

Recreation Committee
9:00 a.m., Monday, January 11, 2016

The regular meeting of the Recreation Committee was held on Monday, January 11, 2016 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Rice and Kinghorn, Chair Carroll, Administrator Tucker, Assistant Administrator Fragoso, Director Page, Assistant Director Ferrell and City Clerk Copeland. A quorum was present to conduct business.

1. City Administrator Tucker 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 Rice nominated Councilmember Carroll as Chair, and Councilmember Kinghorn seconded; the nomination passed unanimously. Councilmember Carroll nominated Councilmember Rice as Vice Chair; Councilmember Kinghorn seconded and the nomination passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Motion: Chair Carroll moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 2, 2015 as submitted; Councilmember Kinghorn seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **Citizen's Comments-** None

5. Departmental Report for November and December 2015- Director Page

Director Page commented that Aaron Sweet, the department's athletic director, came on board in August of 2014; now in his second year handling athletics, he is doing a good job. Director also mentioned that registration will begin this month for "three on three" adult basketball, and the co-ed volleyball league started this month. In addition, youth basketball competition is in progress this month. Director Page noted that Isle of Palms' and Sullivan's Island's residents can register a week before registration is opened for non-residents; the number of non-resident applications accepted is based on the number of resident applications received to ensure there are enough teams for competition. Councilmember Kinghorn asked Director Page if anyone has ever been turned away, and Director Page replied that non-resident applicants are placed on a waiting list, but residents are given priority and placed on teams even if they are late in registering.

Councilmember Kinghorn asked Director Page if applicants could register online. Director Page advised that credit card payments cannot be taken over the phone any longer, but staff will complete the application with the caller and he/she can come in at a later time to pay with their credit card. Director Page mentioned that participation in basketball is down because a local resident has started a team for eleven and twelve (11- 12) year olds from Sullivan's Island

Elementary School. Chair Carroll asked if the SEIS league could play the Isle of Palms' leagues, and the Director said that could be arranged.

Director Page mentioned that the Recreation Department currently has about nineteen (19) hours of athletics each week, and many other programs and classes, such as boot camp, ballet, BOSU, yoga and gymnastics. Director Page noted that "Island History Month" will be held in January with events planned for January 20th and January 27th. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 20th, Tommy Hartnett and Author Wendy Nilsen Pollitzer will be present to tell stories about the island; a second event on January 27th at 5:30 p.m. will include Nick Sottile, Carolyn Walters, Mary Ellen Way, Jimmy Carroll and possibly Chip Campsen reminisce about growing up on the island. Director Page noted the events are scheduled to last approximately an hour, and, if well attended, may become a regular event. Director Page added that the events have been publicized through Facebook, Twitter, the City website, Recreation E-News and Island Eye News.

City Administrator Tucker commented that the City's use of Twitter is a helpful and expedient way to disseminate information; she added that she would like to see all committee members on Twitter, as it would provide information to the members to promote news and events.

Director Page continued with the monthly report by mentioning a photography class starting in February, and tennis and Tae kwon do continue to go well. Director Page noted that, during the month of January, the Recreation Department will host fifty-five (55) classes per week, and the building will be open about seventy-seven (77) hours per week.

Director Page reported that Andy Sinwald, who started at the Recreation Department in August of 2014, handles special events and is doing very well. Forty-four (44) Keenagers attended the November potluck lunch and learned about preserving documents and photographs; in December, forty-nine (49) seniors enjoyed the potluck lunch and joined in a medley of Christmas songs led by the 1st Baptist Church Senior Choir. Director Page stated that attendance for personal training at Fire Station 1 averaged twenty-two (22) members of the Fire and Police Departments in November and December. She said that the Holiday Street Festival, the cookie workshop, and the gingerbread house decorating events had been very successful and were well attended.

Upcoming events include "Doggie Day at the Rec" is coming up on Saturday, February 6th, and "Front Beach Fest" (formerly known as "Island Gras") is scheduled for Saturday, March 5th and will feature beach music.

Vice Chair Rice mentioned that the Front Beach events have seemed very spread out in the past and wondered if there was a way to consolidate. Director Page responded that to rein in the event would leave out certain Front Beach businesses, but she suggested the possibility of getting others vendors or organizations to participate to fill in the space.

Director Page also remarked that Ricky Daugherty joined the Recreation Department staff on November 30th as the Parks & Facilities Specialist; she stated that he is doing a great job and making repairs that have been needed for some time. Director Page stated that Robert Asero who began his duties as Parks & Grounds Maintenance in April of 2015 is also doing a great job.

Councilmember Kinghorn commented that he thought Director Page's report was very good and very thorough, but it was a lengthy. He indicated that he preferred to see the statistical data with past and current comparisons and to see future events shown on a calendar. He saw these suggestions to be a better use of time and resources. It was decided that Director Page and Councilmember Kinghorn would discuss it further and try a new model for reporting for the next meeting.

6. Business – None

7. New Business

Councilmember Kinghorn mentioned that there were three (3) issues he would like to have on next month's agenda: they are as follows:

- 1) The staff's pursuit of non-traditional funding;
- 2) Strategic partnering possibilities with other entities; and
- 3) Facility utilization/accessing future needs

Vice Chair Rice reported that the hand dryer in ladies restroom needs to be replaced, and Director Page said that she would get some prices. Vice Chair Rice also wanted to add a discussion of offering "Pickleball" at the Recreation Department to next month's agenda.

Discussion ensued about opportunities partnering with other entities, such as Wild Dunes, and increasing registration fees. City Administrator Tucker commented that the City needs to research the raising of registration fees, particularly for those families who have multiple children; she added that there may be a way to discount fees for multiple enrollments within a family. Councilmember Kinghorn agreed and said there should be funds allocated to assist those who may not be able to afford the registration fees so no one is ever turned away.

6. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting was scheduled for 9:00 a.m., Monday, February 1, 2016.

7. Adjourn

MOTION: Chair Carroll moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m.; Vice Chair Rice seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Rhonda Gibbons, Building Department