

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
5:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 4, 2008

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at the Recreation Center, 24 Twenty-eighth Avenue, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Chairwoman Rice, Councilman Buckhannon, Recreation Director Page, City Administrator Tucker and Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban. Councilman Duffy was out of town.

1. **Call to Order** and acknowledgement that the press and the public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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

**MOTION: Councilman Buckhannon moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 5, 2008 as submitted; Councilwoman Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **Citizens' Comments** - None

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

Director Page reported that there had been approximately two hundred thirty (230) middle schoolers at the Middle School dance on Friday, February 29, 2008 and that the Jump Start and Tiny Tots programs for the 2008-2009 school year are filled. During spring break, March 24<sup>th</sup> through March 28<sup>th</sup>, the Rec Department will be holding a science camp for children ages 6-10. An evening yoga, senior salsa dancing and anti-aging yoga are new classes that being in April. The walk-in classes that typically run four (4) to six (6) weeks continue to be well attended. At the "Island Arcade Day," one hundred thirty-seven (137) bicycles were registered and three hundred to three hundred fifty (300-350) people attended; this event was held in cooperation with the Police and Fire Departments. The Lowcountry Blues Bash was as huge success with nearly six hundred (600) people in attendance; not only were island residents present, but also island guests from seven (7) states and Ontario, Canada. Another successful event was the "Doggie Day at the Rec" where one hundred sixty-one (161) dogs registered to compete in the various categories. A vaccination clinic was held in conjunction with this event, and one hundred thirteen (113) dogs received rabies vaccinations. The summer camps, Camp Summershine, registration will begin April 7, and field trips and activities for it are being finalized for the brochure to be distributed in the next couple of weeks. On the subject of upcoming events, Director Page stated that the Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 19; there will be fifty (50) spaces available and twenty-five (25) participants have pre-registered. Other events on the calendar are the Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 22; the Bike Safety Rodeo on Saturday, May 3; the Piccolo

Spoletto Sand Sculpting Contest on May 31, 2008, and Piccolo Spoletto Goes to the Beach on June 7, 2008. Registration is taking place for several athletics programs, softball, basketball, etc. One of the youth basketball teams played in the SCAP All-Star Tournament; they led most of the game and lost by only five (5) points. One hundred ten (110) players, ages 5-12 years old, signed up for baseball; over half are Isle of Palms residents.

Director Page noted that Carol Keller, Community Specialist, and Sheila Redmon have been very helpful with the Special Events programs in addition to their regular duties. Nick Bako has put clay on the ball fields and graded them in preparation for play to begin.

Director Page arranged for the replacement of a neighbor's window that had been broken by a foul baseball; subsequently, baseball players have been asked to play only on the baseball field. Lights are being replaced at the athletic fields and the movable partition between the Magnolia and Palmetto rooms is being repaired.

CCI, the contractor for the repair/replacement of the gym ceiling, is expected to sign the contract on Wednesday, March 5; the target date to begin work is March 18.

## **Old Business**

### **A. Prioritization of FY 2008-2009 Capital Budget**

The prioritizing of the Capital Budget is as follows:

1	Top dress playground surface	\$3,500
	Top dress flower and plant beds with mulch or pine straw	2,500
	Clean, seal and paint exposed exterior metal beams	5,500
	Replace gutters on gymnasium	6,000
2	Additional/replacement playground equipment	10,000
	PARD grant to offset playground equipment	(3,000)
3	Walk Behind Blower	1,300
4	Four (4) portable interior adjustable basketball goals	6,000
5	Create Reserve to reconfigure basketball/softball fields and replace lights	150,000
	Unnumbered – Replace older computer and purchase addtnl Rec Trac software	5,000

Councilman Buckhannon asked if Director Page had reviewed the Capital Budget to determine what could be eliminated. She stated that she had found the task to be difficult since she did not believe that the Recreation Department had made any unnecessary requests.

The Director informed the Committee that two thousand dollars (\$2,000) remains in the Non-capital Tools and Equipment fund for FY 2007-2008; she suggesting spending those funds now on the walk behind blower that is requested on the FY 2008-2009 budget. The Administrator noted that Staff is recommending that the two (2) lines relative to top dressing the playground and flower beds be moved to the Operating Budget under Maintenance since these are tasks that are performed annually. With the blower removed entirely from the budget, the items below automatically move up in priority.

On the subject of the ball fields and their lighting, Councilwoman Rice recounted that the reserve for this project currently contains \$120,000. When she inquired about the replacement cost of the lights, Director Page stated that it was approximately \$350,000. The Director was asked to find out the cost of underground wiring from ADC since there are funds available from SCE&G via the City's non-standard service clause in the franchise agreement to offset the total cost. Administrator Tucker informed the Committee that the City is presently in discussions with SCE&G about the Non-standard Service Clause as it relates to the Public Safety Building that will use a substantial portion of these funds.

Councilman Buckhannon asked which Rec Trac software the department was interested in acquiring; the Director responded that no particular program had been selected. Director Page continued that she had learned just today that the department needed to purchase a Link Scheduler, and she has not yet been told the cost. The one that they have been using was on a trial basis and that trial period has expired. Director Page is hopeful that she has funds remaining in the FY 2007-2008 budget to pay for this item. The request on the FY 2008-2009 budget was anticipating progressing in the Rec Trac system; the Committee agreed to move that item to the FY 2009-2010 budget year.

Councilwoman Rice commented on the priorities by noting that, despite the fact that the reconfiguration of the ball fields and new lighting may be the last action to occur, it is not necessarily the lowest priority of the Committee. Administrator Tucker explained that her understanding of the charge from the Ways and Means Committee was for the various Committees to prioritize their capital budgets and to present that prioritized budget at the next Ways and Means Committee meeting. Although Councilwoman Rice did not believe the reconfiguration project should be the Committee's #1 priority, she fears that it may become a safety issue that would then become an emergency issue. The Committee ultimately decided to approve the priorities as they were with no further changes.

**B. Update on Gym Ceiling**

Director Page covered this topic in the monthly report. Councilwoman Rice wanted to know how long the work would take; the Director said she would find out when the contract was signed. After discussion, the decision was made to begin the work after spring break to accommodate the island children who will be out of school and the influx of visitors for that time.

## **6. New Business**

### **Review of FY 2008-2009 Operating Budget**

Administrator Tucker explained that there were few changes to Page one from FY 2007-2008 to FY 2008-2009. The largest components are the salary adjustment, which includes the expense to bring every employee up to the minimum as recommended by the compensation study. An additional adjustment is anticipated as there may be an adjustment to bring employees up to a fifty percent (50%) range of the mid-point. The Administrator did note that these salary changes are dependent upon Personnel Committee decisions about what to do with the results of the compensation study. State law, such as the increase for retirement, mandates some increases; any increase in health insurance premiums has not yet been communicated to the City. The increase in *Printing and Office Supplies* reflects the publication of the activities guide and improvements to it. Fuel usage has been increased, but this figure is still being refined for the City as a whole. The Charleston County radio user fee creates the increase in *Telephone and Cable*. The reclasses that were discussed earlier is reflected in the increase to *Maintenance and Service Contracts*. In general, first aid supplies have increased in cost; the City increased the property insurance a small amount and two thousand dollars (\$2,000) was added to *Employee Training* to cover the costs of the Employee Wellness program. There are no changes in the *Recreation Program/Instruction Expense* from the FY 2007-2008 Operating Budget. Overall the Recreation Operating Budget reflects a five percent (5%) increase. The Committee made no changes to the Operating Budget as submitted for FY 2008-2009.

## **7. Miscellaneous**

Councilwoman Rice reflected on how busy February had been and that the Recreation Department had done a wonderful job.

Next Meeting Date: 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 8, 2008

## **8. Adjourn**

**MOTION: With no further business to come before the Committee, Councilman Buckhannon moved to adjourn at 6:20 p.m.; Councilwoman Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**