

RECREATION COMMITTEE
Isle of Palms, South Carolina
November 7, 2007

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 7, 2007 in the Recreation Center, 24 Twenty-eighth Avenue, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Present were Chairwoman Carol Rice, Councilwoman Hanbury and Councilman Buckhannon, Director Page, Administrator Tucker and Assistant to the Administrator Dzuiban.

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 on Information Act.

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting's Minutes:

Councilwoman Hanbury had a couple of corrections/clarifications, which she typed and are attached to the original copy of the minutes.

MOTION: Chairwoman Rice moved that the amended minutes of the meeting of October 9, 2007 be approved; Councilman Buckhannon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments: none.

4. Monthly Recreation Department Report – Director Page

There were 333 young people at the October Middle School Dance, and there were no incidents. The Keenagers will be making an overnight trip to Myrtle Beach in November to attend Christmas shows and do a bit of shopping. Also coming up are a holiday craft workshop, senior Ping-Pong tournament and holiday science camp. All of the staff members are busy planning the programs for the first quarter of 2008; the schedule will be available the first of December.

The Ghostly Tide movie was re-scheduled for Friday, October 19 to Friday, November 19 at 6 p.m.; the movie will be *Open Season*. The Halloween Carnival drew a huge crowd, and the Building Department won the pumpkin-carving contest with their delicious "pumpkin-Mac."

As the Christmas holiday approaches, planning is rushing along for the Front Beach Tree Lighting Ceremony on Thursday, December 6 at 6:00 p.m., a cookie workshop for children under 12 on December 13, the "Light It Up" contest and Santa's hotline. There will be a special flyer for the Recreation Department devoted to the activities planned for November and December.

The kickoff for the employee wellness program will be January 10, 2008. The goal will be to get employees healthier while they are having fun; there will be one day each month designated to employee activities.

To entice the island's young people to come to the Recreation Center to register their new bicycles, the staff has planned an Arcade Day. Youths arriving with a bicycle to register will get in free, while those who do not must pay \$5; the arcade games will all be free to play. This event is scheduled for Saturday, February 2, 2008 from noon to 4 p.m.

Preparations have already begun for the 2008 Connector Run and Walk for the Child. With the anticipated construction of the Public Safety Complex, the planners are working on a new route to avoid the construction area completely. Director Page expressed her hopes of holding finish line festivities on Front Beach.

Loose ends are being tied up on the contract and RFB for the gym ceiling repairs.

Included in the meeting packets were various solutions for the Recreation Department e-newsletter for the Committee to discuss later in the meeting.

Councilwoman Rice wanted to know the degree of participation from girls in the Youth 9-12 soccer; she also wanted to know if the girls' basketball was actually coming to fruition. Director Page commented that a couple of parents had come to sign their daughters up, but she did not know if enough had registered to form a team. Councilwoman Rice expressed her concern that, if the girls become uninvolved at this age, they would not return.

Councilwoman Rice questioned Director Page about the vandalized restrooms and graffiti on the sliding board, which were noted in the *Parks & Facilities* section of the monthly report. The Director informed the Committee that the persons who painted the graffiti wrote their names.

Councilwoman Hanbury commented that, since the numbers of persons involved in particular activities have dropped, it should be easy to determine how many Isle of Palms residents were participating. She also noted that there are several activities for small children that are populated primarily by non-residents; she expressed her feeling that, if this trend continues, the programs do not meet the purpose intended. In response, Director Page stated that often the Recreation Department offers programs/activities because they are requested by residents, and often it takes a class offering some time to build momentum or to catch on. The Director did agree to monitor the participation as she agreed that the Isle of Palms Recreation Department is not in place to serve Mount Pleasant.

Councilwoman Hanbury asked Director Page how the recreation supervisor was reaching out to other seniors in the community. Director Page explained that, with the Senior Center that is coming on-line in Mount Pleasant, the staff is trying to establish games with the Isle of Palms seniors for competitions.

Councilman Buckhannon asked if the 65% participation in the exercise classes was for the week, and the Director was emphatic that it had been 65% participation per class. Director Page added that the number of participants has to be limited because the class is funded by a grant through Charleston County; she is currently trying to find an additional instructor.

5. Old Business:

A. Department ListServe Newsletter – Update

Administrator Tucker referred the members of the Committee to the handout distributed earlier. She expressed that her impression from the last meeting was that there was a disparity between the direction the Director had expected to pursue and the vision the Chairwoman had. As a result, there was a meeting that included the City Administrator, Director Page and Website Coordinator Dziuban to look at the available options for the Committee to decide the direction the Recreation Department newsletter will take in the near term. The Director was looking to use Rec Trac in the long term, but it will not give the Committee what it wants in the short term. Councilwoman Rice asked if all of the addresses, which had been gathered in Rec Trac, could be “cut and pasted” into the City’s e-newsletter database. Coordinator Dziuban answered in the affirmative and added that these addresses could be marked specifically for the Recreation Department.

Director Page interjected that, in the past couple of days, additional research had been done and the staff had learned that the Rec Trac interface is not very expensive. But the template has to be designed. With the interface from Rec Trac, the Recreation Department can do exactly what the Chairman has described, so the Director has decided to acquire it at a cost of five hundred dollars (\$500). Councilwoman Rice questioned if Accommodations Tax money could be used for this module.

The Committee agreed to go with Option 4 – To Keep the Recreation Newsletter blended with the City Newsletter for the Time Being and approved of Director Page’s decision to buy the Rec Trac interface.

Administrator Tucker suggested that initially that, through www.iop.net, persons would be given the opportunity to subscribe to these e-mail notices from the Recreation Department. Councilwoman Rice countered that, when people register their e-mail addresses when signing up for an activity, they are agreeing to receive e-mails from the Recreation Department.

B. Update on Gym Ceiling –in monthly report

C. Upcoming Events

1. Movie on the Beach – November 16, 2007, 6:00 p.m.
2. Middle School Dance – November 30, 2007, 7-9 pm
3. Tree Lighting – December 6, 2007, 6:00 p.m.

There was discussion on the success of the dog show and the possibility that it should be held twice a year. The suggestion was also made that registration of dogs be held in conjunction with the show just as the registration of bicycles is with the bicycle rodeo.

Councilwoman Hanbury stated that, since there will not be a meeting in December and the Special Events Permit was not on the agenda, she will continue to pursue it with the Director and send her written comments to the committee.

6. New Business - none

7. Miscellaneous

Councilwoman Rice commented that she had noticed here was mold growing under the overhangs on the backside of the building; Councilman Buckhannon had seen some rust as well. Director Page reported that she is getting proposals to get the area painted.

Next meeting: 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 8, 2008.

Councilwoman Hanbury stated that she will sincerely miss working the Committee as it has been an extreme pleasure. Councilwoman Rice commented that it had been an honor to serve with Councilwoman Hanbury and the other members voiced their agreement.

MOTION: Councilman Buckhannon moved to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.;
Councilwoman Rice seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:
Carol Rice, Chairwoman