,600) and possibly reduce the line item further, by a few hundred dollars, by trading in the current golf cart. It is used to transport people and equipment.	

Replace staff computers	1,250
One (1) computer has been used since 2002 and needs to be replaced.	
Replace computer servers for Rec Trac or security cameras (3-yr replacement)	6,000
Director Page said that there were funds in the current year's budget for cameras that have not been spent because she had been told that the existing system needed to be upgraded. The cameras can be installed and will be functional, but the need to upgrade the server remains. She has been told that the price can be reduced to five thousand dollars (\$5,000).	

Facility Maintenance:

Topdress the playground	\$ 5,000
This must be done each year.	
Sand/clay mix for athletic fields	2,000
Director Page stated that, if this was not needed, it would not be purchased; one (1) truck load costs seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750). When the island gets rains like today, the sand/clay mix washes into the drains.	
Resurface tennis & basketball courts	24,200
The Director noted that the courts must be resurfaced every five to six (5-6) years; cracks in the surface create a safety issue for players.	

Councilman Duffy said he would prefer to defer the scoreboard replacement and leave the playground equipment additions/replacements at eight thousand dollars (\$8,000). The Committee was in agreement with the Director's suggestions for deferrals to FY 12.

Director Page pointed out that they had inadvertently skipped the reserve to reconfigure the ball fields and replace the lights that was listed at one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000). She expressed her opinion that the lights will "go sooner than later," because the poles have been compromised and the wiring insulation has dry rotted. Although it would be possible to replace the lights without reconfiguring the ball fields, reconfiguration would make the Department more efficient in scheduling games and possibly reduce staff time. Currently it is not safe to have adult games and youth games going on simultaneously for fear of a child being hit by an adult's homerun. Reconfiguration would also provide an opportunity to have control over the entrance access so that the Department could sponsor a tournament and charge admission to increase revenues.

Responding to Councilmember Duffy's question, Administrator Tucker contacted the Treasurer and learned that there is currently a reserve of two hundred seventy-two thousand dollars (\$272,000) for the reconfiguration of the ball fields. The Committee agreed that it would push Ways and Means to leave this in the budget as a basic plan to turn the fields and replace the lights.

MOTION: Councilmember Duffy moved to take the Recreation budget with the deferrals and changes discussed to the Ways and Means Committee; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Review of Projects Greater than \$250,000

Assistant Dziuban explained that this is a list of projects suggested by past Councilmembers, citizens and staff of things they would like to see on the island or for the citizens; it will be presented to each Committee for additions, deletions and prioritization of the top five (5) projects. The list is intended to be a tool for long-term planning and was last reviewed by City Council in 2007.

Councilmember Duffy asked that any project for which the City has established a reserve fund be added to the list along with the amount in the reserve.

Director Page initiated the discussion with the projects on the list that were a part of the City's master plan for the Recreation Department, i.e. renovation of the existing gymnasium into more of a multi-purpose space at a cost of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) and construction of a new gymnasium at a cost of two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000). The renovations to the existing gymnasium would include the addition of a retractable stage, bleachers and retractable goals; the space could then be used for cultural, as well as sports, events. A new gymnasium would be used only for games with the existing gym holding practices at the same time. The ball field reorientation and a swimming pool are included on the list costing three million dollars (\$3,000,000) each.

Assistant Dziuban reviewed the items on the list for the Committee; the complete list is attached to the historic record of the meeting.

The Committee agreed to remove the following projects from the list;

- Roundabout at 41st Avenue;
- Public Safety Beachfront Outpost; and
- Solid Waste Transfer Station.

Director Page located the budget estimate that had been developed in 2007 for the ball field reconfiguration and lighting; it was agreed that costs would be different today, and the Director was to contact the engineering firm to refigure the project without the press box before the Ways and Means Committee meeting.

The Committee prioritized the projects as follows:

1. Drainage project at 54th-57th Avenue;
2. Marina dredging;
3. Disaster Recovery Fund increase;
4. Recreation ball field reconfiguration and lighting; and
5. Electronic message boards.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Next Meeting Date: 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 9, 2010

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Duffy moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:28 p.m.; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.