

## **RECREATION COMMITTEE**

4:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 9, 2013

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was held at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Carroll and Thomas, Administrator Tucker, Assistant Recreation Director Ferrell and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Past 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. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Councilmember Thomas nominated Councilmember Bergwerf as Chair; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the vote was unanimous support for Councilmember Bergwerf.

Councilmember Thomas nominated Councilmember Carroll for Vice Chair; Chair Bergwerf seconded and the vote was unanimous support for Councilmember Carroll.

### **3. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

**MOTION: Councilmember Thomas moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 7, 2012 as submitted; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **4. Citizens' Comments**

#### **Sullivan's Island Request to Enroll Participants**

Andy Benke, Sullivan's Island Administrator, and Mike Perkis, Mayor Pro Tem, attended the Recreation Committee to ask for consideration for Sullivan's Island's youths to be allowed to enroll in Isle of Palms Recreation Department sports programs for a wider window than is now afforded to them. Mr. Benke was making this request as a convenience to Sullivan's Island residents. Currently, program enrollments open to Isle of Palms' youths exclusively for a week, followed by two (2) weeks for residents of neighboring communities to enroll. Mr. Benke noted that Sullivan's Island does not have a recreation facility and does not have enough youths to form competitive teams since there are only two hundred forty (240) youths between the ages of five and 12 years living on the island. Mary Jane Watson, a Sullivan's Island Councilmember, does have ten to twelve (10-12) fun events for the island's youths, like movie nights and arts and crafts.

Mr. Benke stated that the Town had signed a multi-use agreement with the Charleston County School District for the new Sullivan's Island Elementary School, so they hoped to have facilities to supplement those on the Isle of Palms.

Mr. Perkis repeated that Sullivan's Island was interested in the City's active sports programs, i.e. soccer, tennis, baseball, basketball, etc. He noted that the addition of the Sullivan's Island children could facilitate more teams and parental involvement.

**5. Departmental Report for November/December 2012 – Assistant Director Ferrell**

Assistant Ferrell noted that the winter sports were winding down, and spring sports are registering. New to the winter sports line-up was Adult 6 vs 6 soccer; it was very successful with five (5) teams, and participants are inquiring about a spring league. The First Pitch Half Rubber Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. An instructional basketball clinic was held December 3<sup>rd</sup>; thirty-nine (39) players and coaches took part. The Kinderpuppy class that ended December 17<sup>th</sup> had eleven participants, and the Just the Basics class that started this week has nine (9). The Kid's Night Out held December 14<sup>th</sup> drew thirty-two (32) children who ate pizza and decorated sugar cookies for dessert. The next Middle School Dance will be Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>; two hundred fifty (250) youths attended the November dance. Pictures submitted in the photography contest are displayed on the bulletin board in the gym. Both the Tiny Tennis and Youth Tennis had so many participants that the class had to be divided into two (2) classes. Tai Chi/Qigong was added to the roster of programs in September and attendance continues to grow. The public reading of works created in the Writing from Memory class attracted twenty-five listeners. The Holiday Street Festival was a huge success with between two and three thousand (2,000-3,000) attendees listening to music, riding the Ferris wheel, maneuvering up the climbing wall and enjoying delicious treats from Front Beach restaurants.

Administrator Tucker noted that the ATAX Committee, which met earlier in the day, had been very excited and complimentary about this year's event and were thinking of ways to expand it in 2013.

Santa's Cookie Workshop gave sixty-five (65) children the opportunity to decorate four (4) cookies each with loads of icing and candy. Letters to Santa were limited to Isle of Palms' residents this year; he answered forty-two (42) letters.

Doggie Day at the Rec is scheduled for Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>; as in the past, IOP Animal Control Officers will be on hand selling dog licenses and Dr. Biascoechea will be giving rabies vaccinations for ten dollars (\$10.00).

**6. Old Business**

**Update on Electronic Message Board**

Assistant Ferrell stated that staff continues to work on this item; they have sought assistance from Stantec, the City's consultant on wayfinding signs.

Administrator Tucker reported seeing an electronic message board at a neighboring local government and staff was investigating their supplier. With only five (5) months remaining in this fiscal year, this project is expected to toggle over into the next fiscal year.

**7. New Business**

**Discussion of Open Registration for Recreation Programs and Sports**

Chair Bergwerf asked how many children lived on Sullivan's Island between the ages of five (5) and twelve (12); Mr. Benke stated that there were about two hundred forty (240) according to the 2010 census.

Councilmember Carroll asked whether any off-island children had ever not been allowed to register for sports at the Recreation Center. In response, Assistant Ferrell explained the registration process for sports as it exists today:

- Registration for IOP children will begin on the first Monday of the month;
- Registration for off-island children will begin on the second Monday of the month;
- Registration for both IOP and off-island children continues through the third week of the month;
- Late registrants form waiting lists for the sports activity; and
- Recreation Department staff spends the final week forming teams and calling those on the waiting lists to fill out the teams.

Due to the fact that the registration process closes, IOP children and off-island children could conceivably not be allowed to register. The registration process as described has been in effect for about eight (8) years. Sports activities seldom fill up in the first week of registration.

Assistant Ferrell added that the participation from Sullivan's Island children and parents is strong; Sullivan's Island businesses sponsor teams.

In Chair Bergwerf's opinion, the issue is not to exclude children of IOP taxpayers. Administrator Tucker commented that off-island children are charged a differential to participate which may justify allowing a common registration period; often off-island children are needed to make up teams.

Councilmember Carroll stated that he wants to be a good neighbor to IOP's sister city.

If Sullivan's Island children were allowed to register the same time as IOP children, Chair Bergwerf questioned that the registration would have to be opened up to Mount Pleasant children as well. Administrator Tucker suggested that the initial registration period be for islands residents thereby limiting it to Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island.

Chair Bergwerf asked Assistant Ferrell to confer with Director Page about this meeting's discussion points for the dialogue to continue at the February meeting.

## **8. Miscellaneous Business**

**Next Meeting Date: 4 p.m., Monday, February 11, 2013 in the Conference Room.**

## **9. Adjourn**

**MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m.; Councilmember Thomas seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk