

RECREATION COMMITTEE

4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 3, 2012

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 3, 2012 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Thomas and Ward, Chair Bergwerf, Administrator Tucker, Director Page, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland. A quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Chair Bergwerf 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 Ward moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 11, 2012 as submitted; Councilmember Thomas seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. Department Report for April 2012 – Director Page

Director Page reported that the Adult Table Tennis league wound up their first season with Jim Ellis taking the honors of both regular season champion and tournament champion. Baseball season is rapidly coming to a close for all age groups; the City had a girls' softball team that participated in the league by the Mount Pleasant Recreation Department. Both Friday Night Hoops and Friday Night Spikes continue for fun and instruction. The IOP Beach Run is scheduled for Saturday, July 28th beginning at 8:00 a.m.; this year the event will have a 5K and 10K run as well as the Youth Fun Run. Athletic camps will be held over the summer in soccer, basketball, volleyball and lacrosse. Keenagers elected officers at the last meeting of the spring on May 2; meetings will resume in the fall. The last Middle School Dance for this school year will be held on Friday, May 11; all of the spring-break School's Out Activities were successful. Approximately fifty (50) participants in the Tae Kwon Do Tournament came to the island from Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Colorado and Texas.

Administrator Tucker encouraged the Committee members to watch the video, including the out-takes, of the Yard Sale on the City's website. Director Page recounted that money was added to the Recreation FY13 budget for videography of events; with a suggestion from the videographers, the Recreation Department has launched IOP TV using island children as the interviewers. The Department is planning a class in the fall to teach proper interviewing techniques and to feel at ease in front of a crowd which may lead to the local broadcasting of IOP TV on Comcast's Channel 60.

5. Old Business

A. Update on ball-field and tennis and basketball courts lighting

Director Page stated that she is waiting for the contract from Musco Lighting that will require reviews by the City Administrator and the City Attorney before being signed.

B. Review of Budgets for FY 2012-2013

According to the City Administrator, this budget review is an opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns a Committee member may have about the entire budget, not just the Recreation budgets.

Administrator Tucker noted that the Committee had eliminated the volley-ball court from the Recreation Capital Budget at an earlier meeting; having seen the interest on the island for this sport in recent days, she indicated that the Committee has an opportunity now to re-instate that item should they choose to do so. The Administrator commented that funds would be available for this court since the lighting project was less than the amount in the reserve for reconfiguring the ball-fields. Chair Bergwerf stated that people who want to play beach volleyball go to the beach; in her opinion, the topic needs more study. The Chair also opined that a sand court would require a good deal of maintenance; Director Page agreed stating that sand would need to be added annually.

Councilmember Thomas queried that anyone could setup a net and poles on the beach to play volleyball; the Administrator said that was true, but they must take their gear away when they leave the beach.

Chair Bergwerf again asked if any member had concerns to discuss about the FY13 budget as a whole; Councilmember Ward recalled that he had run for Council on a platform of balancing every City budget. He indicated that the City has three (3) funds from which more is being spent than received; he said that he will have a list of items to be eliminated from those budgets to present at the Ways and Means Committee meeting. For State Accommodations Taxes, he noted that if what is received each year is what is spent, the City does not have to worry about the two-year (2 yr.) rule, i.e. receipts cannot be held for a period of time greater than two (2) years.

Chair Bergwerf asked when it would be appropriate to spend the saved fund balances; Councilmember Ward explained that, if what is received equals what is spent, the fund balance remains consistent.

The Chair then posed the question of what becomes of the fund balances when in one (1) year the receipts are quite large and the following year much reduced. Councilmember Ward said that he remembers the City being in dire straights after Hugo, and he wants to see the City keep as much money in the bank as possible.

6. New Business

Request for City-sponsored Event – Volleyball Tournament at the Windjammer

Bobby Ross, manager of the Windjammer, said that he would like to get support for a volleyball tournament on June 9th and 10th. As he explained the various types of tournaments, he indicated that the tournament he is planning will have semi-professional players who travel along the East Coast playing up to a final tournament in Florida. He said that the Windjammer has been hosting volleyball tournaments since 1996; he initially got permits from the Building

Department for the tournaments, then, for several years, did not get permits. The preliminaries of the tournament will be on the beach on June 9th, with the finals on the Windjammer court on June 10th. Mr. Ross added that the organizers provide insurance for the event, and he has never been sued over a volleyball event. When asked if the event made money for anyone, Mr. Ross said that the organizers will be paid an entry fee, but the players will be staying in rooms on the island and eating in island restaurants.

Administrator Tucker explained that the only issue with this tournament is that the activities spill over onto the public beach; in order to have business on the public beach, either the event has to be City-sponsored or for the event to be a franchise granted by the City. If the City wants to continue to allow these volleyball tournaments at the Windjammer, the City must embrace the event as City-sponsored and the City must be named as an addition ensured on the liability insurance by the organizers. In the Administrator's opinion, the only complication was that Mr. Ross was talking about multiple tournaments, not just one (1) in June; Mr. Ross responded that he would have to come back to the City prior to each event seeking City sponsorship. Administrator Tucker explained that having an event City-sponsored requires positive actions from the Recreation and Public Safety Committees and, ultimately, City Council.

Councilmember Ward asked the Administrator to define "City-sponsored" event; she stated that the term refers to events that the City has embraced as something that is consistent with a family-friendly beach, that it is not in conflict with anything that the City is doing, and that the City has ensured that all of the requirements have been met associated with insurance and public safety. It is the toggle in the City's ordinances that allows for things to happen which might, otherwise, be in conflict with City ordinances; for instance, the City does not allow for business on the beach.

Mr. Ross said that he has given a commitment for the event on June 9th and 10th with the stipulation that the City approves it. Because Mr. Ross had indicated that, at times, a charity or fund-raising volleyball event is held at the Windjammer, Councilmember Ward suggested that a contribution be made to the sea turtle rescue.

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to recommend to City Council the approval of a volleyball tournament on June 9th and 10th as a City-sponsored event; Chair Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilmember Ward asked Administrator Tucker if the other party seeking to hold a volleyball tournament on the beach had been given the same options as those given to Mr. Ross; the Administrator stated that she had spoken with this person and verbally reviewed the process and followed up with a detailed email explanation.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Next Meeting Date: 4:00 p.m., Thursday, July 12th, 2012 in the Conference Room.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Chair Bergwerf moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m.; Councilmember Thomas seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk