

RECREATION COMMITTEE

9:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 5, 2017

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was held at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 5, 2017 in the Conference Room of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Carroll and Kinghorn, Chair Rice, Administrator Tucker, Recreation Director Page, Assistant Administrator Fragoso and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Chair Rice called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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

MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 1, 2017 as submitted; Councilmember Kinghorn seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. **Department Report for February and March 2017 – Director Page**

Director Page reported that adult sports, i.e. softball, basketball, soccer and table tennis, are in full swing; she explained that, when softball is noted on the Department's calendar, several games take place at the same time. For instance five (5) youth baseball games are played on Saturdays and Mondays. Programs continue to be the same, and the number of participants usually fluctuate by one or two (1-2) each month. The Conservation Workshop with the Aquarium was very successful with approximately fifty (50) attendees. The Keenagers' lunch brings fifty to sixty (50-60) seniors together monthly to enjoy a program and socializing. For the Employee Wellness program, a step challenge took place; the winner has not yet been identified. The Front Beach Fest was again a huge success, and the Director thanked Battalion Chief Smith for the assistance the Fire Department provided. Over fifty (50) vendors participated in the annual Yard Sale, and many went home with treasures. Since the event has experienced such amazing growth over the years, Director Page has decided that, in the future, she will work with the Police Department for an Incident Action Plan to plan for possible road closures and incidents that may occur when many people are together in relatively close quarters. The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 15th at 10:00 a.m. sharp. Camp Summershine and athletic camps registration has begun; some parents lined up as early as 11:30 p.m. the night before to insure that their child(ren) got registered. Music in the Park will be Saturday, May 6th; Sand Sculpting competition will be Saturday, June 3; the IOP Beach Run will be Saturday, July 15th; the Half-rubber Tournament will Saturday, August 12th and the eclipse event will be Monday, August 21st. The Director said that the Department was going to do an advertising blitz about the new half (½) mile walking trail around the perimeter of the Rec Center; the path has been well-marked. Recreation Department employees assisted with some of the maintenance issues at the Front Beach restrooms and repaired the GFI outlets that bands use.

Administrator Tucker announced that the City is in the very preliminary stages of arranging to hold a British Car Show in October in cooperation with Charleston County Parks and Recreation; she hopes that there will be no conflicts with the many activities the City has in October. This event will be held as part of "The Secret Season" campaign.

Since the aquarium workshop at the Rec, Councilmember Carroll stated that he was invited to an event at the Aquarium where the City's name was repeated over and over; special recognition was given to the fact that IOP was the first community in the state to ban single-use plastic bags. With that in mind, Councilmember Carroll has taken notice of the number of plastic water bottles City staff and Council go through regularly, and he suggested switching to jugs of water with paper cups in an effort to be more environmentally friendly.

5. Old Business

A. Review concepts and costs of proposed new fitness space

Included in meeting packets was a conceptual drawing of a fitness space at the back-side of the Rec Center; it was submitted by LS3P in 2002. Director Page reported that she has contacted a couple of contractors; Southern Point Construction estimated a cost of between three hundred fifty thousand to three hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$350,000-375,000). The Director stated that she did not believe that involving an architect was necessary, but she acknowledged that fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for engineered drawings would be necessary. With double doors into the space, she thought the need for exterior doors was eliminated, but she needed to check against the City's Building Codes.

Administrator Tucker stated that the number of people expected to be in the room at one (1) time dictate the need for exterior doors.

Councilmember Carroll asked if a fitness room was going to require additional staff, and Director Page said that, without free weights, no additional personnel would be needed. He then inquired about the cost of the equipment, and the Director estimated the cost to be approximately one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) and noted that the City has eight (8) pieces already.

When the Director estimated the cost to be just over one hundred dollars (\$100) per square foot, Councilmember Kinghorn thought the number was too low. The Councilmember opined that the specifications should be defined for the initiative to go out for bid.

The Administrator reminded the Committee that money had been put into the FY18 budget for design and engineering.

Councilmember Carroll sought confirmation that eight to ten (8-10) people is still the average usage of the cardio room now.

When the Director confirmed, she added that a fitness room would draw substantially more users because of the large number of residents who are going to Mount Pleasant for fitness now. She also said that the Department could have a user fee for visitors and, possibly, a modest monthly or annual fee for residents to generate some revenue.

If the Committee wanted to move forward in this fiscal year, Administrator Tucker suggested that the Rec Building Fund might have the funds needed for design and engineering. When she looked at the FY17 budget and the amount included in the FY18 budget, she found that the Building Fund has a balance of approximately seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) currently.

Councilmember Carroll voiced his concerns about a new project when the City has the Hill Construction report pointing out the maintenance necessary for the City's current properties.

MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to recommend to the Ways and Means Committee to proceed with the engineering/design for a fitness space at the Recreation Center, using 50% of the funding from the current fiscal year and using 50% in the new fiscal year from the Recreation Building Fund; in addition, he moved to have a market survey to develop a business case where the endeavor generates revenue and how to pay back the funds and how long it would take to do so; Chair Rice seconded and the motion PASSED on a vote of 2 to 1 with Councilmember Carroll submitting the dissenting vote.

B. Update on eclipse event

Director Page said that this has been an interesting project to work on because it will be a very serious event to some, who will want quiet during the actual eclipse, and a celebration for others. Staff is working on a logo and getting the special viewing glasses to distribute; Rob Fowler, local television weather forecaster, may be on the beach educating the public about the eclipse. The City will have music and festivities for people to enjoy, but, since the event is on a Monday, the street will not be closed.

Councilmember Carroll asked how the money from ATAX, forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) would be used, and the Director said they will buy t-shirts and glasses and pay for bands. She added, that, since the City has decided against hiring an event planner, she anticipates that very little of the thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) awarded will be spent. She confirmed that the Front Beach businesses have been contacted about the event.

6. New Business – None

7. Miscellaneous Business – None

The Committee members decided that a meeting in May would not be needed; a June meeting was scheduled, but will be cancelled if Director Page does not have progress on which to report.

Next Meeting Date: 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Before adjourning, Chair Rice stated that she would like to hold a future meeting at the Recreation Center.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 a.m.; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland, City Clerk