

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, October 9, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday October 9, 2007 in the Recreation Center, 24 Twenty-eighth Avenue, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Present were Chairwoman Rice, Councilwoman Hanbury and Councilman Buckhannon, Director Page, Administrator Tucker, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland.

1. **Call to order.** Chairwoman Rice called the meeting to order and stated that the press and the public had been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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

**MOTION: Councilwoman Hanbury moved that the minutes of the meeting of September 10, 2007 be approved as submitted; Councilman Buckhannon seconded.**

Councilwoman Hanbury questioned that Carron Smoak, a visitor to the previous meeting, had been recognized in the minutes; Administrator Tucker stated, since Mrs. Smoak had been identified by the Chair, she felt it was appropriate to acknowledge her presence in the minutes. Councilwoman Hanbury commented that her concern was that Mrs. Smoak was a candidate for Council; therefore, she felt special attention should not be brought to candidates.

**The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **Citizens' Comments.** None.

4. **Recreation Department Report** – Director Norma Jean Page

Director Page reviewed one of the newer classes, Salsa dancing, which has four (4) participants; she related that there had been over four hundred (400) young people at the September Middle School Dance. On the subject of middle school dances, she informed the Committee that the child who fell out of the inflatable at the August dance was not injured as originally suspected. The Director explained that Laura Togami was compiling a booklet of the room layouts at the Recreation Center to make it more efficient when rooms are to be set up for meetings and other activities. She reported that the rain has created its share of problems as Adult Softball has gotten started. Preparations continue for the "Ghostly Movie on the Beach, " and the front beach businesses appear to be very welcoming to the event; a large crowd is expected. The staff is also working on the Halloween Carnival and the Tree Lighting. The Connector Run was a big success again this year; there were more than nine hundred (900)

runners who participated. Director Page informed the Committee that Trish Perrine is working with MASC and East Cooper Medical on a wellness program for City employees to begin after the first of the year.

The Director informed the Committee that she has received the specifications that she has been waiting for to complete the RFP for the gym ceiling; therefore, she anticipates completing it and getting it out to bid before the next meeting.

Councilwoman Rice asked the Director what the media center was and where it was; the Director explained that it is the area where the flyers and brochures are located.

Councilwoman Hanbury repeated two (2) concerns about the tree lighting that she had discussed last year. She expressed her opinion the snow machines were actually a hazard in that the snow became ice and the children were throwing ice balls at one another and sometimes hitting pedestrians instead. The Committee said they thought that additional supervision could prevent this from happening again. The second issue was the placement of the City Council on the veranda as if royalty; she asked that the stage be used. Administrator Tucker commented that the veranda was only used last year due to inclement weather, and this year the plan was to use the stage.

Councilwoman Hanbury asked Director Page for clarification on the request for quote on Cardio Room flooring; the Director explained that the request was for carpeting, which was included in the current year's budget.

## **5. Old Business:**

### **A. Special Events Permit – Update**

Director Page noted that she had not done any additional work on the permit since the last meeting because she had not received any feedback on it. Councilwoman Hanbury commented that she has several important questions about the event permit; some of the basic questions are as follows:

- What is the intent of the form?
- Is it to restrict, prohibit or control events on the island?
- Should there be separate forms for restrictions in residential versus commercial districts of the island?
- Has this come about as a result of the rental community or the general community?

The Councilwoman expressed her desire to pursue this permitting process and asked if she should direct her questions/concerns to the Committee or to the Recreation Director.

Councilwoman Rice also asked the intent of the permit since City Council had approved the list of events to be allowed on the island.

Councilman Buckhannon responded that he understood that the permit was to streamline the request process.

Director Page expressed her thoughts that any event held on the Isle of Palms should be done so following the submission and approval of a permit. The permit provides the City's support services with the information they need to prepare sufficiently for the event. She also stated her opinion that, despite Council's approval of a list of events, other groups will come to island with requests, and the permitting process allows for those requests to flow through the proper channels once they are established.

Councilman Buckhannon stated that, despite the existence of a special events permit, there would still be occasions when someone requesting permission to hold an event will have to go through the Recreation Committee, the Public Safety Committee, the Ways and Means Committee and finally City Council.

It was agreed that Councilwoman Hanbury would first address her inquiries to Director Page, then present the balance to the Committee at the next meeting.

Administrator Tucker stated that the first issue was to define an event; what are the parameters that define "event"? She then clarified that the Public Safety Committee had directed her to develop a list of regularly occurring events to be considered at the September City Council meeting.

## **B. Department List Serve Newsletter – Update**

Director Page remarked that the staff was doing a good job at acquiring the e-mail addresses of persons who are participating in Recreation activities.

The Administrator asked for clarification that the Recreation Department was collecting e-mail addresses for its own E-newsletter with a specific focus on up-coming Recreation programs and activities; both Councilwoman Rice and Director Page agreed that this was the plan. Administrator Tucker then commented on the sophistication of the Mount Pleasant recreation newsletter and asked Councilwoman Rice if this type of newsletter was her goal for Isle of Palms Recreation Department.

Councilwoman Rice explained that her thoughts were that the Recreation Department would create a newsletter, possibly each quarter, informing readers what was coming up at the Recreation Center and special events on the island.

Director Page explained to the Committee that the Isle of Palms Recreation Department plans for three (3) program seasons, i.e. January through May, June through August and September through December. She asked Councilwoman Rice if the newsletters were to be directed to both Isle of Palms and Mount Pleasant residents, and Councilwoman Rice replied both. The Director reminded the Committee that there are some programs that are directed only to Isle of Palms residents, such as the Bike Rodeo, but she thought she could filter the list by location. There was also the intention of the Recreation Director to send newsletters specific to sports like soccer or basketball directed to those who have participated in the past. Director Page also informed the Committee that, in order to produce these newsletters, she would need additional staff because she does not have anyone on her staff who has been trained on the process sufficiently to produce a newsletter.

Administrator Tucker reminded the Committee that, if the Recreation Committee were to continue with this plan, there would be a budgetary impact.

The Committee agreed to allow the Administrator, Recreation Director and Assistant to the Administrator work together to give the Committee suggestions at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Hanbury asked if the Committee was aware that some vendors at the Emergency Preparedness Expo were actively selling products to the attendees; she added that one vendor had sales people who were aggressively working the crowds. Administrator Tucker said that, if the City were to host the event again, vendors would be informed of narrow framework within which they would be allowed to participate.

**6. New Business:**

**A. Accommodations Tax Requests:**

- 1. Blues Bash - \$9,600.00**
- 2. Annual Tree Lighting - \$5,000.00**

Director Page reminded the Committee that both of these events are repeats to the island. She explained that the costs for the Blues Bash have increased due to the increased cost of entertainment, but the request from Recreation has not increased in several years. She continued that last year's costs for the tree lighting included the purchase of the tree. In response to Councilman Buckhannon's question about \$2,500 for decorations, Director Page stated that this figure covers bows on the walkways, garland around the stage, etc.

**MOTION: Councilwoman Hanbury moved for the approval of the requests to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee of the**

**Blues Bash at \$9,500 and the Tree Lighting at \$5,000; Councilman Buckhannon seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**B. Campaigning at the Halloween Carnival and Movie on the Beach**

Councilwoman Rice reminded the staff and Committee members that the staff cannot police the candidate's actions in these situations. Since the City is sponsoring an Ethics Workshop on October 10, candidates were encouraged to attend and to get answers to their campaigning questions as they relate to these two (2) large events just prior to the election.

**7. Miscellaneous**

The next meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 7, 2007.

**MOTION: With no further business to come before the Committee, at 6:27 p.m., Councilman Buckhannon moved to adjourn; Councilwoman Hanbury seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Rice, Chairwoman